

MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING Held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at the Village Hall Withington,
at 19.00.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr David Craig, Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Nicky Lowe, Cllr Alex Barrell. Also, in attendance three members of the public, and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Catherine Boyce Cllr David Miles, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, and District Councillor Jeremy Theyer.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**
Members were reminded to declare any interests that may arise during the meeting.
None

MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON * December 2023** were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Jan Chappell updated that she had sent over the village hall business proposal. The Village Hall committee have met and they are going to set a working party and spend some time working on the plan. The Clerk will circulate the plan to the other Councillors, and it was requested that it is put on the agenda for March for further discussion.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Nothing to update on.

6. **ACTION SHEET Clerks Update** - The Meeting went through the outstanding Actions. Cllrs are asked to update their actions, no later than the Monday before the meeting going forward.

7. BUDGET PLANNING and PRECEPT for 2024/25

The Clerk presented the accounts and it was updated that before 2022, the precept had not been raised for a number of years as the councils reserves were high. These have now been run down and due to new projects taking place, increasing costs and inflation the Council have had to start increasing the precept to cover the expenditure. There will also be increased maintenance costs and additional activity to consider when setting this years precept. If the parish council do not increase costs this year they will incur an £800 deficit and next year when the speed camera costs are incurred this will be much higher. The Parish Council were also asked to take into account the different costs that the District Council are looking to pass onto Parish Councils going forward such as election costs. As a result it was agreed to raise the precept by £1,000, which will help with the additional funds needed to develop the balance and undertake maintenance of fencing etc which currently the Parish Council are struggling to do.

The Parish Council voted and 3 were for and 1 was against this increase. However, Cllr Boyce sent an e-mail and her wishes were taken into account so that was 4 – 1. The vote was agreed.

8. The Missing Pieces Project.

Cllr Craig updated that he has received an e-mail from Mrs Wright who is actively looking at working with English Heritage to ask them to protect the grade 1 listed church and its curtilage and vistas. This is tied to the ancient route from Withington linking churches along an ancient route. They are looking to work with the Missing pieces project. They have carried out some research and contact has been made to the diocese by the church warden and the group are sending information and photos to them. She asked if the Parish Council would ask if people would allow them to use some of their comments they wrote on paper at the meeting in November. It was agreed that the meeting was an open meeting and as a result their comments could be used. Mrs Wright said that no names are needed but they would make a good article .

It is hoped that a brown sign can be installed to promote the ancient church to help increase visitors to the village and this can then tie in with coffee mornings in the village hall going forward. This was discussed and agreed it will be a positive project for the village.

9. Finance - Clerk Salary £400.00. HMRC,£100.00, Tree felling £450.00.

Agreed hire of the hall will be made quarterly.

10. Community Speed Watch Camera – Updated in the action sheet.

11. Decision to formally register the parcel of land (Village Green) Updated in the action sheet.

12. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

1. The Robin on demand bus service is referred to in the minutes. Currently this continues in the North Cotswolds area (Andoversford northwards). No word yet on the detail of the service for the South Cotswolds but I will let you have it when I know more.
2. GCC - the administration at GCC has proposed a 4.99% council tax increase. The budget setting meeting is next month.
3. The Whiteway - a huge improvement after resurfacing in the last 2 months after much lobbying to fix the very poor surface there. One small stretch left is going to be sorted in the next financial year.
4. No Crash road safety meeting met last week. Minutes will be sent out separately.

13. Correspondence – Clerk

The Clerk has been contacted by CDC as Cllr Miles has not returned his forms to them after the election. Cllr Craig will speak to him.

Update on closed roads.

E-mail from Helen Lord – who is working on a project that involves identifying the status and history of telephone boxes in Cotswolds parishes. She asked for some information on any telephone boxes in your parish. The Clerk will respond to her on location and current use.

14. Dates of meetings

20th March 2024

8th May 2024 – AGM

Meeting Closed at 20.30 pm.