

Minutes of
WITHINGTON - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 12th May 2016

Councillors present

Paul Bainbridge, Alison Bainbridge, Tom Nellist, Kevin Hewison, Bob Wood, Rachel Leek;

Meeting opened: 7.03pm

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held on Thursday 21 st May | Approved in July 2015 |
| 2. Any other business | None |

Meeting Closed at 7.04pm

PRESTON WYNNE - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 12th May 2016

Councillor present

Sue Rudd; Simon Dent; Ed Simcock

Meeting opened: 7.05pm

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting | Approved in July 2015 |
| 2. Any other business | |

Meeting Closed at 7.06pm

WESTHIDE - ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 21st May 2015

Councillors present

Jim Callow,

They were not quorate, so a meeting is to be arranged in Westhide, to include:-

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

Signed Chairman:

Dated:

Withington Group Parish Council

Annual Meeting Held on Thursday 12th May 2016

MINUTES

Present: Paul Bainbridge, Alison Bainbridge, Rachel Leake, Tom Nellist, Bob Wood, Jim Callow, Ed Simcock, Sue Rudd, Simon Dent; Also: Sophie Glover (Clerk), Ward Cllr Dave Greenow, Dave Penny (Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust),

The Meeting opened at 7.08pm

i. Election of officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman)

Chairman: Paul Bainbridge

Proposed: Jim Callow

Seconded: Kevin Hewison all in favour

Carried unanimously

Vicechair: Ralph Barber

Proposed: Paul Bainbridge

Seconded: Jim Callow

Carried Unanimously (in his absence)

ii. Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman's Annual Report 2015/16

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 Tom Nellist moved that the accounts be adopted, and this was seconded by Kevin Hewison , and was carried unanimously.

iv. Talk by David Penny, of Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust

DP talked about the work that was happening in both Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. In the latter they are doing a lot of work putting a canal back through a railway station. They are putting in a new spur called the beer branch - which will lead the canal to a pub. 20% of the total length is currently under acquisition.

Chair asked what was happening at Withington Marsh? DP said that discussions are underway with the land owners. He said that they were very keen to do the 4 miles at Withington Marsh if the landowners are willing. He explained that when they did the work at Yarkhill, they spent an equal amount of time repairing the ditches that surrounded the canal, and this really improved the flooding in that area.

SD; Where does the funding come from? Subscriptions, donations, grants, some Parish Councils, some funding comes from new houses being built along the route.

SD when will you see the first barge on the canal? No one knows! Aylstone will be done next year.

TN: what's the state of the tunnel? It's in perfect condition, it has been checked recently.

DP asked for the PC to consider mentioning the Canal in the NDP

V. Appointment of members to Committees, working groups etc

- **Planning Working Group:** Chair: Alison Bainbridge, On the working group: Paul Bainbridge, Kevin Hewison, Rachel Leake, Tom Nellist, Ed Simcock.

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

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

vi. Review of Footpath Officer, Internal Auditor etc

There were no volunteers for the Footpath Officer role, however, the suggestion that each Parish in the Group might have their own FO brought the following volunteers:-

Jim Callow will cover Westhide

Ros Simcock will be approached for Preston Wynne

Martin Kirk will be approached for Withington

Internal Auditor: Robert Rawlinson had said that he wanted to stand down as the internal auditor for WGPC, he was thanked for his 14 years of service in this role, however he will be approached to see if he would stand for one more year by KH. Other possible IA's will be looked for as in this financial year the PC will need two IA visits to their books.

vii. Review of insurance policies

These need updating in November, the clerk was asked to get a number of quotes before then as this is the end of the 3 year tie in with Zurich.

viii. 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: Kevin Hewison Seconded Alison Bainbridge

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

Done.

Meeting Closed at 7.52 pm

Signed: Chairman:

Dated:

Chairman's Annual Report 2015/16

At the beginning of the year I was thanking Sophie for work as clerk and wishing her well for the future. What followed was a torturous few months when we had two new clerks who both 'resigned'. Luckily for us Sophie came back, and whilst she had to sort out a few problems matters are now back on track.

I thought I would be concentrating on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan but with the granting of permission for Vine Tree Close, and adjacent to Southbank, the main reason for the plan (identifying sites and policies for new housing development) was undermined. In addition, the 'extra care facility with up to 80 housing units has been agreed. This gives a supply of over 220 dwellings against a requirement for 126 for the three parishes. The NP team is still considering the next steps.

The Withington Fields development is still progressing. The football pitch provision has been further developed with additional drainage being completed. Unfortunately, due to the onerous requirements of Sport England before they complete the grant payments the PC is carrying some of the costs until the matter is resolved. The fence between the Field and Village hall has been replaced and we are looking at developing a maintenance programme for the paths. I would like to thank Sophie for taking on the councils' role as representative on the field committee.

This year has also seen more input from the lengthsman, on highway maintenance and footpaths. Over the next 12 months we are going to have to decide future funding as the County Council is going to phase out their funding. Presumably those parishes without a lengthsman will still be funded by the County. This requires clarification.

As always I wish to record my thanks to the councillors who have represented us on other bodies or with 'jobs', Rob as footpaths officer and Alison with the planning group. Also my thanks to Councillor Greenow, to the local policing team, and to all the Parish Councillors. I would also like to thank Kevin and his team for running the Village Hall, which clearly is a major asset for the village, and our internal auditor, Bob Rawlinson. We have also welcomed Cathy Gumbleton as the Tree Warden.

Finally, in the changing times when more and more responsibility appears to be being hived off from the county council onto the parishes, my personal thanks, and on behalf of the whole group parish, to Sophie for her work as parish clerk. As you all know, Sophie left and returned and on behalf of the parish councillors I thank her for her commitment.

Paul Bainbridge

Chairman, Withington Group Parish Council

May 2016