

Withington Group Parish Council
Meeting Held on
Thursday 17th January 2013 at 7.30pm
Withington Village Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors Paul Bainbridge (Chairman); Alison Bainbridge; Colin Stone-Fewings; Ralph Barber; Simon Dent; Wallace Brown; Rachael Leake; Steve Scotcher;
ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk); 2 x Parishoners

Meeting started at 7.32pm

1. **Apologies**
Rob Soutar; Cllr Dave Greenow; Jim Callow; Helen Jones; Shelly Ford; Jonathan Beech; Tom Nellist; Kevin Hewison.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
None.
3. **Open Discussion/Public Forum**
 - 3.1 **Report from local police** – sent by e mail
 - 3.2 **Report from Ward Councillor** – Not present, but by telephone to the Chair let it be known that he was still waiting for a meeting with the Council.
 - 3.3 **Public Comments** – Questions and answers to Mr Packmans questions are at the end of this paper.
 - 3.4 **Halc Matters** – The return of Neighbourhood Watch is being considered
4. **Acceptance of Minutes of last parish Council Meeting**
Proposed: Alison Bainbridge, **Seconded :** Rob Soutar
Agreed Unanimously.
5. **Consultation Paper**
Chair asked the Councillors for views on the Tourism and Temporary Event Signage Policy which is currently under consultation.
6. **Community Led Plan**
Defer until after the presentation on 4th Feb about the Neighbourhood Planning.
Update on Withington Fields – Sale of land for development
The work on the MUGA has been postponed due to the weather. Should start again in April 2013.
 - a) The QE11 plaque – Coming from the Fields in Trust group
7.
 - b) Fields in Trust – We are now all signed up
 - c) Footpath in front of the new houses - PB had said that this was unnecessary, and that he had had a phone call to suggest that the footpath was extended to a gate. He explained that he wanted the path on the other side of the road, as a continuation of the existing path. This is now being considered. The Parish Council was very clear that they don't want the hedge taking down in front of the new built houses.
8. **Pot Holes**

Clerk to add to March agenda.

Clerk to work with R Soutar and P Bainbridge to get Plaque.

Clerk to forward the e mail address to all Councillors and

informed people of a direct line to Amey to report these.

The Coppice

- 8.1 Wallace Brown, representing the Councillors on the Fields Committee, commented that the coppice is a mess at the moment. He asked for suggestions for the use of the area, and suggested a proper path through it might be an idea. R Soutar said it was a venue for creative play, but agree that local people had not liked the noise this generated. P Bainbridge suggested that the Withington Fields Committee should come up with ideas, and the Parish council would consider them. Rachael Leake thought that it had been bought to be kept 'safe' for the Parish. Simon Dent suggested a party at the end of the summer could clear the site each year.

to write to Amey about Duke St.

Wallace to get the Withington Fields Committee to put forward a plan for the use of the Coppice.

To note comments from the information sheets:

Correspondance:

- 1 Letter ref groundworks: The Chair told the Councillors about DG Gardening, and suggested a quote could be sought for the upkeep of Withington Fields, but not yet.

Clerk to respond to DG Gardening, keeping information on file.

- 9. li Council tax support scheme: The proportion of these peoples Council Tax allocated to the precept is lower. The difference is being made up by the Council this year, but there is no guarantee of future support. Withington has 40% social housing.

lii Your Community your say: Now a budget consultation. The Councillors were encouraged to complete the forms themselves.

Meeting on 4th Feb with HALC

- 10. Lynda will give a presentation on becoming a Parish Councillor, and also on the benefits of WGPC writing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Matters Financial

- 11. Balances as at 14th December : Yorkshire Bank: £10,940.06

- a. 12th December : Lloyds Bank : £66,146.81

Confirmed by Paul Bainbridge.

Payments to be agreed:

| | | | |
|----|---|---|--------|
| b. | Clerks salary | £ | 712.08 |
| | Clerks expenses | £ | 42.55 |
| | ICO | £ | 35.00 |
| | Signs and Lables | £ | 36.00 |
| | HALC training (Clerk and J Beech) | £ | 60.00 |
| | Steve Caine (Groundsheet pegs) | £ | 7.75 |
| | Proposed: Colin Stone-Fewings Seconded: Wallace Brown. | | |

Payments Already Made

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| To Withington Fields Acct (Precept and VAT return) | £ | 6569.90 |
| Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust | £ | 25.00 |
| | | |

c. Receipts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| Repayment of overpayment to PWLB | £ | 337.23 |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|

d. Request for financial aid

None

Budget Setting and precept discussion

- e. Chair led the Councillors through the anticipated budget. It was suggested that without putting up our precept WGPC could be eating into its reserves come the

Clerk to submit paper work for precept to remain at £15,000

end of 2013/14, and that next year the Council may well need to consider putting it up. It was moved that the precept be kept the same as for 2012/2013

Proposed: Paul Bainbridge Seconded: Colin Stone-Fewings.

The proposal was carried

12. **Planning** - as per the information sheet

Clerk to check planning emails and only forward pertinent ones.

13. **Receive Items for the next agenda:**

Future meetings

15.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Future dates: | 21 March 2013 | (7.30 pm start) |
| | 16 May 2013 | (7.00 pm start) |
| | 11 July 2013 | (7.30 pm start) |
| | | |
| Added Date: | | |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13 pm

Answers to Questions asked by D Packman at meeting Jan 17, 2013

1. Please may I have a copy of the full WGPC accounts for the financial year 2011/2012? At the time this message is being sent, the WGPC website is still incomplete in this respect. I have been told by HALC that the accounts should have been submitted to the external auditor by 30 June 2012, so I believe it is not unreasonable for them to have been audited and put into the public domain several months ago. I also want to know why they have not been made available. As Sophie knows, I have already asked to see them on a number of occasions.

Once accounts had been audited, there was a notice on the boards saying that they could be seen, copy is now being sent to you.(PB)

2. I know from attendance at previous meetings of the WGPC that the amount of litter around Withington Stores has been 'noted'. I want to know whether or not WGPC has made any formal or informal representations to the owner of the shop with a view to encouraging him to keep the area tidy. If this has not been done, I want to know why not and when such representations will be made.

Litter has been mentioned to the staff, but litter generally in the village has been very bad. Feeling generally was that whilst the litter is a problem, the very existence of the shop is of such benefit that it is outweighed. A Packman explained that the council had cut back the hedging around the shop and this had exposed a lot of rubbish. A 'no littering' sign is to go up in the car park.

3. I understand that Sophie attended one of the 'Your Community – Your Say' public consultation meetings last Autumn but that none of the elected members did so. I want to know which elected members have since read the report on those meetings that has been published on the Herefordshire Council website to enable them to identify matters that could affect life in Preston Wynne, Westhide and Withington.

The findings were sent out to all Cllrs, and it is up to them to read the report and if they had ideas as to how to help the Council cut their budget, they could reply as individuals.

4. At the November meeting of the WGPC I asked about its responses to last Autumn's Local Transport Plan and Housing consultative documents but no answer was forthcoming. If, as I believe was the case, no responses were made I want to know why not. Specifically, why was the opportunity not taken to draw the attention of Herefordshire Council to the views expressed in the Community-Led Plan to the possibility of more housing development in the three parishes.

Herefordshire Council have copies of our CLP and no further comment was made by WGPC.

5. The minutes of the September meeting of the WGPC concerning the Community-Led Plan state that: '15 of the 19 actions have been done or are on-going'. I want to know who decided this, which are the 4 actions that are not on-going, and who is responsible for monitoring progress. In the same context I want to know why no action has seemingly yet been taken to agree a date for a meeting with Chris Gooding and Lynda Wilcox about a link between the Community-Led Plan and a possible Neighbourhood Plan.

The CLP action plan was checked by Paul Bainbridge, and there will be a meeting on Feb 4th to look at the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. While I fully appreciate that the minutes of WGPC's November 2012 meeting will not be approved until the coming meeting I hope that copies of the draft minutes will be made available to members of the public on 17 January 2013. Such availability may well pre-empt yet more questions being asked.

Copies of minutes will be available at each meeting, and draft minutes can be available prior to the meeting.

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....