

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 6th MAY, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allocated for public question and comment at the start of the meeting. There was one member of the public present but no questions or comments were passed. There was discussion over how the public forum should be conducted and whether comments should be included in the minutes. It was noted that the time allocated is within the period of the meeting and it was agreed that notes should be kept in the format observed to date and names listed where known. However it was also agreed that comments should not result in a general discussion and should merely be noted to refer back to at the appropriate time in the meeting when appropriate Agenda items are discussed. As the trial period for holding the Public Forum at the start of the meeting was coming to an end it was discussed whether or not it should continue and all agreed to continue in the current format.

00/05

Present

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

01/05

Apologies

There were no apologies received.

02/05

Election of Chairman

Cllr Mrs Gilmore proposed Cllr Jones and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Douglas. All were in favour and Cllr Jones agreed to continue as Chairman for one further year.

03/05

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Mrs Gilmore for all of her efforts and support over past years in this role but she had advised that she no longer wished to continue. As a result, Cllr Jones, as Chairman, appointed Cllr Hay who was pleased to accept.

04/05

Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer

The Chairman appointed the Clerk to this role.

05/05

Appointment of Parish Representatives

The following appointments were made:

Footpaths Office - Cllr Paynter
Watercourse Wardens - Cllrs Hughes and Paynter
Snow Warden - Cllr Peters

Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee – Cllr Mrs Gilmore (although it was noted that the current term of office was yet to expire).

06/05

Declarations of Interest

The Clerk circulated new Declaration of Members' Interests forms that would need to be completed by Councillors and passed to the Clerk for him to return to Stroud District Council.

Cllrs Jones, Douglas and Peters declared an interest in regard to their involvement with the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee as later in the meeting a financial matter would arise in regard to the Council submitting a planning application on behalf of the Management Committee for the construction of a new pavilion on the Playing Field.

07/05

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1st April, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to two minor amendments as follows:

- 11/04 – penultimate line – removal of superfluous ‘and’.
- Public Forum – 2nd comment, 5th line – ‘anticipated’ to replace ‘anticipation’.

The public forum was further discussed at this stage in the meeting and it was agreed that more control would be exercised over public comments with responses from Council being through the Chair. It was also agreed that more brief and general minutes of this section of the meeting should be kept.

08/05

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Peters reported that he would be following up and meeting with Cllr Jones to judge the work of the school children in regard to this project in the near future. Cllr Jones re-affirmed that he had been through the school log book for 1914 and it was interesting reading.

Walkers Welcome Scheme

Cllr Peters advised Council that he had put an article about his proposal in SPAN but so far no interest had been shown.

Severn Voice

Cllr Jones gave a report on the April meeting that he had attended when the following items were discussed:

- Canal bridge boater operation – consultation ongoing.
- Proposed fish and eel pass on the River Frome – needing to be redesigned to comply with environmental requirements.
- School admissions – work of sub-group ongoing and the Action Log had been received for circulation.
- District Council Ward Boundary Review – member council's in favour of status quo.

09/05

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

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

Other Matters

Cllr Peters informed Council that a meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch group would be coming up very shortly and that a chairman had been found for the policing/community safety panel meetings.

Cllr Douglas commented on car parking in The Close and the fact that a vehicle that had been causing problems on a difficult corner had been removed.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that Chris Acock, former Senior Neighbourhood Warden, had retired and the service remained under review.

10/05

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.15/0553/HHOLD Church Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Addition of two storey extension and conservatory.

Permission granted.

S.15/0453/MINAM 3 Uptons Garden, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Revision of extension materials from render to brick.

Permission granted.

S.15/0090/GDPE 8 Uptons Garden, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Sun lounge to replace conservatory.

Consent – General Permitted Development as no objections raised by neighbours.

Applications and Appeals to Consider

S.15/0702/FUL Highfield Garden World, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Erection of a replacement shop and canopy.

Council supported this application forming the view that it would have no detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area or nearby neighbours whilst enhancing the trading ability of an important local business and employer.

An extension of time had been granted in respect of this application following the last meeting as whilst notification had been received no details had been posted on the SDC website.

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

Two storey and single storey extensions.

Council supported this application on the basis that the design and materials were appropriate to the setting and the development would not be of detriment to neighbours or the community at large.

S.15/0911/HHOLD Highfield House, School Lane, Whitminster.

New balcony to replace Juliet balcony on application ref. S.14/2431/HHOLD.

Council supported this application believing it to be of no detriment to the Listed Building or the general amenity of the area.

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

Listed Building Consent for minor alterations to internal bar/dining area and toilets.

Council supported this application as it considered the proposal to be of no detriment to the Listed Building and would help maintain the viability of an important local amenity and employer.

S.15/0799/FUL Land off Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Residential development with altered access and associated works.

Council objected to this application and made the following observations:

- An intrusion into the countryside in an area otherwise of low density 'ribbon' type development contrary to emerging policy HC1.
- Over-development of the proposed site out of character with the locality thus contravening policy HN8 and being contrary to the principles set out within the adopted Village Design Statement.
- Concerns over highway safety increasing vehicular movements in the area of an accident blackspot and causing conflict in regard to the recently installed cycle lane and therefore of detriment to highway safety and contravening policy GE5 and emerging policy ES3.
- Inadequate car parking provision proposed likely to give rise to parking on the adjoining pavement where a problem is already experienced. Therefore if permitted at least 2 spaces

should be provided per dwelling together with visitor parking and space for vehicles to turn including dustbin lorries and delivery vehicles.

- It was noted that the site is located outside of the settlement boundary.
- Further comments were made in objection relating to the relevant policies being GE5, ES3, HN8, HC1 and TR12.

Notification was received of planning appeal reference APP/C1625/W/15/3005966 concerning Land off School Lane, Whitminster for a development of up to 95 dwellings. Council resolved to reaffirm its objections submitted when the application was put before Stroud District Council and also to advise the Planning Inspectorate that council would wish to be represented at the Inquiry to make clear its opposition, respond to the incorrect details claimed by the appellant and highlight the impact such a development would have on the small, rural community of Whitminster. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at future meetings to determine how best Council should be represented.

Land Adjoining Paynes Meadow/Vaisey Field

Cllr Jones advised that he had made enquiries of the Local Planning Authority but had not received any clear comment on how such an application might be considered but he had been informed that no contact had been made by the prospective applicant or agent with the LPA. The Clerk reaffirmed that he had not provided any response to Evans Jones for the time being and he was asked not to until the wider context could be considered and more details were provided.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones had sought an update on the application that had been lodged concerning 3 new dwellings on land off of Hyde Lane. He had not received any response from the officer dealing with the matter.

Correspondence was circulated from Mr Beeby concerning the application relating to a property neighbouring his. He had commented that Council had responded in a fair manner. Councillor Jones advised that he believed the view of the Officer dealing with the application was that in its current form it was likely to be refused.

An invitation was received to comment on the Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan that was open to consultation from 1st May until 12th June. A letter was also received from Barry Wyatt of Stroud District Council giving details on the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

11/05

Highways & Byways

The first copy of a monthly report from Glos County Council Highways/Amey was received along with a map and contact details for the Highways Area Managers.

Cllr Jones reported that he had been following up the replacement of the bollards at the entrance to Schoolfield Close and whilst they had been replaced they had been damaged once again. It was understood that the Housing Association was looking to get permission from the Highways Department of the County Council for the bollards to be permanently removed. Cllr Jones also reported that he had been pursuing Daniel Tiffney of the Highways Department for further information and clarification on the timing and extent of work to be carried out to the A38 and whether or not it would address Council's concerns raised previously regarding hatching and other matters. He had also asked for an update on the programming of works to The Close and Paynes Meadow. No response had been forthcoming. Cllr Paynter gave a report on Public Rights of Way matters including an un-marked electric fence that he had become the victim of. It was noted that the footpaths were generally in an acceptable condition and the Clerk had sent a reminder to landowners to spray out crops along the appropriate routes. County Councillor Blackburn would soon have access to a fund of £22,500 for local highways works in his ward during the current financial year. Cllr Jones suggested that further works should be done to finish off Hyde Lane and

also more permanent repairs to the carriageway outside Gardeners Cottage in School Lane. He agreed to raise both proposals with Cllr Blackburn.

12/05

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

T W Hawkins & Sons	Grass cutting	£694.56
(Invoice Number 006322 that had gone astray from August 2014)		
Mr B Smith	Fence Repairs	£147.82
Quoram Print Service Ltd	Garden Competition contribution	£66.00
Cllr D Paynter	Fixings for bus shelter repair	£17.29
Cotswold Canals Trust	Donation	£50.00
Stroud District Council	Planning applic. fee for Pavilion	Amount to be advised.

General Overview & Other Matters

A receipt had been received from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for Council's previous donation in the sum of £50.00. The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank as at the date of the last statement was £6,441.47 but the first Precept/LCTS Grant payment of the new financial year had been received and would therefore increase the current balance by £6,250.00 . A request for funding support was received from Stroud CAB and it as agreed that this would be deferred for consideration at the appropriate meeting later in the year.

13/05

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

The News from SDC.

RoSPA play area inspection information – erroneously sent for Ricyard Way (sic).

SDC information on Mystery Shopping for Tenant Services.

Chartered Parish Meeting notes and dates of future meetings.

Email of introduction from Area Sales Manager of HAGS SMP.

GAPTC information sheet.

Information on adopting BT telephone kiosks.

Came & Company – Spring Council Matters newsletter.

Cotswold Care Hospice update.

Sales letter from Zurich Municipal offering insurance services.

CPRE Fieldwork magazine.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine.

14/05

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones gave an update on matters concerning Stroud District Council and advised the Council's AGM would take place on 21st May. He informed Council that there was damage to the grinding rail on the skate ramp and all agreed that further repairs should be undertaken that Cllr Jones would organise. Information update forms had been received by the Parish Council and WVH&PFMC regarding the pipeline crossing beneath part of the Playing Field and the Clerk agreed to complete and return both of the documents.

15/05

Other Business

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had heard nothing more regarding the future arrangements for the Gloucester Park & Ride facility but he had written to the County Council asking for information. Councillor Peters also gave an update on the progress of the Cotswold Canals Trust and the submission for funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund. Cllr Jones answered a question regarding the timescale relating to the progress of the Local Plan and advised that if no further issues arose it may well be adopted December 2015 or early in 2016.

16/05

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd June, 2015.