

# Withington Group Parish Council Meeting

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

### Extraordinary Meeting

Meeting started at 7.30

**In attendance:** Paul Bainbridge (In the Chair) , Ralph Barber, Alison Bainbridge, Kevin Hewison, Bob Wood, Tom Nellist, - We have a total of 16 councillor seats, and to be quorate we need to have 6 present.

**Also: Sophie Glover (Clerk): At least 27 members of the public (some remained outside the room)**

7.30pm meeting started

#### Apologies

1. Simon Dent, Rachael Leake, Martin Kirk, Steve Scotcher, Jonathan Beech  
Absent without apologies: Ed Simcock, Sue Rudd, Jim Callow, Dave Greenow (Ward Councillor) *Actions*

**The Chair introduced the parish council and explained the procedure for the meeting. This commenced with an open discussion on application No. 164113: Withington Post office and stores, 6 Springfield Rd, Withington.**

The chair explained that he had read the letters on the Herefordshire Council website. With 7 letters against the application and 2 were in favour.

A member of the public expressed her concerns about the parking at the moment, and she was concerned that the extra traffic would only exacerbate these problems. They are also concerned that with the extension into the evening noise, litter and parking will be a problem. She then voiced concerns to the safety of the children living in the neighbouring houses with the increase in traffic. Finally, the proximity of the building to an electricity sub-station might be a concern. She asked the PC to consider her feelings in their considerations.

Another member of the public expressed concerns about the access and egress to Springfield Road, particularly as there is a green area where kids play safely at the moment, in the summer.

Concerns voiced with emergency services getting through with the increase in parking.

The Chair pointed out that the planning department will consult with the highways authority about traffic when they are considering the application themselves.

A further member of the public said that when people chose to live in a village like Withington they did so wishing to live in the countryside, ie not with a chippy on the corner.

Another member of the public said that they felt that it would be a huge asset to the village, and it would reduce traffic on the roads as they could walk to the chip shop rather than drive to one in another village.

The applicant explained that the post office was still staying there, the chip shop would be where his carport was, and using one of his offices/bedrooms to be the preparation room.

It was pointed out that the yellow notice closing date for comments was different from the web site, it was confirmed that the actual closing date for comments was the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

In regard to the survey that the applicant had done, a member of the public had also done a petition, and the chair suggested that it should be passed on to the Planning Department.

Chair asked for comments in support of the application. There was a voice saying that the young people in the village would be delighted to have a chip shop, also that the kids in the

village would happily pick up litter for a very small payment.

The applicant came back on these comments, saying that he really didn't want any one hurt, he assured people that the lorries would only come from 9am to 5pm as they are couriers, they won't be making deliveries through the night. He said he would suggest parking at the village hall. He will be putting in a filtration system, sound silencer, and all of his kit would be brand new. He was asked who he surveyed, and he said his customers, not actually out knocking on doors.

It was mentioned that there used to be a chippy van that parked at the village hall, and this is no longer a service that is available.

The Chair said that the PC had to represent the parishoners as a whole, and they had to make a decision as to whether or not to make a response. BW explained to the meeting that the application was to the County Council, not to the Parish Council. Another member of the public said that years ago we used to have a variety of shops, a butcher etc, and now there is nothing, just a shop.

The chair asked if a the councillors wanted to make a comment. He outlined, the PC has 3 options, they could support it, they could object to it or they can decline to take a view as it is a balanced opinion for the parishoners. He asked for a show of hands in support from the public: 13 How many against: 12

Motion was made by BW, and seconded by PB to take no comment to the county council : not enough information on traffic figures, a good thing for the village, but in the wrong location. This was voted for with 5 in favour and 1 abstaining.

The chair reminded the meeting that the PC only had one vote, every one present, either in favour or against the application should write in to the planning department as individuals.

#### **164108: 1 Matchcroft Cottages, Eau Withington**

TN said he didn't feel there was a problem with the development, but he questioned what the building would be used for afterwards. A member of the public said that she had approached the council to ask about the use, and had been told that the planning department were waiting to see what the PC said. They have also had Western Power come to them to change the power route, and this led to further concerns about the future use.

They did not have a problem with the application itself, it was only the future use of the building, the Chair explained that the PC knew only what the members of the public knew.

The Chair said that any recent history ie in the last 10 years would be on the web site, and it was stated that there is nothing listed in regard to change of use.

In regard to the comment to the planning department, The chair moved no objection; seconded by BW Voted 5 in favour and one abstainer.

**It was resolved that the clerk should submit comments in accordance with the above decisions.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....