

Witham on the Hill Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Witham on the Hill Parish Council (Min
23-03) 4 September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. held at St Andrews Village
Hall, Witham on the Hill

Present: **Councillors:** Charles Henriques, Duncan Brock, Paul Smith, Sue Pennant-Jones and Richard Burbidge
Residents: G Plews
Others: Bernard Champness – Clerk, District Cllr P Robbins

	Open Forum
	<p>Mr Plews wanted to address the Council. He was advised that his email had been circulated but he said that he wanted to discuss matters that he felt was important. He first said that he wanted to thank the Councillors for the work they had done and were doing. His main concern was the roads and paths in the village. The path from the village was cut back by the Big Clean a few years ago but it was in desperate need to be cut back again. The signs at the crossroads were needed to be cleared of vegetation and cleaned up as school children had to cross the road to catch the bus and he was concerned for their safety. In addition, the signs entering the village from both ends needed cleaning and or replacing. The dog fouling sign on the Green was still on the ground and he was prepared to replace it or remove it. He was asked to remove it altogether. The steps to the Green by the Socks needed to be concreted and he was prepared to do this if he was given permission. He was told that he could carry out the work and the Council were grateful to him. He also said that he was prepared to look after the raised flower beds at the back of the Stocks and would replant them. He was told that the Council was once again grateful to him and asked if he needed a budget as we had funds to help with that. The wastebin by the pub was broken and needed to be replaced.</p> <p>His other major concern was the traffic by the pub. Cars were parked on the road by the pub every night and lunchtime. This made it difficult for cars travelling in both directions by the parked cars and on many occasions they had to go onto the verge to avoid each other. On occasions cars used his and his neighbour's driveways. He wondered if the council could do anything about this. Cllr Robbins said that for many of the matters he raised she would take up with the Council and would liaise with Cllr Vernon who had been sent a copy of the email asking if she could have a word with Highways to see what their reaction was to the requests as she had not replied to the Clerk. She would also enquire about Gates for the entrances to the village and whether funding was available. He was advised that there was very little the Parish Council could do as the Police were the only ones that could enforce the law about driving on the highways. The Parish Council could have a word with the Landlord advising him to remind the people using his restaurant not to drive onto the verges or onto the resident's driveways.</p>
	The meeting was formally opened at 19.20
35.	Apologies for absence, acceptance of Apologies
	35.1 No apologies were given as all Parish Councillors were present.
36.	Declaration of Interest – To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item
	36.1 No one declared an interest in any matter that was on the agenda.
37.	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3 July 2023 (23-02)

	37.1	Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3 July 2023 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
38.	Matters to Report	
	38.1	Cllr Pennant- Jones said that she was not able to do notes of the council meetings for the Three Towers magazine as she no longer had a computer. Cllr Henriques said that he would try to do this.
39.	To receive a report from the County and District Councillors.	
	39.1	County Cllr Charlotte Vernon was not present and had not sent a report.
	39.2	<p>District Cllr Penny Robins gave a report as follows:</p> <p>Community Funding Workshop The Community Funding Workshop has been confirmed for Thursday 21 st September at the Corn Exchange in Stamford basement room – 6-8pm. It is designed to inform community groups about funding allocation, Lottery SK, SK Community Fund and the UK shared prosperity fund. The free workshop will provide informal discussions on what’s available to support small grass root events and initiatives through to larger projects needing capital investment.</p> <p>SK Today The next edition will be available online from the 18 th September 2023, people can subscribe online via the link .. http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2321</p> <p>Household Support Fund The household support fund (HSF) aims to provide support to vulnerable households that are most in need during the period 2023/2024. The Funding has been made available by the DWP and is being distributed by District Councils elected members supporting SKDC residents. Members can make a referral on behalf of residents who are struggling with the cost of household essentials. Please let me know if you have any residents that would benefit from this.</p> <p>Bytham Spinney Update As you are aware the Spinney is replacing play equipment in the coming weeks it was planned to start on site on the 11th September, it has now been put back to the 25th September.</p>
40.	Clerks Report and Correspondence received.	
	40.1	<p>The Clerk had circulated in advance notice of the various e-mails received since the last meeting. If anyone wanted to see any e-mails they should let him know and he would send it on.</p> <p>A letter had since been received from Mallard Pass Solar Farm given details of a series of meetings to be held by the Secretary of State for Energy Security for the hearings the examination of the Application made by the Applicant. These meetings would be held at Orton Hall Hotel & Spa Orton Longueville, Peterborough on the 26th 27th and 28th September</p>
41.	Planning applications:	
	41.1	Planning Applications to Approve: there were no planning applications to consider

41.2	<p>Planning Applications approved: - S23/1316 - Proposal: Section 211 notice to reduce spread of Alder (T1) overhanging boundary by approximately 2m.at Manor Farm Cottage Main Street S23/1148 - Proposal: Section 211 notice to to prune Tree A: Silver Birch, Tree B: Flowering Cherry Tree, Tree C: Tibetan Cherry Tree at Birch House Main Street S23/1183 - Proposal: Section 211 notice to fell Weeping Willow marked T2 on plan at Bywells House Main Street S23/1186 - Proposal: Section 211 notice to fell T1 Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore) at Somersby House Main Street S23/1455 - Proposal: Removal of T1 and T2 at Witham Hall Preparatory School, Main Street S23/1538 - Proposal: Works to Conifer Tree.at Hillcrest House, Bottom Street,</p>
41.3	<p>To note any Planning Applications refused or withdrawn: there were none to consider</p>
41.4	<p>To note any Application appealed or any decision made regarding an appeal: there were none to consider</p>
42.	<p>To receive any data from the reactive sign</p>
42.1	<p>It was explained that new data had not been downloaded but this would happen soon. Cllr Brock asked if his report had gone into the Three Towers as he was away on holiday. It was understood that this had not been done but Cllr Henriques would see what he could do.</p>
43.	<p>To consider a letter from a resident regarding various issues in Witham on the Hill</p>
43.1	<p>An email had been received from a resident who was concerned about a number of issues within the village. This email had been circulated before the meeting and discussed in the Open Forum. There was no need for further discussion.</p>
44.	<p>To discuss the survey from Cllr R Davies regarding - We need YOUR local knowledge about YOUR local roads</p>
44.1	<p>An email had been received from Cllr Davies and was circulated in advance to all Councillors. The main issue was about drainage records. LCC was responsible for cleaning and gullies and kerb drains once every 2 years. They needed our help to give them the location of and drain or drains that are not on the map that was supplied. This map had been looked at and at first reading it seemed that we did not have any other drains that were not on the map. It was agreed that Cllrs Brock and Henriques would take another look and let the clerk know so a response could be made.</p>
45.	<p>To consider any projects we need to consider so we can include them in the budget for 2024/25</p>
45.1	<p>The Clerk explained that he had placed this on the agenda as we would be discussing the Precept for 2024/25 at the November meeting. He wanted to know what, if any projects we might want to do and what money would be required for that work to be done. After discussing the matter, it was agreed that the big project was The Bywells. Cllr Henriques would make enquiries to see if any funding was available and then we could decide in November if we needed to seek further funds from the Precept. He was advised to see if English Heritage would be able to help with funding.</p>
46.	<p>To confirm Expenditure £72.95 – South Kesteven District Council (Uncontested election charges) £83.93 – Primary Care Supplies (defibrillator pads) (Cheque made payable to C Henriques) £150.00 – D Thornburn (payroll charges for last 6 months)</p>

	£82.20 – HMRC (NI and PAYE) £328.92 – B M Champness (salary from July August and September) []denotes those payments paid between meetings, which have been approved by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Parish Council or at a previous meeting but not listed Payments made by Direct Debit - £
	46.1 Resolved: that the payments be approved.
47.	Any other business – <i>Reminder – by law no decision can be made under this item only information exchanged.</i>
	47.1 There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 20.04
48.	The date of the next meeting – to be held on Monday 6 November 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at St Andrew’s Parish Hall, Witham on the Hill