

Withington Group Parish Council
Meeting Held on
Thursday 14th November 2013 at 7.30pm
Withington Village Hall
MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors Paul Bainbridge (Chairman); Ralph Barber (Vice Chair); Alison Bainbridge; Kevin Hewison; Tom Nellist; Simon Dent; Jim Callow; Rob Soutar; Colin Stone-Fewings; Jonathan Beech; Helen Jones; Wallace Brown;

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk); Mr & Mrs Williams (Parishioners), Mrs Patmore (Neighbourhood Plan Team); PCSO Dean Wall (for first half hour)

Meeting started at 7.34pm

- 1. Apologies**
Steve Scotcher; Rachel Leake; Shelly Ford;
Cllr Dave Greenow
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
None.
- 3. Open Discussion/Public Forum**

3.1 Report from local police – PCSO Dean Wall was in attendance on behalf of PCSO Ekanite in connection with item 9.3. (see below) He pointed out that PC Neil James had sent a crime update by e mail.

3.2 Report from Ward Councillor – Not present.

3.3 Public Comments /questions – Sue Patmore introduced herself as a member of the Neighbourhood Planning group.

Another parishioner Mr Williams voiced concerns about antisocial behaviour and asked to talk about agenda item 9.3 with the same issue. With the Chair's agreement **Item 9.3 Withies Rd. Bus shelter** was then taken. The Chair outlined that the County Council had said that they would not fund the relocation of the bus stop as it was in an acceptable location. Other locations had been discussed but none were considered better than the existing one. (Chair's notes from the meeting are at the end of these minutes.) Kevin Hewison noted that possibilities for an alternative had been looked for up and down the street. PCSO Wall was asked to comment. He said anti-social behaviour had been happening recently in the village, but gave no specific details. He stated that youths could be attracted to a lit covered space. Mr Williams outlined his and his wife's concerns about the proposed bus shelter encouraging young people to congregate there, and would prefer to see the stop relocated. The Chair recommended that the bus stop stayed in its present location, pointing out that, if that was agreed, then a decision was required as to whether to proceed with the shelter. Wallace Brown thanked the Cllrs for taking this significant time to look into the matter. Mr & Mrs Williams voiced strong concerns about the Bus Shelter progressing. K. Hewison stated that the village hall doorway being lit was at times used by youths but tolerated. PCSO Wall added that he had asked youths why they did not use the shelter provided in the field area and was told the lack of lighting was the issue. A. Bainbridge asked if the bus stop light could be removed but no, as it is a street light. Rob Souter stated provision of lighting for the gazebo on the open space was indeed possible. Ralph Barber suggested that the PC fund both projects. Rob Souter proposed a vote that the Bus shelter after a 2 year delay, should go ahead in conjunction with the provision of lighting at the open space shelter. The Chair

put this to the members. The result was 8 Cllrs to go ahead and 1 against, so the decision was to proceed with the project. W. Brown asked for a description of the shelter. The Chair described it as Perspex with a curved lid, to deter climbing on and with no seating. Mr Williams again asked to speak and was allowed to voice final concern for others not present. The Chair responded that he had been told of one other resident having shown concern. Finally Mr Williams asked who would be responsible when or if the shelter were damaged. The Chair replied that the County Council would be, but that the Parish Council could be approached if necessary.

4. WGPC Parish Council minutes:

Proposed: Kevin Hewison, Seconded: Alison Bainbridge: Agreed Unanimously.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Ralph Barber gave an update from the Neighbourhood Planning group, saying the next meeting was on 14th Jan. 2013.

There will be a number of consultation events for the public to find out more and to express their thoughts. All councillors were asked for their help at these events.

17th and 18th Jan at Preston Wynne from 7-10 and 10-4 respectively.

24th and 25th at Withington Village Hall from 7-10 and 10-4 respectively.

31st and 1st Feb at Westhide Church 7-10 and 10-4.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to help with the Housing Land Assessment study. The following accepted,- P Bainbridge, A Bainbridge, W Brown, J Beech and K Hewison.

6. Update on Withington Fields

6.1 Update: The Lighting is working well and the new drain is in. The hedges have been cut and the football field has been improved. The steps have now been provided in the Coppice. The football club would like to be able to practice on the grass pitch, and two more lights will need to be added for this. The club has been offered to contribute £200 towards the £600 expected bill, and the PC will pay the remaining sum. The Chair moved to do this and Colin Stone-Fewings seconded, the vote was unanimous.

6.2 Building equipment store: This was to be added to the next agenda.

There was a request for the PC to purchase some more flags to fly outside the Village Hall.

War memorial

7. The Council recalled that, in the past, the PC had arranged some maintenance; however the Lengthsman has declined doing any work on it. There was a suggestion to approach Mr Corbyn who had previously funded some work through his charitable fundraising. This was agreed. Simon volunteered.

Consultation Paper – Herefordshire Council Budget Cuts

8. R Soutar moved not to comment on it as a PC. The Chair proposed that if Cllrs wished they should submit comments as individuals.

9. Balfour Beatty (BB)

9.1 Dangerous Road: Simon Dent and Tom Nellist had met with BB who were very sympathetic to the PC's request for the changing of the road to become one way. They did point out the length of time that this might take. PC agreed unanimously to start the process.

9.2 PCC Church Sign

Still waiting to get a cost from BB for a simple sign.

9.3 Withies Rd bus shelter

See above

10. To note comments from the information sheets:

None

Matters Financial

11.1 Balances as at 1.10.13 : Yorkshire Bank: £19,097.70
21.10.13: Lloyds Bank : £ 3,359.69

Confirmed by Paul Bainbridge.

Payments to be agreed:

	Clerks salary	£ 706.80
	Clerks expenses	£ 35.20
	CSF Country Homes (WF Drainage)	£ 4,194.00
	Safe and sound court markings	£ 1,194.00
	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance(OCT)	£ 193.20
11.2	JR Barrell	£ 156.00
	PCC (grass cutting) Sept	£ 157.20
	PCC (grass cutting) Oct	£ 157.20
	Steve Caine	£ 34.56
	Withington Primary School fire works	£ 244.80
	From Yorkshire to Lloyds acct – Precept	£ 6,000.00
	From Yorkshire to Lloyds acct – VAT return	£ 9,738.96
	R Morgan- Lengthsman	£ 181.95
	Proposed: Kevin Hewison Seconded: Wallace Brown	All agreed

Payments Already Made

None

11.3 **Receipts**

Precept £ 7,000.00
HMRC vat return £10,011.33

11.4 **Request for financial aid**
Hereford CAB – Declined unanimously.

11.5 **Precept Setting**
Deferred until next meeting

Planning - as per the information sheet.

12. Group to consider current applications after the meeting.

13. **Received items for the next agenda:**
From the actions.

Future meetings

Future dates:	16 January 2014	7.30 pm start
	20 th March	7.30 pm start
	22 nd May	7.00 pm start
	10 th July	7.30 pm start
	11 th September	7.30 pm start
Added Date:	13 th November	7.30 pm start

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28 pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN

Dated:.....

Appendix 1.

Meeting held on the 11th. October 10am.

Subject: Bus stop/shelter Withies Road, Withington.

Present: Paul Bainbridge, Rob Soutar Withington Group PC

Paul Williamson, Mark Wright, Chris Powell , Herefordshire Council/ Balfour Beatty

Paul W confirmed that the shelter would now be in place but for the letter raising objection.

Alternative locations were discussed for a bus stop but none were considered any better than the existing location. The suggestion for a stop by the shop was not acceptable on highway safety grounds. A location adjacent to the play area/ open space would require the removal of the hedge, permission for which may not be forthcoming, and there would be a loss of open space for the shelter.

Paul W confirmed that there was no statutory procedure for the county, the highway authority, to follow in deciding on bus stop locations, and the erection of shelters, but only a consultation with the ward member and Parish Council.

It was also confirmed that there is no reason to move the stop on highway safety grounds, and that the houses opposite had been constructed many years after the stop was sited. In the consideration of the planning application for the houses and new access there was no objection in regard to the bus stop, and no requirement for it to be relocated on highway safety grounds.

Finally it was confirmed that the County Council would not fund a relocation of the stop.

The WGPC will have to decide

1. if it agrees that no action be taken regarding relocating the stop, and
2. does it want the shelter to be erected. (bearing in mind that a parishioner has provided funds to the PC for this to be done).

Following a decision on these questions on the 14th. November the County Council will require an instruction letter from the WGPC asking for the shelter to be erected if that is the decision of the PC.

PB

11th November 2013