LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held

Monday 20th May, 2024 at 7:30p.m.

at Lower Withington Parish Hall

Present Councillors P. Duffy (Chairman), A. Brocklehurst, P. Chrisp, C. Hamilton, H. Lewis.
Cheshire East Council Ward Member: Councillor L. Smetham.
Members of the public (3).
Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs J. Blackburn, J. Bradley.

DECISION **(a) To note the above apologies for absence. (All in favour)**

2. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2023 had been previously circulated.

DECISION **(a) That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)**

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report for civic year 2023/24 – Councillor P. Duffy presented the following report:
The Parish Council of Lower Withington has pleasure in presenting their Annual Report.

Your Council

The composition of the council has remained the same for the past 2 years and is now up to 7 members with John Bradley being co-opted. Elizabeth Maddock has remained in the role of Clerk (clerk@lowerwithington.com) and we are grateful for the continued support of Councillor Smetham from Cheshire East Council, representing the Gawsworth Ward.

Finance

The financial report is attached as Appendix A on the minutes of Parish Council meetings which are published on the village website. We would very much welcome ideas for projects that we can support.

Parish Council Projects and Parish Matters

1. The Parish Council has, with the expertise of Councillor Chrisp, continued to issue a vibrant re-imagined new style version of our newsletter. Ideas and suggestions for content are always welcome and can be communicated to members of the Parish Council or submitted via the website (https://lowerwithington.com).

2. The website (https://lowerwithington.com) has been maintained in a more user friendly format and to meet the latest website accessibility regulations. It is regularly updated with Parish Council information and other local information is available such as updates from Cheshire East Council and other organisations. There is now an online calendar on the website for the Parish Hall to provide information to residents about clubs and events taking place at the venue.

3. It is intended that in the future it will have the facility to incorporate an online booking system for the Parish Hall.

4. The Parish Council was a contributing third party for a Parish Hall Committee awarded FCC Communities Foundation Grant in support of the Parish Hall modernisation project.

5. The annual litter pick was completed in April. The Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers for their time and contribution to the community.

6. Other completed activities included planting and maintenance of shrubs to improve the appearance of the island at the entrance to the Parish Hall car park.

7. The Council has also completed the installation of another defibrillator in the village at the Methodist Chapel. As part of the awareness campaign, in addition to notices in the Newsletter, we have commissioned and circulated key rings with essential defibrillator location and password information.

8. Following a local Community Governance Review it should be noted that the number of seats for councillors on the Parish Council has been increased to eight. With our number currently at seven there is a vacancy for anyone who would like to give some of their time and enthusiasm to serve your local community. More details are included on the website and in the Newsletter.

Planning applications:

Applications considered by Parish Council 2023/24: 20
Applications approve with conditions during 2023/24: 12
Applications approved (no conditions) during 2023/24: 2
Applications refused during 2023/24: 3
Applications withdrawn during 2023/24: 2
Applications awaiting decision as at 31/03/24: 7

DECISION **(a) To receive the report.** **(All in favour)**

4. Public Forum – No items were raised.

DECISION **(a) To note that no items were raised.** **(All in favour)**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 7:38p.m.

Signed:..... Confirmation date: 24th June, 2024