

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 1st JULY, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allocated for public question and comment at the start of the meeting. There were no members of the public present and hence no matters were raised.

00/07

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chair), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present.

01/07

Apologies

There were apologies received and accepted from Cllr Hughes for arriving a few minutes late.

02/07

Declarations of Interest

Interest Forms & Declarations:

The Clerk had circulated new Declaration of Members' Interests forms to be completed by Councillors. Six had been completed and returned with the documents still due back from Cllr Paynter although he was certain that he had previously completed the relevant forms. The Clerk was to obtain a spare set for completion. Cllr Paynter also provided a new email address at this stage in the meeting. Cllr Douglas declared an interest in relation to Item 8. (ii) and also, along with Cllr Jones, concerning planning matters in relation to the proposed new Playing Field Pavilion.

Dispensation:

In anticipation of a prospective planning application concerning land off Hyde Lane that runs adjacent to the residential properties of 5 Parish Councillors, advice had been sought to ensure the Parish Council would remain representative and quorate without any unacceptable conflict arising. This had resulted in a request from Cllrs Jones, Hay, Douglas, Hughes and Paynter for a Dispensation Order in regard to this matter. This was unanimously agreed and will run for a period from and including 1st August 2015 to and including 30th April 2016. The appropriate documentation was signed.

03/07

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3rd June, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to two amendments as follows:

- 01/06 Apologies – apologies had been received from Cllr H
- 02/06 Declarations of Interest forms remained due back from Cllrs Hay & Paynter rather than Hughes & Paynter.

04/07

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllrs Jones and Peters reported that this matter was ongoing. Photos were viewed on the projector showing the memorial in its original location and the Roll of Honour and list of subscribers was also reviewed.

05/07

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were received and read out. There had been two crimes within the village and a number of police incidents had occurred.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones reaffirmed that it was likely that the areas of responsibility for Neighbourhood Wardens would fall within two zones in line with the police reorganisation. Within each area there would be four Wardens. It was anticipated that future foot patrols would be unlikely. A further update would be given at the next meeting of Severn Voice.

Cllr Peters had attended the Valleys & Vale Neighbourhood Watch meeting. The Police Commissioner and Inspector from Stroud Police Station had been present and gave an update on changes to policing in the County.

06/07

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.15/1003/LBC Fromebridge Mill, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Proposed minor alterations to internal bar/dining areas and toilets.

Permission granted.

S.15/1206/FUL Rose Cottage, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of an open barn to house mowing equipment.

Permission granted.

Cllr Jones had previously circulated email correspondence from a neighbouring landowner and the Planning Officer dealing with the application that had clarified a number of points between meetings and prior to consent being granted. This was mainly in respect to the application being part retrospective and the fact that the existing structure was to be clad.

Applications and Appeals to Consider

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.

Council supported this application being the enhancement of a community facility.

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 Cllr Paynter would speak on behalf of the Council.

Email correspondence had been circulated by Cllr Jones regarding appeal reference APP/C1625/W/15/3018496 concerning land off Hyde Lane and the reasons why the matter had not been determined by the District Council along with the approach likely to be adopted at appeal.

Land Adjoining Paynes Meadow/Vaisey Field

It was noted that the intended pre-application consultation meeting proposed by the prospective developer and scheduled for August would not now be taking place but a consultation event was taking place at the Whitminster Inn on 14th July.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones gave an update on the Local Plan advising that there had not been any feedback received following the examination in public as yet. Cllr Peters mentioned the proposed incinerator for Javelin Park, being the subject of a judicial review, and the fact that Council should perhaps investigate whether it could benefit from the funds being allocated for use in local communities as mitigation works. Cllr Jones suggested Council should wait and see the outcome as to whether the development was going ahead.

Cllr Hay suggested 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. Various suggestions were made. Cllr Jones commented that this had been done to some extent to include outdoor gym equipment, additional play equipment (albeit now being progressed by the Playing Field Management Committee) and the proposed new Pavilion. It was agreed that Councillors would give the matter further thought to perhaps reconsider under Planning at the next meeting and to possibly review in connection with the Parish Plan.

07/07

Highways & Byways

Cllr Jones opened this item by commenting on the quality of the grass cutting that had been undertaken to verges. It appeared that little had been done and it was of poor quality. A complaint had been raised but no reply received. By contrast compliments had been given in respect of the grass cutting contracted by Council at the junction of Hyde Lane and School Lane. Cllr Paynter reported that he had been inspecting footpaths and most were reasonably passable. A few were overgrown and he had been cutting them back when and where he could. Cllr Paynter also reported a blocked ditch off Hyde lane that had been blocked apparently by dumped garden waste. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate and liaise with SDC. Cllr Jones drew to the meeting's attention a notice in the press advising that the A38 would be closed for works on 26th July. There had been no response from Daniel Tiffney of the County Council Highways Dept either to the issues raised by Cllr Jones or matters raised at the Chartered Parishes meeting. Cllr Jones also gave a further overview on the ongoing matter of the proposed boater operation of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal bridges. Copy correspondence was also received from Cllr Tony Blackburn and Arlingham Parish Council on this matter.

Council had been asked to update Snow Warden details for the coming Winter and Cllr Peters was confirmed in the role. It was also agreed that no further stock of grit would be required.

Notification was received from Highways England of planned works to the M5 passing adjacent to the Parish and finally, under Highways, notification was received of Frampton County Fair taking place on Sunday 13th September and the likely impact on local roads.

08/07

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

T W Hawkins & Sons	Grass Cutting	£872.46
Clerk	Planning Application Fee & Expenses	£237.30
Broker Network	Insurance	£748.37

Church Clock Donation

Cllr Douglas informed the meeting that the faculty was with the Registrar and it was hoped that the work necessary to get the clock working again would start very soon. The cost of the scaffolding had increased marginally and it was agreed that Council would contribute £730.00 plus VAT with the invoice to be raised in the Council's name but the PCC retaining all liability in respect of health and safety matters arising from the scaffolding.

General Overview Audit & Other Matters

The balance at the bank was confirmed as £7,907.45

It was agreed that an additional 500 copies of the guide to village walks should be purchased depending on price and Cllr Paynter agreed to look into this.

The Clerk advised that he would be able to complete the final element of the Audit submission now that the minutes at which the return had been approved were agreed and signed off.

09/07

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month – circulated by email.

The News from SDC – circulated by email.

Trow magazine.

Details of the Village Garden Competition presentation evening.

Consultation notice regarding SDC Licensing Policies.

Notice that the copy deadline for September's SPAN will be brought forward to 9th August.

Email from SDC Building Control Service offering their services with regard to the proposed new pavilion.

Notice of GAPTC AGM.

Fliers for Frampton Country Fair.

Severn Voice minutes.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Lubbe & Sons (Bulbs) Ltd bulb catalogue.

10/07

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 did review the details of a talk he had attended concerning devolution of power to the regions and metropolitan/council areas as well as circulating details of The Local Government Boundary Commissions final recommendation for the Stroud District. This would result in Whitminster forming a new Council Ward including some existing Severn side areas and also Eastington. Details had been circulated by email.

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 passed 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.

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.

12/07

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 5th August, 2015.