

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 2015.

Public Forum

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

The Clerk gave a summary of the results of the Annual Inspection in regard to the Skate Ramp and also the quotes and estimates that had been received to date for removal and site clearance as well as repair. Public questions and comments then focused on whether other alternative quotes were being sought, if the proposed removal was solely down to a matter of the cost of repair or if other factors applied and highlighting the fact that the children of the village would wish to see more and more sizeable equipment rather than a scaled down version of the existing ramp. There was also discussion concerning the approximate costs of repair over recent years excluding repairs necessary as a result of vandalism.

00/10a

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present along with 9 members of the public for the Public Forum reducing to 2 once the formal meeting commenced.

01/10a

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hughes.

02/10a

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jones and Douglas declared a potential interest in regard to Item 3. on the agenda pertaining to the Playing Field Skate Ramp . This was because they were both members of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee and not as Parish Council Representatives. It was agreed that the Councillors who had declared an interest could remain in the room and participate in the discussion.

03/10a

Playing Field Skate Ramp

The Chairman had obtained a revised quote from Smiths to include the removal of the tarmac surrounding the skate ramp as well as the equipment. The quote did not allow for salvaging any materials for re-use and was in the sum of £2,812.70 plus VAT. An estimate had been received from Greenfields (contractors previously used to carry out repairs) in the sum of £2,500 plus VAT. This quote was based on the items known to need repair and made no allowance for repairs to structural timbers that may be found to be suffering from rot once exposed.

Council considered the public concern arising from the fact the equipment may be removed and the cost of replacement coupled with the fact that no funds were immediately available for a prompt replacement with any type of equipment. With this in mind it was agreed that Council would rescind its previous decision and seek to progress repairs as quickly as possible. Based on past experience and comments from the public it was noted that Greenfields were a well known and reputable company experienced in the repair of such equipment. Previously no alternative quotes had been forthcoming from other contractors approached and therefore it was agreed to proceed on the basis of the estimated cost of £2,500 plus VAT. It was appreciated that additional unknown work might be required but agreed that all expenditure above this figure must be reported to the

Council and agreed as a fixed price on a step by step basis. A maximum budget of £5,000.00 plus VAT was set as an allowance for repair using Greenfields with ancillary items in addition. Cllr Jones intended to arrange a site meeting with the contractor to clarify matters before work starts as he was under the impression that the estimate had been based on the items identified in the equipment inspection report only and not an investigation on site. Cllr Hay agreed to approach a machinery plant hire contractor to see if a free loan or concessionary arrangement could be reached with regard to site security/safety fencing. The matter would be reviewed further at the full November meeting of the Parish Council.

04/10a

Other Business

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4th November, 2015.