

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2015.**

**Public Forum**

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

No issues were raised.

**00/09**

**Present**

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

**01/09**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was on holiday.

**02/09**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jones and Douglas made a declaration that they would have an interest in any discussion of potential funding for projects of the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee such as the proposed new pavilion for the Playing Field. This was because they were both members of the Committee and this was not as Parish Council Representatives.

**03/09**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- 05/08 – ‘bene’ amended to ‘been’.
- 06/07 – missing ‘r’ added to the word ‘stream’.
- 07/08 – ‘by’ amended to ‘be’.

**04/09**

**Matters Arising**

**Street Lights**

Cllr Jones advised that he had toured the village to identify and report broken street lights and all had been fixed and were working.

**Pedestrian Crossing**

Cllr Jones had also taken up the matter of the faulty pedestrian crossing on the A38 and that had also been repaired.

**Verge Cutting**

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the subject of the recent grass verge cutting was to be discussed as an item on the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Severn Voice. The Clerk advised that he had received a complaint from a resident about the quality of the grass cutting. He had referred her to the County Council and had confirmed that Council had also raised complaints.

**A38 Repairs**

Cllr Jones observed that signs had been put out on the A38 indicating that surface repairs were imminent but no work had yet taken place within the Parish. He had not received any reply to his follow up with the Highways Officer, Daniel Tiffney, and neither had the Clerk.

### Armed Forces Covenant

Cllr Mrs Gilmore reported that she had attended the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant, on behalf of the Parish Council, as arranged by the County Council. The Parish Council had therefore given its commitment and a photograph was circulated of the signing ceremony.

**05/09**

### **Police & Community Safety Matters**

#### Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were read out by PCSO Mark Lifton who was in attendance. There had been 23 incidents during the previous month including 4 crimes that involved a road rage incident on the A38, theft of a Land Rover, theft of a purse from Highfield Garden World and an attempted theft from an outbuilding on Hyde Lane.

#### Other Matters

Cllr Paynter informed PCSO Lifton that he had intervened to stop young people racing in cars in Hyde Lane.

It was noted that the next Police Panel Meeting would take place in Whitminster on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and a reminder had been issued in regard to the meeting being organised by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There was a general discussion concerning a recent injury accident on the A38 in a location close to the Whitminster Motors garage and where Council had raised concerns over the revised hatching arrangement. PCSO Lifton had little information concerning the matter.

**06/09**

### **Planning**

#### Decisions to Note

APP/C1625/W/15/3018496 concerning land off Hyde Lane for outline consent for 3 dwellings – this matter had been considered by The Planning Inspectorate and the appeal had been refused.

#### Applications and Appeals to Consider

S.15/1914/HHOLD Highfield House, School Lane, Whitminster.

New guarding to flat roof.

Council had no comments to make on this 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 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 starting at 10am at Ebley Mill. It was agreed that the matter would continue to be discussed further at a future meetings and that Cllr Paynter would be representing Council at the hearing. The Clerk confirmed that he had written by email to the Chair of the CPRE branch to see what representations they might be making but had received no response.

The Clerk circulated the latter he had prepared and sent in regard to the Scoping Consultation concerning land at M5 Junction 13 West of Stonehouse.

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

As this topic for discussion had been put forward by Cllr Hay, who was not in attendance, it was decided to defer the matter until the next meeting.

#### Other Planning Matters

None.

**07/09**

**Highways & Byways**

Cllr Peters commented that the central reservation of the A38 close to the pedestrian crossing was suffering from an accumulation of mud and litter particularly near the railings. Cllr Jones suggested that Cllr Peters should report the matter to the Public Spaces Department at Stroud District Council. Cllr Peters advised that he understood that PROW Officer Jacqui Harris was leaving the County Council and was not being replaced.

There was some discussion concerning vegetation growing over what was thought to be a bridleway close to the canal. Cllr Paynter agreed to investigate the matter.

As no response had been received from Daniel Tiffney of the County Council regarding Council's ongoing concerns over the A38 it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Highways once again copying in Vernon Smith, Nigel Ridler, Jason Humm and Insp Andy Poole.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the occupier of 1 Manor Cottage asking that the apple tree to the rear of the property be cut back.

Various correspondence had been circulated by email concerning the activities of Cllr Blackburn and Severn Voice member councils regarding the proposed boater operation of canal bridges.

An email had been received from Cllr Blackburn identifying the proposed expenditure of his County Council local highways budget. This included work in the Parish to the footways in The Close and Paynes Meadow.

**08/09**

**Accounts**

**Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

Clerk	Expenses paid on behalf of Council - post	£5.60
TW Hawkins & Sons	Grass Cutting	£776.46
Scaffolding 4 MGB Ltd	Scaffolding at Church - donation	£1,728.00

**General Overview Audit & Other Matters**

The balance at the bank was confirmed as £7,332.09 as per that last statement issued and received dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

A receipt of £700.00 had been banked from the PCC to reimburse Council for the additional cost of the scaffolding at the Church over the initial estimate.

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 in due course.

The Clerk advised that he had completed dealing with the final queries raised as part of the Audit submission and receipt had been acknowledged by the appointed auditors. It was expected that the audited return would be provided in late September.

Confirmation of the Council's insurance renewal, on a three year agreement basis, was received.

**09/09**

**Correspondence**

The Trow Magazine.

Information on voting registration.

Notice of the next meeting of Severn Voice to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October in Arlingham and details of future administration along with Minutes of the April meeting.

Agenda for the next meeting of the Chartered Parishes Group taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Mrs Gilmore was asked to raise the issues of the signage, white lining and the central reservation cut-throughs on the A38 as previously discussed. In addition she was to ask if Jacqui Harris is due to be replaced, is Fastershire high speed broadband roll-out on track and whether there is to be a

review of the Charter to see if matters are working given the difficulties Council sometimes experiences in getting responses from officers.

Details of an offer from The Conservation Volunteers to supply free trees – this was discussed but it was felt a suitable location couldn't be identified.

Email from Stroud District Council advising of an introduction of charges for bulky waste collection.

Letter from Neil Carmichael MP responding to Council's request for information on the proposed Javelin Park Community Fund. He advised that it was likely to be £25,000 per annum, inflation linked. He indicated that Parish Councils in the vicinity should take the lead with administering the fund but he was happy to act as a catalyst. Cllr David Mossman had taken a role in co-ordination and it was agreed that Cllr Jones would liaise with him in order that the Parish might participate.

Young Gloucestershire – Annual Review.

CPRE Fieldwork magazine.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

The Fruit Exchange – email providing information.

Countryside Voice magazine.

**10/09**

### **Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Jones informed the meeting of the proposed changes to waste collection in the District and that green/garden waste collection using wheelie bin type containers was likely to start the following year. He went on to announce that the Playing Field Management Committee had been successful in gaining a £500 grant for play equipment from the Children's Active Fund. It was understood that funds were available through Active Gloucestershire that could go towards adult outdoor gym equipment and Cllrs Paynter and Hay, who were looking into this project for Council, were advised to liaise with Cllr Tony Blackburn. Cllr Jones also reported on the efforts of the Management Committee to secure funding for the proposed new pavilion facility on the Playing Field. A need for landowner's consent was required between meetings that would essentially act as a deed conveying rights and obligations on the part of the Parish Council. As such the Clerk felt it would not be appropriate for him to sign without the full approval of Council especially as the matter had not been discussed at a Council meeting. Cllr Jones had therefore taken action and signed as Chairman of the PC but given his potential conflict of interest as Chairman of the Management Committee as well it was agreed that the matter would be considered further in the future to agree some form of mandate of authority in connection with matters pertaining to this project.

**11/09**

### **Other Business**

Website statistics had been circulated.

Litter picking at the Playing Field for the coming month was to be continued by Cllr Douglas after a period being undertaken by youths who had caused damage to a lock.

A letter had been received by email from the Environmental Protection Manager at Stroud District Council asking if Council would consider funding the emptying of the one dog waste bin paid for by the Parish Council in the village. Council's view was that it had assisted the District Council by funding the bin at installation, when this was a DC responsibility, and having helped in that respect it would be inappropriate to now be asked to fund its emptying as a consequence.

The Clerk read a letter he had drafted and circulated to the Chairman to be issued in support of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant aid being sought by the Cotswold Canals Trust. This was agreed subject to a minor amendment.

A discussion took place concerning trees within the village and the possibility of identifying trees for the application of Tree Preservation Orders.

**12/09**

**Future Agenda Items**

The following Agenda Items were proposed – Code of Conduct, WW1 Project, Playing Field, Standing Orders, Authority of the Chairman between meetings.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.**