

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER, 2013.

00/12

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice-Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hay, Hughes and Paynter. The Clerk was also present together with County Councillor Tony Blackburn and there were 4 members of the public in attendance.

01/12

Apologies

None.

02/12

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jones and Douglas declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 4 (ii) concerning the Village Hall & Playing Field.

03/11

Minutes

The Minutes of the November meeting of the Parish Council were signed as a true record subject to one amendment within 05/11.

04/12

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

It was agreed that Cllr Jones would liaise with the Village school to ascertain if there could be any educational input on the part of the school to combine with a project to commemorate WW1 and possibly access grant aid to improve the area surrounding the war memorial. Cllr Paynter suggested that the Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee could be involved in some form of adult education and it was agreed that Cllr Jones would raise the suggestion at the next Management Committee meeting that he would be chairing.

Village Hall & Playing Field

The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Barbara Pond and Jonathan Dawson (specialist solicitor) and was waiting to hear back on the issue of Fields In Trust and the operation of any proposed lease or licence between the Parish Council and Management Committee.

Skate Ramp

The Chairman reported that the skate ramp had been repaired at a cost of £1,449.20 plus the security fencing etc whilst £1,285.20 had been received from the insurers. It was agreed that this would be reconciled further once everything had been fully completed and paid for. The panels used were of a different colour and therefore some painting will be required in the Spring.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported that there had been two motions put to the County Council, one concerning fracking and the other pay day loans but neither had received support. On the issue of highways, there had been various problems at the Air Balloon roundabout but it was hoped that funding from central government would come to alleviate this together with enhanced funding from central government in the form of a higher pupil premium in education. Improvements to the A38 would be taking place in the new year but following a round of consultation. In regard to his highway budget, repairs had been carried out to Hyde Lane with an

element, it was believed, yet to be completed. Cllr Mrs Coleman thanked Cllr Blackburn for arranging some tarmac to be laid in the A38 South bound lay-by. Cllr Blackburn went on to draw attention to the consultation even on development West of Stonehouse and issues locally concerning planning together with various issues concerning Severn Voice and the management plan for the Severn Estuary. All present thanked Cllr Blackburn for his efforts on the part of the village.

05/12

Police & Community Safety Matters

An agenda had been received for the area's Joint Cluster Group Meeting that Cllr Mrs Gilmore had attended. She advised that Daniel Tiffney had given a presentation on highway issues particularly covering the A38. With regard to the arson attack at the skate ramp, it was understood that three suspects had come to light and they were being interviewed by the police. Apologies were received from PCSO Mark Lifton but he had reported there had been 1 crime, being damage to a vehicle, and various incidents during the previous month. Email correspondence was received from Paul Helbrow, Community Safety Manager, concerning a bid from the Community Safety Team for funding for various initiatives from the Crime Commissioner. It was agreed that a copy would be circulated. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden's reports had been circulated around Council by email. Comment was made that the School Lane parking issues appeared to have been mitigated but fly tipping had become a problem with an incident in Upton's Garden and near the motorway, the latter as drawn to Council's attention by Cllr Mrs Coleman.

06/12

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.13/2255/HHOLD

1 Moss Views, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection single storey garage extension, greenhouse and shed.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

No new applications were received but further consideration was given to S.13/2400/ADV as the drawings had become available to view on the District Council website. Council resolved to object specifically to the direct lettering onto the building and the halogen type lighting but was not against the other signage in principle. However, it was agreed that a letter should be sent raising concern at the way in which the work had already been carried out to a listed building ahead of consent being granted.

Village Design Statement

It was reported that the project was progressing well and after final typesetting would be presented to Conrad Moor at SDC for review.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones reported that the Parish Planning Protocol was being presented on 7th January. Details of a developer led consultation concerning homes and employment land west of Stonehouse were circulated. Cllr Blackburn has also written drawing this to Council's attention and the way that developers can 'jump the gun' whilst SDC still has no Local Plan in place.

07/12

Highways & Byways

A question and answer sheet was received from the County Council concerning changes to the PROW function and it was agreed this would be circulated. The work carried out to Hyde Lane was reappraised under this item and it was agreed that Cllr Blackburn should be publicly thanked via SPAN. The condition of Grove Lane and the A38 junction continued to prevail as issues and it was

agreed that they would be raised at the next Chartered Parishes meeting. Cllr Mrs Gilmore raised concerns regarding conifers overhanging footpaths in Paynes Meadow and it was agreed a further reminder to residents to cut back foliage and move in wheelie bins should be published in SPAN. Cllr Hay advised that the litter bin at the junction of School Lane and Hyde Lane had been reinstated but needed securing and Cllr Jones agreed to investigate. Cllr Jones also reported on a recent meeting concerning the canal bridge at Frampton-on-Severn and a letter he had received from a resident of The Close. On the subject of the possible installation of dog gates on certain footpaths within the village, it was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting together with the response to a request that had been made of Mrs Teesdale.

08/12

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

Ermin Plant	£174.72	Hire of fencing panels.
D Lord	£62.42	Clerk's expenses.
Whitminster School	£84.00	Replacement of fire extinguishers.

General Overview

The clerk advised that he had not yet received a bank statement for the previous period but there had been no movement. It was noted that consideration would need to be given to setting the precept for 2014/2015 in due course but it was possible that this would not be until the February 2014 meeting. Various requests had been made for support and donations from local good causes and it was agreed that these would be considered at the next meeting when setting the precept.

09/12

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the month of November.

Information and leaflets from Neil Carmichael MP.

CPRE Countryside Voice and Field Work magazines.

Urbaser Balfour Beatty November Newsletter.

Details on the launch of the Penny Brohn Cancer Care charity in the county.

Bulletin – magazine of the War Memorials Trust.

Gloucestershire Charter – meeting notes and agenda for meeting of 5th December 2013.

10/12

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

The Chairman gave an overview of matters recently concerning the District Council such as a petition regarding the spare room subsidy. However it was noted that there had not been any evictions arising from the policy and there had been no problems with the Council working within the relevant rules and hence a proposed motion was defeated. He went on to cover other issues such as a need for support to local councils from central government arising from the NPPF, a proposal to divert the Cotswold Way into Stroud and an aware that had been won by the Youth Council.

11/12

Other Business

It was noted that the December meeting may need to be relocated into the Playing Field Pavilion subject to confirmation. It was also highlighted that the January 2014 meeting would not take place following the usual meeting pattern as that could be on New Year's Day. Consideration would be given as to whether a meeting is necessary and if so an appropriate date in due course. Cllr Jones

also invited Council to consider any appropriate agenda items for the forthcoming Severn Voice meeting that it would be hosting. Finally he reported that the remaining items of work to tidy up and finish the Schoolfield Close site were being attended to and a quantity of sale had been delivered for gritting pathways around the village should bad weather arrive.

12/12

Future Agenda Items

The 6th and 10th of January were considered as suitable dates for a January meeting should a meeting be required, the normal meeting date being 1st January and therefore a public holiday and not acceptable.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:08pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 5th February, 2014.