

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 20th September 2017 AT THE JUBILEE
HALL, WITHINGTON AT 7.30 PM

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Mavis Lady Dunrossil, Cllr Jane Bruce, Cllr Jane Gibbs, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Jeremy Theyer, C. Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, District Councillor Robin Hughes. 1 member of the public and the Clerk/RFO.
 2. **APOLOGIES:** None
 3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.** Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer for planning of Stable Farm and , Cllr Jane Gibbs for planning at Hdden House.
 4. **MINUTES of the Meetings** held on the 5th July 2017 were circulated prior to the meeting to Councillor's; they were signed and agreed as a true and accurate record.
- 4.1 **Progress report and comments on the meeting held: 20th September 2017.**

- **Bus Services**

It was agreed that this will be kept on the agenda so that the whole village is conscious of the issues that a reduced Bus Service has caused some residence and to raise awareness that there is a volunteer scheme for anyone who able to help out with transport.

- **Pot holes**

Cllr Hodgkinson said he would raise this, he also reminded the Parish that if there are areas that keep being fixed and the repairs do not last, there may be a requirement to resurface the road.

- **Lengthman Scheme** – The drain at Harnham Lane once it rains floods across the road, this has been raised a number of time with Highways and pointed out to Mr Gray who visited the village. **05/07/2017** for Jane Bruce to e-mail Mr Gray to remind him of this problem, and the clerk to remind Cllr Hodgkinson.

- **Lengthman Scheme** It was also suggested that at the top of Chedworth Hill the trees have not all been cut back on one side. **05/07/2017** No response has been received by Cllr Brenninkmeijer

- **Fallen Tree** There was a discussion about a tree which fell down outside Cllr Gibbs house, and smashed her Greenhouse, it was reported that it also nearly hit a car which was coming along the road. There was a discussion as to who owned the trees and that Highways had shown reluctance to clear the trees away, they did clear the road but just dumped the mess onto Cllr Gibbs property. **05/07/2017** It was updated that there are several more trees along this road that are also dangerous and are caught up in the electricity wires. There was a discussion as to who would be responsible for them, **Further Action**. It was suggested this would be through Cllr Hughes in the first instance as he would know who to contact. **20/09/2017** It was agreed that ownership of the trees needs to be established. As they are on the verge it is not clear who owns them and who is responsible. It was agreed they could belong to the owners of the Garden House. **Further Action** for Jane Bruce to visit the owner to try and establish who owns the trees before further action can be taken.

- **Playground Inspection report - the** advice was for early work after the nesting season to cut back hedges and raising crowns of nearby trees to limit the nesting birds and also to put piano wire across the top of swings to deter roosting or to use plastic spikes. Cllr Webb has purchase the spikes and Cllr Theyer will fit them.
- **Mill Inn** - It was noted that the embankment at the mill has been tidied up
- **17/02576/TCONR Trees work to Keepers Cottage** - The planning officer noted the Parish Councils comments on the removal of T1 Walnut Tree, because it significantly hides the back end of the garage. There are numerous other trees around the house, they could not see how removing these few trees will create a difference to the vista. It was suggested by the PC that they should take off the lower branches of the walnut tree and leave the upper branches without felling. CDC agreed with the Parish Council and this was actioned.

5. Planning:

Kings Head pub – awaiting decision – **17/00660/FUL** – the Parish Council noted the planning application.

Replacement Windows at Withington C of E School – Permit – **17/02716/FUL**– the Parish Council noted the planning application.

Staple Farm, Mobile Home for temporary accommodation for agricultural worker (retrospective) – awaiting decision - **17/03045/FUL** The Parish Council are happy that this is a temporary order and would have concerns if it were to be made permanent.

Haddon House – awaiting decision - **17/02989/FUL** The Parish Council felt this was a good use of the house and an improvement.

Old Rectory – - awaiting decision - **17/03344/LBC** the Parish Council noted the application

Dovecote House Foxcote – awaiting decision - **17/03556/FUL** The Parish have no objection to this application.

Action for the Clerk to respond to all Planning applications on the CDC Website

6. Closure of the old A40

GCC Hodkinson updated that the deadline for comments on this has now been extended to the 9th October. Cllr Webb read out a letter that has been sent from Compton Abdale as this closure has a big effect on the villages which surround Northleach and which are used to access them via this road, it was noted that concerns are raised that it could affect ambulances and fire engines times as they would have to go the long way around and use already congested roads. GCC plan to keep the road closed for another 2-3 years it has currently been closed since 2015 due to structural damage to the retaining wall that the carriageway is dangerous and could collapse. Cllr Dunrossil said that they were aware of the road structure when they built the bypass in the 1980's and were told then that the road would not survive a large amount of traffic.

GCC Hodkinson said that the work to rectify this could be as much as three to six hundred thousand pounds. There was a meeting last week in Northleach to discuss this and was attended by around 35 people. He updated that no one, spoke in favour of keeping the road closed. There is of course a small minority that agree it should be kept closed.

Councillors asked if the County Council could not in the meantime improve the junction at the Garage at Northleach (traffic lights) and spend some money in that area to help ease congestions. It was noted that there have been a number of accidents along that stretch this year. It is quite difficult to get out at this junction coming from the villages. Ideally they would like the road reopened but would suggest improvement on exiting routes in the meantime.

Action for the Clerk to write to GCC and put forward the councils concern.

7. BT phone Box /Defibrillator update

After the last meeting there were a number of actions for the clerk before moving forward with the adoption of the telephone box. The Clerk contacted Cllr Hughes to find out if planning permission is needed for change of use to the telephone box that is being adopted. This was action and there is no need for planning. The Clerk had to also contact BT and ask for clarification around clause 5.4.ii which states that written permission is given by the seller to the buyer in accordance with paragraph 5.4.ii to connect defib equipment to the unmetered electricity supply the equipment must meet all appropriate safety standards. The Clerk contacted BT and informed them that the PC would like to use the box for the installation of a Defib which will be run by Community Heartbeat Trust. BT have confirmed acknowledgment of this information and the clerk sent off the cheque to adopt the box.

8. Finance:

Clerks Salary £181.23

HMRC £50.13 + £45.31 = 95.44

Wickmedia £36.00

Glebe Contractors £57.60

Cllr Webb – reimbursement of spikes for the playground £60.05

9. Clerks rate of pay (annually)

The clerk updated that last year she brought up the clerks rate of pay which had not been looked at for 6 years. It was agreed that she should raise this annually.

The Council held a confidential discussion and will write to the clerk with their offer.

10. Correspondence

Councillor Hughes updated that there is a big planning meeting due to take place by CDC on Controversial plans to build 2350 houses on land owned by Lord Bathurst in its local plan document. There is a meeting this week.

An email has been received by the Clerk from Mrs S Humm from Clover Cottage, complaining about the Play area and in particular the bird mess on the play equipment. This was noted and earlier reported spikes have been purchased to fit to the top of the swings to stop this happening.

An e-mail has been received from Sherri Thomas who is trying to compile a family tree and would like to locate the grave of a great grandparent buried in Withington Burial. It was updated that a survey was carried out a number of years ago of all the gravestones and is in the archives of Gloucestershire County Council. The other person who may be able to help is a Gerrad Salmon who lives in The Steps Withington and carried out the survey.

11. Any Other Business
None

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm