

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allocated for public questions and comments at the start of the meeting.

A statement was read by a member of the public present that reported on the activities of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee particularly in regard to the proposed playing field pavilion redevelopment and the skate ramp. It was suggested that the existing skate ramp should be removed and replaced with alternative equipment in a different configuration. The other member of the public present asked if the Parish Council would consider taking the skate ramp out of use in anticipation of any decision regarding its future.

00/10

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Hughes & Peters. The Clerk was also present along with 2 members of the public.

01/10

Apologies

There were no apologies received and it was assumed that Cllr Paynter was on holiday.

Cllrs Mrs Gilmore apologised in advance for the fact that she would not be able to attend the November or December meetings.

02/10

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jones and Douglas declared a potential interest in regard to Item 11. (iii) of the agenda pertaining to the Playing Field . This was because they were both members of the Committee and not as Parish Council Representatives.

Code of Conduct

Cllr Jones had asked for this item to be included as he was aware of issues being experienced by a nearby Parish Council that had been accused of not conducting matters properly. He highlighted the fact that a Dispensation Order had been agreed in respect of any potential planning application that may be forthcoming on land off of Hyde Lane and backing onto Paynes Meadow and went on to remind Councillors that they must be mindful of their responsibilities and leave the room in the event of a potential pecuniary benefit applying directly or to an associated organisation. This would otherwise undoubtedly arise as a conflict. He advised he was looking into the possible updating of the Code of Conduct adopted by SDC and subsequently adopted by the Parish Council.

The Clerk made Council aware of funding available to assist the Council in complying with its requirement to be transparent and it was agreed that he should apply for grant aid through the application process administered by GAPTC.

03/10

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2nd September, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- 03/09 – The letter ‘u’ was missing from the word ‘August’.
- 10/09 – The grant aid figure referred to should read ‘£5,000’ and not ‘£500’.

04/10

Matters Arising

Street Lights

Cllr Jones advised that there was one light in The Close that was not working that he had identified and he would be reporting the matter to the County Council.

Mud & Debris on A38

Cllr Peters advised that he was following up matters with Street Cleansing regarding the mud and rubbish that had accumulated around the shepherding railings of the A38 pedestrian crossing.

Footpath & Bridleway Matters

It was agreed that Council would wait to hear the results of an investigation carried out by Cllr Paynter before discussing issues relating to the bridleway any further. It was noted that there was an understanding that the PROW Officer covering the area at the County Council was to be replaced and a report on progress regarding costings and copy for the reprinting of the Village Walks Guide would have to wait until a meeting with Cllr Paynter present. The Clerk was to contact the County Council regarding the missing hand rail at Lockham Bridge.

Outdoor Gym

Cllr Hay confirmed that options were being looked into but there was nothing further to report for the time being.

05/10

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were read out by the Clerk and circulated. The new policing priorities for the Severnside Area will include issue surrounding parking in The Close and a leaflet drop was planned by PCSO Lifton.

Other Matters

From a Neighbourhood Watch perspective Cllr Peters drew to Council's attention the need to give the appearance that properties are occupied during dark nights and suggested timer switches could be available for certain residents. Under this heading Cllr Jones asked the Clerk to confirm that he had written to SDC advising that Council would not take on responsibility for paying the cost of emptying the Hyde Lane dog waste bin. A copy of the presentation given at the Police & Crime Commissioner's Parish and Town Council meeting was circulated as were details of the Fire & Rescue Service Operational Response Review but no comments were made. Cllr Mrs Gilmore also raised the Chartered Parish meeting under this item. A copy of the minutes of the last meeting were circulated but she had nothing to update in regard to using the grouping to press for a response to issues raised of the County Council and the A38 through the parish that had gone unanswered. It was understood that the 5th Edition of the Gloucestershire Charter was due to be reviewed.

06/10

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.14/0716/OUT Concerning Parklands Farm and outline consent for 31 dwellings together with associated open space and community facilities– Permission Granted

Applications and Appeals to Consider

S.15/2290/LBC Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Internal and external alterations.

Council considered this application that related to the rebuilding of a garage structure and resolved to support the application.

S.15/2259/DISCON Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Discharge of condition 13 of S.14/0716/OUT.

It was noted that there were several similar discharge of condition applications on the LPA website that Council had not been consulted on. It was agreed that the Clerk would write neither setting out support or objection but rather requesting clarification on the status and future management and use of the proposed community orchard and dog walking routes.

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

Council had not received a formal request to comment but was aware that revised drawings had been submitted and these were viewed on the LPA website. The number of units had been reduced, parking provision increased and facilities provided for dustbin lorries and delivery vehicles to pull off the A38. With this in mind and considering Council's preference for additional lower value more affordable open market housing within the village Council resolved to support the revised application.

APP/C1625/W/15/3005966 concerning Land off School Lane, Whitminster for a development of up to 95 dwellings – it was reaffirmed that the date for the appeal hearing had been set as 24th November 2015 starting at 10am at Ebley Mill. It was agreed that the matter would continue to be discussed further at a future meeting and that Cllr Paynter would be representing Council at the hearing. A comment was made concerning whether any of the trees located at Highfield House subject to Tree Preservation Orders might be impinged on by the proposed development.

The Clerk had received an email from Eastington Parish Council leading on from the Scoping Consultation concerning land at M5 Junction 13 West of Stonehouse. Councils was being asked to confirm if it shared the concerns of Eastington Parish Council and also if it would be prepared to work with Eastington in voicing relevant concerns. Council agreed.

Review Of Parish Plan To Identify Future Projects For Potential S.106 Funding

The content of the Parish Plan was briefly reviewed in this respect. Potential projects suitable for funding were identified as being a replacement skate ramp of a more resilient construction, outdoor gym equipment if funding cannot be sourced elsewhere and possibly a table tennis facility.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Douglas commented on the work that was taking place to the garage/outbuilding at Kidnams Farm. It was thought the work constituted repairs. The issue of the ongoing building work in Paynes Meadow and parking in The Close was raised by Cllr Peters in regard to access for fire engines.

The proposed Terms of Reference for the Javelin Park EFW Facility – Community Liaison Group were circulated. Following on from the Clerk's correspondence with Neil Carmichael MP, Cllr Jones and the Clerk had both been in touch with Cllr David Mossman to confirm Council's interest in participating and potentially benefitting from future community funding as a result of the potential impact on the village. It was important that Council be represented by a Councillor at an initial meeting planned for 9th October and Cllr Mrs Gilmore agreed to attend.

Details were circulated of the CPRE/GAPTC Planning Training Event taking place at the Village Hall on 22nd October. It was agreed that Council would reimburse the expenses of £15.00 per member for anyone who wished to attend and details had been circulated for places to be booked direct.

07/10

Highways & Byways

Cllr Hay informed Council that holes remained at the entrance to Schoolfield Close where the damaged bollards had been removed. The Clerk advised that he had received no response from Daniel Tiffney of the County Council Highways Department in response to his letter copied to various other keys officers, Councillors and the police. It was noted that the motorcycle accident that had taken place in the village had resulted in a fatality. Cllr Jones had been in contact with the Highways Area Supervisor and also Daniel Tiffney. He had been informed as a District Councillor that the missing Whitminster place sign at the Southern end of the village would be replaced and also that consideration was being given as to how best to address the problems with the A38 road

surface in the Parish. With regard to Yakub Mulla, Cllr Jones had raised the matters of the sharp bend warning signs that had been destroyed by a vehicle leaving the road at Packthorne Corner and also the missing School sign approaching the village from Frampton.

08/10

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

Play Inspection Company	Safety Inspection Fee	£75.00
Clerk	Expenses paid on behalf of Council -	£19.31
Grant Thornton	Audit Fee	£120.00

General Overview Audit & Other Matters

A receipt of £6,250.00 had been received from the District Council as a second instalment of Precept and LCTS Grant for the current financial year.

The Clerk confirmed that the Audit had been successful completed and approved and the relevant notice had been posted.

A letter requesting grant support was received from the Stroud Valleys Project. It was agreed that this would be considered further at the relevant meeting when any donations are agreed.

09/10

Correspondence

A letter of thanks was received from Jim White, Vice-Chairman – Cotswold Canals Trust, regarding Council's letter in support of the Heritage Lottery Fund application for the 1B bid.

Details of the new GAPTC website and password were circulated.

Information was received and circulated on the utility project – Big Community Switch.

An invitation was circulated to an event to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and to view Gloucester Cathedral's copy at the County Archives Office.

Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Severn Voice taking place at Arlingham at 7:00pm on 19th October.

The Clerk had received a notice to display in relation to the disposal of the former Saul School site and proposals for funds released by the asset to be used to assist other schools of the same denomination

10/10

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones informed the meeting of the fact that the Local Plan consultation had closed and the amended version had been referred back to the Inspector. He also told Council about the application that had been submitted for greater devolution to a conglomerate of Councils and service providers in the County and gave an update on proposals being made by the District Council to accept refugees into the locality. Cllr Douglas asked if plans were in hand to arrange the usual wreath for the War Memorial to commemorate Remembrance Day and the Chairman and Clerk were to liaise to ensure it was ordered.

11/10

Other Business

Website statistics had been circulated.

Litter picking at the Playing Field for the coming month was to be continued by Cllr Douglas.

Standing Orders

The Clerk was investigating obtaining a sample set of standing order for consideration.

WW1 Project

This was ongoing in respect of the efforts of Cllrs Jones and Peters. The Clerk had requested an update on the grant application.

Playing Field

Following review of the Annual Inspection Report recommending repairs and the representation made during public comments Council resolved to remove the skate ramp subject to final approval after costings for its removal and clearing the site that Cllr Jones was seeking from Smiths. It was agreed that consideration would then be given to installing alternative items of equipment when funding might allow. Cllr Peters agreed to investigate the possible alternative and costings with Caloo, being a potential supplier.

Chairman's Authority Between Meetings

This items had been included following on from the Chairman's decision to sign papers giving Council's authority in respect to conditions attached to grant aid the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee was seeking for works at the Playing Field. It was felt there was a need to agreed standard in respect of delegated authority. It was agreed that the matter would be deferred for future consideration in conjunction with reviewing the Code of Conduct, if and when revised, and adopting standing orders.

12/10

Future Agenda Items

None identified.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7th October, 2015.