

**MINUTES OF WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING Held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the Village Hall Withington, at 19.00.**

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr David Craig, Cllr Glenys Webb, Cllr Alex Barrell, Cllr Bruno Brenninkmeijer, Cllr Catherine Boyce. Also, in attendance four members of the public, and the Clerk/RFO.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nicky Lowe, 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. Cllr Webb declared an interest on the village hall as she is a member of that committee.

**MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024** were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

**4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mrs Margaret Wright gave an update on the listing of the Church with Historic England and also the Missing Pices project that was discussed at the last meeting. This is hoped to safeguard any future planning in the historic field. MW updated that the villagers are encouraged to write stories about the village and give opinions and views as long as they are not political. She has written an introduction about what the group is planning to do, the group will split up and work on different areas such as the church, walks around Withington etc to encourage visitors to the village. The feedback so far from Historic England has been positive, she will keep the Parish Council updated.

**5. The Parish Council to confirm the co-option of new Councillor.**

Cllr Craig updated that Mike Viney is interested in filling the position of Councillor to the Parish Council. He has been sent the information on becoming a Cllr and after discussion the paperwork was signed by the Chairman. Mr Viney is now a Withington Parish Councillor.

**Action 1 20/03/2024** for the Clerk to take the paperwork to CDC. (new Cllr)

**6. Planning updates and applications - including road closures**

The Clerk updated on the new highways manager who will be replacing Dan Tiffney. Her name is Anne Johns, and she takes up the appointment on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Her title is local highways manager East. It was suggested that she is invited to drive around Withington and look at the state of some of the roads and to see what we are doing with the speed camera project.

**Action 2 20/03/2024** When Ann Johns responds to Cllr Craigs letter, he has written welcoming her. He will invite her to drive over and look at the state of the roads. Also invite her to a future meeting.

The Clerk updated on the road closures happening in the next month. Temporary closure C149 Chedworth road, Hydrant maintenance. 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Carriage way patching at Garrick's Head Andoversford 25<sup>th</sup> March.

C148 ROAD FROM COMPTON RISE TO HIGH STREET. From outside the property known as 'Willowside Farm' to outside the property known as 'The Farthings' for a distance of approximately 58 metres. The reason, new cable installation works. Expected closure from 18th March 2024 to 22nd March 2024.

**24/00574/FUL - Long Ash Woodbridge Lane** for Ground Mounted Solar Panel. Close to boundary hedge.

The Parish Council have no issues and will support the application due to the fact they are hidden from view, they support a dwelling and they are a small scale.

**24/00571/COMPLY - The Old Rectory, Withington** - Compliance with condition 3 (Archaeological WSI) There are numerous applications on the CDC website they are all to do with the compliance of the planning applications submitted in 2023, They are for some internal alternations and a small 2 story extension on the north elevation. Garage doors replacement.

Original application to old rectory was backed up by a report which shows significant archaeological information.

**Action 3 20/03/2024** The Clerk will send a copy to Mrs Wright.

#### **7. Clerks update – Discuss action table, (Check drop box before the meeting)**

The Meeting went through the outstanding Actions. Cllrs are asked to update their actions, no later than the Monday before the meeting going forward.

#### **8. Response to CDC complaint letter (including 2000 trees and planning)**

CDC have responded to our letter which we sent in December but did not answer the questions raised. They did not provide us with a contact name for 2000 trees, the letter received was addressed to a Cllr that does not exist and dated the letter incorrectly (April 23)

After discussion it was decided the Clerk should write to the owners of Upcote Farm for a contact at 2000 trees.

Research the licence and ask CDC to investigate the fact that 2000 trees organisers are in breach of their licence. Contact request not responded to in letter that was returned. Point out that they are meant to have a meeting with Withington Parish Council after each festival to discuss previous year and plans going forward. This has not happened since 2016.

Parish Council have raised on a number of occasions the Issue with a planning breach at Kings Head Lane stables, this issue was not mentioned in the response. They have now built stables in the barns and are in the process of building an area with no permission. Previous applications were turned down by CDC.but they are currently using the area for horse stabling which was refused. The only planning permitted on that site is for storage. History - 96.00519 – change of use refused, 04/01109/FUL Erection of loose horse boxes refused. 04/02988/FUL Erecting of loose horse boxes refused. 21/01169/AGFO withdrawn, 21/01675/AGFO general purpose agricultural barn for fodder and storing machinery. No planning required.

## **9. Village Hall Committee Business Plan**

The Village Hall committee have applied for funds from the Lottery Fund and build back better schemes.

They will be holding fund raising events starting in April and the village fete will be held for funds for the refurbishment. New Flooring, clearing of the area around the village hall which has a lot of Ash Die back. More income will be required to help with this from the Parish Council. Feedback from the village so far has been positive and the PC will be kept updated of progress.

The Parish Council were asked to consider a contribution in kind for the flooring. Looking for at least £1,200 this year. This will need to be discussed by the Parish Council as they will need to work out how much the Parish Council can afford to contribute this year. The Parish Council were asked if there would be any contribution left after the fencing project has received funding from the two sponsors. The Parish Council are delighted with ideas for updating the village hall and re-energising it for the village.

## **10. Playground inspection report**

The Clerk presented the report to the meeting. A working party is required to do some repairs, swings low risk items.

Report was quite picky, the tree that was felled, left some holes, that were picked up. It was agreed that we need someone to put together a list of things that needs to be done in the play area and then get some volunteers together and sort them out.

**Action 4 20/03/2024 Cllr Viney & Cllr Craig will take away this action.**

Compete order form for next year for a discount. The PC will look at this again in the next financial year.

**Action 5 20/03/2024** Clerk to bring this back later in the year.

## **11. Update on the Community Speed Camera**

Cllr Boyce updated on the project. Location has been agreed, the budget is agreed. The risk assessment is in hand. Next will be the notices that need to be put up and then next to be installed is the pole to be put in. GCC to do that, unfortunately the coordinator has left and so a new contact is being worked on.

**Action 6 20/03/2024** The Clerk to send the new Highways manager information to Cllr Boyce for information.

## **12. Finance – Cheques to be raised:**

Playground inspection £135.60 Clerk £466.10, Glebe £882.85, Mr A Cox £75.00.

**Glebe renewal** – discussed the cuts required going forward – agreed fortnightly.

**Wickmedia** have sent an updated sheet with all their payments on that have not been cashed to date. This includes the cost of the website and will take the Mr Green an afternoon to reconcile.

**Action 7 20/03/2024** - Cllr Lowe was not at the meeting so the Clerk will need to get the cheques signed outside of the meeting.

### **13. Update from County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson – including CDC meeting clash dates. 15/5 - 17/7 - 25/9 - 27/11.**

Cllr Hodgkinson update – he is currently at a GCC meeting this evening.

Cllr Hodgkinson - I hope the new footpath steps funded with my Highways Local are a positive contribution to the parish. I sent full details to David and Sue. Pictures received from the footpath. The feedback from the villagers is that it is impressive.

At the GCC meeting he proposed a motion calling for the Council to press the NHS to take more action on reducing cancer waiting times locally which have been missing targets for the last year. I'm pleased to say that was supported unanimously.

Potholes - please keep reporting via Fix My Street.

A417 works are well underway as you may have noticed. Lots of nighttime closures to be aware of.

The Whiteway is now completely resurfaced after much lobbying - a huge improvement. The next piece of road and focus should be the stretch of road from Compton Abdale especially after Thames Water and Castlethorpe vehicles have used those roads. It is costing the villagers money in vehicle repairs and is urgently needed after such big vehicles have churned up those roads into the village.

**Action 8 20/03/2024** for Cllr Hodgkinson to lobby for the state of the road from Compton Abdale, after all the works that has gone on in Withington.

Cllr Theyer sent through information on the great British spring clean which the Clerk updated the meeting on. Dates taking place from 15 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

CDC have through information requesting people to work for the elections as presiding officers and poll clerks – information was updated to the meeting.

### **14. Dates of meetings**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – AGM

**Meeting Closed at 21.00**