

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th AUGUST, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allocated for public questions and comments at the start of the meeting. Two members of the public were present for this session. Matters discussed included a fault with the pedestrian crossing on the A38 and potential problems with parking and vehicular access through The Close if development is permitted on the field to the rear of Vaisey Field and Paynes Meadow. These items are listed for information only and do not form part of the formal meeting.

00/08

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chair), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Hughes & Peters. The Clerk was also present along with 1 member of the public.

01/08

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paynter.

02/08

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

03/08

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1st July, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- 03/07 Minutes – ‘bene’ was amended to ‘been’ and ‘Cllr H’ changed to read ‘Cllr Hay’.
- 05/07 Police & Community Safety - Amended to refer to the ‘Deputy’ Police Commissioner.
- 10/07 Chairman’s Items & District Councillor’s Report – Cllr Peters asked for the following wording to be inserted – ‘Severn Ward would lose Moreton Valence and Slimbridge Parish’.
- 11/07 Other Business – ‘bene’ amended to ‘been’ and ‘passed’ changed to ‘past’. In regard to the use of goalposts on the Playing Field, Cllr Jones requested the following be inserted – ‘but there was no reason why they could not be used’.

04/08

Matters Arising

Street Lights

Cllr Jones commented that he was aware of street lights that had been reported to the County Council but had not been fixed. Others were added to a growing list. Cllr Jones agreed to drive around the village after dark to compile a definitive list of defective street lights and take the matter up with the County Council. The telephone number for Councillors to report such matters directly themselves was also circulated.

Fly Tipping

Cllr Jones had made contact with the Neighbourhood Warden regarding garden rubbish tipped in the ditch off Hyde Lane. When inspected it was found to be degrading and was left in situ.

Overgrown Trees and Suckers

Cllr Jones asked Cllr Douglas to confirm the location of the tree with suckers growing off in Vaisey Field that he has previously mentioned. A few other bushes and areas requiring attention were discussed and Cllr Jones confirmed it was his understanding that they were all matters that would be attended to by the District Council's public spaces team in due course.

05/08

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were received and read out. There had been no crimes within the village but a number of police incidents had occurred.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters advised that due to a lack of funding and transport issues there would not be a Neighbourhood Watch stand at the forthcoming Frampton Country Fair.

Minutes of the last Stroud Cluster Group meeting were circulated and it was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 18th November at Ebley Mill.

Details of a meeting for Parish and Town Council's with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 9th September, along with details of how policing is changing in the County, had been circulated.

Information on the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership had been received for information. This was taken by Cllr Peters who agreed to pass it on to Cllr Douglas next for further onward circulation.

Cllr Hay informed the meeting that Cllr Paynter had intervened to stop young people racing in cars in Hyde Lane. He was going to speak with the parents of one individual concerned.

It was noted that the next Police Panel Meeting would take place in Whitminster on 23rd September.

06/08

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.15/0912/HHOLD Halsey Cottage, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Two storey and single storey extensions.

Permission granted.

S.15/1449/FUL Whitminster Sports Club, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Removal of existing sports pavilion and steel container. Erection of single storey sports/community pavilion.

Permission granted.

Applications and Appeals to Consider

APP/C1625/W/15/3005966 concerning Land off School Lane, Whitminster for a development of up to 95 dwellings – it was noted that the date had been set as 24th November 2015 starting at 10am at Ebley Mill. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at a future meeting with Cllr Paynter in attendance given the fact that he would be representing Council at the hearing.

APP/C1625/W/15/3018496 concerning land off Hyde Lane – Council's original letter had not been signed for at The Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk had written again and confirmation had been received of safe receipt and that the comments would be taken into account.

Land Adjoining Paynes Meadow/Vaisey Field

It was noted that the intended a consultation event had taken place at the Whitminster Inn on 14th July and Council noted that some residents had advised that they had made comments. However, letters that the applicant's agent had claimed to have sent to residents in The Close apparently failed to arrive.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones gave an update on the Local Plan in particular regard to housing numbers and correspondence concerning the Consultation on Post-submission Further Proposed Changes (including potential further Main Modifications) was circulated. No comments were made.

Cllr Hay had suggested at the last meeting that a 'wish list' of projects or potential village improvements should be drawn up to have to hand in regard to possible S.106 funding from future developments. The Clerk had brought a copy of the Parish Plan to further this discussion. It was agreed this would be included as a future agenda item.

Council had been advised of a Scoping Opinion Consultation in regard to a site West of Stonehouse and East of Junction 13 of the M5 for a sizeable business park and football stadium. A number of issues were raised as follows:

- Impact of floodlights on motorway and housing.
- Transport and access.
- Rainwater run-off into Frome impacting on land and houses down stream.
- Visual impact on rolling agricultural plain as seen from higher ground.
- Queries over hours of lighting particularly in regard to the need for floodlights on winter afternoons.
- Development in flood plain.
- Impact on traffic in respect of Junction 13 being at capacity and resultant increase in use of local roads.

It was agreed that the District Council should consider all of these factors and others of relevant in responding to the scoping request.

07/08

Highways & Byways

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the quality of the grass cutting that had been undertaken to verges in the area had also been commented on and complained about by other Parishes. He was still awaiting a response in respect of his complaint but understood the contractor had been asked to put things right.

There was no further information regarding the planned remedial works to be undertaken to the A38.

Cllr Peters gave an update on matters pertaining to the local footpaths and cycle network.

Cllr Hay told the meeting that Cllr Paynter had continued to walk the footpaths in the Parish and there were no issues to report. It was noted that the PROW Officer for the area would soon be leaving her post and any issues that she might be able to assist with that do come to light should be referred to her swiftly. It was agreed that the proposed dog gates should not be brought forward to future meetings and would not proceed.

Council received notification of the Local Transport Plan Consultation Report being available on-line and details were circulated.

08/07

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

Sue Doble	Garden Competition Administration	£44.50
Clare Pockett	Garden Competition Administration	£39.50

With £66.00 previously donated to the competition costs this brought Council's donation to a total of £150.00 as previously agreed. A letter of thanks including press reports was received and it was noted it was a success.

Clerk	Expenses paid on behalf of Council	£176.95
Fields In Trust	Membership Renewal	£50.00
Broker Network	Insurance	£10.95

Cheque number 000915 was cancelled and this cheque was issued in replacement. This was due to the fact that alternative more competitive quotes could not be obtained and therefore it was agreed that a new 3 year agreement be entered into thus reducing the payment due to the figure of replacement cheque number 000916 in the sum of £710.95 as above.

Church Clock Donation

Mr Adrian hale had been in touch with the Clerk to confirm that the work had been completed and the scaffolding would soon be removed. The contractor's invoice was being sent to the Clerk for payment in full and a contribution would be made by the PCC relating to the difference in price between the cost and the budget that the Parish Council had agreed.

General Overview Audit & Other Matters

The balance at the bank was confirmed as £7,630.11

It had previously been agreed that an additional 500 copies of the guide to village walks should be purchased depending on price and an update was anticipated on this from Cllr Paynter at the September meeting.

The Clerk advised that he had completed all final elements of the Audit submission and receipt had been acknowledged by the appointed auditors. It was expected that the audited return would be provided in early September.

An email seeking financial support was received from Victim Support and it was agreed that it would be carried forward to the relevant donations meeting. Cllr Peters advised that he had a relative who was employed by the charity and may wish to record that fact as an interest if discussed further.

09/08

Correspondence

J Parkers Wholesale bulb catalogue – it was discussed that planting bulbs was something Council may wish to consider in the future but any bulbs would most likely be sourced from Highfield being a local business and one that might perhaps consider sponsorship.

Details of Rural Tourism business funding opportunities.

Letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission confirming the completion of the Commission's review of Stroud District Council – Cllr Jones had received this information prior to the July meeting when it was then discussed and circulated.

Email from Sam Clark enquiring if the Parish Council was aware of any land suitable for a new build log cabin type structure. The Clerk had replied.

Information on Early Years 'Preparing to Consult' event.

GAPTC Bulleting.

Kingsdown Nurseries catalogue.

Letter inviting Council to sign its support to the Armed Forces Covenant. Cllr Peters complained about what he felt was an increasing militarisation of the Country. A recorded vote was taken with 5 in favour and Cllr Peters recorded as against. Accordingly it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the County Council to advise of the Parish Council's support and desire to sign the Covenant.

10/08

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones had no Chairman's items that had not been covered elsewhere during the meeting. However, he provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan which could potentially come into force from the Autumn onwards. He also advised that the judicial review to seek to overturn the

decision of the Secretary of State to allow the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park had not succeeded. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Neil Carmichael MP to record Council's interest in benefitting from any community fund that is created to mitigate the potential local impact.

11/07

Other Business

Outdoor Gym Equipment

Information on possible sources of grant aid, including Active Together, were passed to Cllr Hay who agreed to look into the matter in more detail with Cllr Paynter.

Other Matters

Cllr Douglas agreed to undertake litter picking at the Playing Field for the coming month.

Cllr Peters reported that the Gloucester Park & Ride was continuing to operate with the service originating in Stroud and proceeding to Gloucester via Kingsway. He had not received a reply from Cllr Blackburn.

Cllr Douglas advised that he had spotted a faulty street light close to No. 7 Vaisey Field. It had been reported but was still not working. He also commented on an overgrown apple tree to the rear of 1 Manor Cottage and it was agreed the Clerk should write to the occupiers asking that it be pruned back. A further tree with suckers sprouting from it, in Vaisey Field, was discussed and Cllr Jones was of the opinion that it would be the responsibility of the District Council.

Cllr Hay had noticed a lamp post missing its inspection cover just past Schoolfield Close. He agreed to call in and report the matter after he had looked up the reference number. Cllr Hay also commented on the use of the Playing Field by children during the Summer holidays and suggested it would be good if the goal posts could remain out for their use. Cllr Jones stated that this would result in the grass wearing thin but there was no reason why they could not be used.

It was noted that the handrails were missing from a bridge across the canal and Cllr Paynter agreed to investigate and report to Jacqui Harris at the County Council if appropriate.

12/08

Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that a review of the Parish Plan in regard to potential projects to benefit from S.106 funding arising from any new housing development would be included in the Agenda for September. The Clerk was to circulate extracts from the plan so that Councillors could attend the meeting having prepared their thoughts.

Information had been circulated concerning Healthwatch Gloucestershire and the possibility of inviting the organisation to speak at a future meeting. Cllr Peters had some knowledge of the organisation and thought it would add to their credentials as far as consultation is concerned but would be of little benefit to Council and so it was agreed that the offer wouldn't be taken up.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 2nd September, 2015.