

Minutes of
WITHINGTON - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 18th May 2017 7.00pm start

Councillors present;

**Paul Bainbridge, Alison Bainbridge, Tom Nellist, Bob Wood, Martin Kirk;
Rachel Leek; Jonathan Beech;**

Meeting opened: 7.02pm

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| 1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held on Thursday 12 th May 2016 | Approved in July 2016 |
| 2. Any other business | None |

Meeting Closed at 7.03pm

PRESTON WYNNE - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 18th May 2017

Councillors present;

Sue Rudd;

They were not quorate, so a meeting is to be arranged in Preston Wynne, to include

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting | Approved in July 2016 |
| 2. Any other business | |

WESTHIDE - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 18th May 2017

Councillors present

Jim Callow, Ralph Barber

Meeting opened: 7.32pm

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| 1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held On Thursday 21 st May 2015 | Approved in July 2016 |
| 2. Any other business | None. |
- Meeting closed: 7.33pm

Signed Chairman:

Dated:

Withington Group Parish Council

Annual Meeting Held on Thursday 18th May 2016

MINUTES

Present: Paul Bainbridge, Alison Bainbridge, Rachel Leake, Tom Nellist, Bob Wood, Martin Kirk, Jonathan Beech; Jim Callow, Sue Rudd; Also: Sophie Glover (Clerk),

The Meeting opened at 7.08pm

i. Election of officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman)

Chairman: Paul Bainbridge

Proposed: Ralph Barber

Seconded: Martin Kirk all in favour

Carried unanimously

Vicechair: Ralph Barber

Proposed: Paul Bainbridge

Seconded: Bob Wood

Carried Unanimously

ii. Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

Copy at end of report.

iii. Clerks Annual Financial Report/ Adoption of accounts

The clerk went through the end of year accounts and gave an update of the current financial position of the Parish Council. The Governance Statements were considered, and then the Accounting Statements were considered. Tom Nellist moved that the accounts be adopted, and this was seconded by Bob Wood and was carried unanimously.

iv. Appointment of members to Committees, working groups etc

- **Planning Working Group:** The chair told the meeting that following a discussion with HALC, all applications will now come to the Parish Council meetings. He explained how the timings work with the planning applications, and due to the timing of when the planning notice goes out on the site, this should give the PC enough time to discuss the application at a meeting. In exceptional circumstances, the clerk can ask for an extension, or a special meeting can be called – this would also happen if it was a big or contentious application. Thus, the planning working group has been disbanded.

- Representative on **Village Hall committee:** Bob Wood, Proposed the Chair, Seconded RB.

- **Neighbourhood planning group:** To remain the same Chair: Ralph Barber, On the working group: Jonathan Beech, Paul Bainbridge and Sue Patmore will be approached for her continued support.

- **Finance committee:** would meet twice a year, once before the precept setting meeting and once before the audit meeting. The chair asked for any one interested in joining this committee; Ralph Barber suggested the cheque signatories, and it was resolved that the cheque signatories would form this committee, so this is Paul Bainbridge, Ralph Barber, Jim Callow and Rachel Leak.

- **Withington Field:** Clerk to continue in this role, agreed unanimously.

v. Review of Footpath Officer, Internal Auditor, tree warden etc

Footpath officers:-

Jim Callow will cover Westhide

Ros Simcock will be asked to continue for Preston Wynne

Martin Kirk for Withington

All moved by PB seconded AB

Internal Auditor: To continue to use Mr Aubrey Oliver.

Tree Warden: Cathy Gumbulton has resigned. She was thanked for her work, and the clerk was asked to put a piece in the Withington News to ask for a volunteer to replace her. The clerk was also asked to approach Sutton or Weston Beggard PC's to see if they have a tree warden who might be interested in helping us.

vi. Review of insurance policies

Was reviewed in November as the insurance was due to be updated in January. We compared three companies and increased the cover for Withington Field to £70,000 for the MUGA and play equipment and £1500 for the shipping container. We did eventually remain with Zurich insurance, and this was at a cost of £769.42, against last years payment for £771.58 for a lower amount of cover.

vii. Review of subscriptions

Hereford and Gloucester Canal: £25 per annum.

HALC: Fees will be as they set.

Tree Warden: £25 per annum.

Agreed to all Proposed: Paul Bainbridge Seconded; Tom Nellist.

Viii Councillors attendance at meetings

The chair reminded cllrs that it was in our standing orders that they had to attend at least one meeting every 6 months.

x. To remind Councillors to update their Notice of Registrable Interests.

Done.

Meeting Closed at 7.38 pm

Signed: Chairman:

Dated:

Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

I would like to start by thanking Sophie for her commitment as clerk and for taking on Withington Fields at the start of the year. Also congratulations on her achieving clerks qualification. I must also thank Ralph for covering for me, both for holidays and sickness.

Again this year I thought I would be concentrating on the Neighbourhood Plan. However there is no further action to report and Ralph and me are attending a briefing at the county council next week. Councillors will have noticed that houses are appearing above the ground next to Southbank. The main planning issue in the last twelve months has been the number of applications for developments of one or two plots at Preston Wynne. The Parish Council has objected to most of these as being contrary to the Development Plan but the County Council has approved some, particularly around the junction with Marsh Lane and the C1118. These applications have resulted from the County Council including Preston Wynne as a growth settlement requiring an 18 % increase in the number of dwelling. As it is difficult to identify a particular area forming the 'settlement' I consider that the policy was ill conceived. In addition as all the applications are for one or two dwellings there can be no requirement by the County for affordable homes to be provided for rent or shared ownership.

The one application that generated considerable interest was for the 'chip shop'. The County Council refused the application primarily on highway grounds.

Withington Fields is now reaching the stage when repairs are necessary to the infrastructure and this year has seen the repair of the paths and the creation of a new path from the car park along the 'dog walking route'. The gazebo has been re-erected after being uprooted, and the football club has been improving the facilities.

We found out during the year that, due to the governments continuing cuts to the County funding through the block grant, we will have to totally fund the cost of the lengthsman in future years. It is no coincidence that whilst the County is 'capped' in respect of the council tax, parish councils can raise any level of precept. Our parishioners would not be happy if we significantly increased our precept solely to replace expenditure/functions previously carried out by the Herefordshire Council, and I would never recommend it.

I wish to thank those councillors who have represented us on other bodies, or undertaken 'job' on our behalf, including Martin as footpaths officer and Bob as village hall rep. Alison has led the Planning Group but this is now disbanded and all applications will be reported to the council meetings. For a short time we had Kathy Gumbleton as our tree warden but she has had to 'resign' due to other commitments. After many years we have said goodbye to Bob Rawlinson as our auditor. More on our new auditor next year.

Thanks go to Kevin and his team for efficiently running the Village Hall for the benefit of all parishioners, and many other users.

Finally my thanks go to all the councillors who are willing to give their time to serve the Group Parish.

Paul Bainbridge. Chairman, Withington Group Parish Council

18th May 2017