

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER, AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL, 2016.

Public Forum

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

Mrs Jones spoke on behalf of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee and publicised a forthcoming Quiz Night and celebrations to commemorate the 90th birthday of HM The Queen. She encouraged people to participate and for the Parish Council to have a presence at the commemoration event.

Mr Cleaver spoke on the matter of a letter he had sent to the Chairman requesting help from the Parish Council to maintain the churchyard and added that he felt the grass needed cutting at least two times a year.

Mrs Pockett referred to the letter she had sent to Council seeking support for the Garden Competition that had been instigated the previous year. She explained that various new categories were being introduced and hoped that Council would be able to assist once again with financial support.

Cllr Haydn Jones was also invited to speak at this stage in the meeting. He gave a summary of his lot as a District Councillor since being elected including the highs and lows of what can be achieved within the parameters of the District's scope and political make up. He touched on various issues he had been involved with and thanked the parishes and his co-councillor, Cllr John Jones, for his help in covering the ward. He went on to explain that as the ward boundaries were changing and he lived in Gossington, near Slimbridge, he would no longer be resident in the ward and hence would seek election in the new Berkeley ward that included Slimbridge. Cllr John Jones thanked Cllr Haydn Jones for all of his efforts on behalf of the village.

00/04

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, & Peters. The Clerk was in attendance. There were 5 members of the public present as well as District Councillor Haydn Jones.

01/04

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was on holiday, Cllr Paynter who was working and Cllr Hughes who was unable to attend due to the illness of a family member.

02/04

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Douglas declared an interested concerning the church and agreed to not participate, or leave the room if requested, should the matter of grass cutting at the church, as raised during public questions, be debated.

03/04

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2nd March, 2016, were signed as a true record subject to one amendment within 05/03 where 'Carlos Novoth' was amended to 'Carol Novoth', wife of the aforementioned.

04/04

Matters Arising

Cllr Jones confirmed that he had ordered the medals to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday, as previously agreed, and they would be presented to children at the play group and school with arrangements being made for them to be handed out.

A report was given on the recent Chartered Town and Parish Council meeting noting that a consultation questionnaire would soon be issued on the proposed 6th Edition of the Charter; details were given regarding the efforts of the County Council in working with and protecting vulnerable people; an update on devolution was circulated and it was confirmed that County Councillors would once again have a local highways budget to spend in their wards of £30,000.

Cllr Peters raised a number of issues including suggesting that efforts should be made by Cllrs Hay and Paynter to secure Youth Grant funding towards equipment for the playing field; that the GCC Local Transport Plan should be followed up at subsequent Charter meetings (particularly in regard to maintaining a bus service to Stroud) and also that Councillors should look at the County Council's draft document on Supporting People in Vulnerable Circumstances. Cllr Peters also added that the A38 pedestrian crossing central island required attention once again.

Cllr Douglas informed the meeting that the District Council's contractors had cut back suckers around various trees in the area but not those in Vaisey Field. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate the matter.

05/04

Police & Community Safety Matters

Emergency Plan Review

Cllr Peters advised that he had been unable to make any progress on the matter but hoped to do so in time for the next meeting.

Other Matters

Cllrs Jones and Peters had attended the policing panel meeting which had been a rather drawn out affair but resulted in highlighting priorities including speeding, parking and burglary. Cllr Peters suggested that social media should be used to spread the message to deter people from allowing their dogs to foul in public places and he also advised that he was looking to arrange training to conduct a community speed check. He also raised concerns about vehicles parking on pavements and that the police should be more active in issuing warnings and tickets. Cllr Jones asked that Cllr Peters and anyone else who observes inappropriate parking should report it to the police using the 101 telephone number. It was noted that Neighbourhood Warden, Stuart Beard, had been seen around the village conducting foot patrols and was getting involved with issues concerning the Playing Field.

06/04

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.16/0240/FUL Land off Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Residential development with altered access.

Refused.

S.16/0220/HHOLD Wharf Cottage, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Rear extension to form Orangery.

Approved.

Applications to Consider

S.16/0043/OUT Land at M5 Junction 13, West of Stonehouse, Eastington, Glos.

5,000 capacity football stadium and ancillary uses together with B1, B2 and B8 business park.

Council considered the application having been consulted due to part of the site falling within the parish and the impact of such a large scale development in close proximity. Council resolved to object due to issues concerning run-off of water and potential flooding; the capacity of the motorway junction; noise & light pollution; the warehouse and employment facilities already forming part of the consented development on land West of Stonehouse; the fact that the development was not identified in the adopted local plan and the speculative nature; lack of access to public transport and traffic concerns.

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that an application had been submitted for minor amendments to approved application S.16/0517/MINAM – Kidnams Farm, Hyde Lane, Whitminster – but Council had not been requested to comment and did not do so.

At this point in the meeting the Clerk was excused to leave for the birth of his daughter and Mrs Honor Jones kindly agreed to take notes.

07/04

Highways & Byways

A38

It was noted that no update had been received from the County Council and the patching and tar spraying remained to be completed. The Clerk was to seek a programme of works from the County Council setting out what work was planned and remained to be carried out and when it could be expected to be done. It was noted that speeding on the A38 appeared to be an increasing problem and consideration was given to whether any enhanced signage could be funded from Cllr Blackburn's local highways fund.

08/04

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

GAPTC	Annual membership	£207.93
Mike Woodward – Carpenter	Supply & installation of new noticeboard	£665.00
Cllr J Jones	Expenses – paint for skate ramp	£114.16
Cllr D Paynter	Expenses – perspex for notice board	£49.00

Other Matters

The balance at the bank as at the last statement dated 1st March 2016 was £5,033.18

09/04

Correspondence

There were few items of correspondence and those received had predominantly been circulated by email ahead of the meeting or would recur at the next meeting.

10/04

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones gave a summary of issues currently being considered by the District Council. He went on to remind those present that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, to include the election of officers, would take place on Friday 13th May at 7:00pm in the Village Hall and that the Annual Parish Meeting would follow immediately after at 7:30pm. Cllr Peters added that he hoped 2 guest speakers would be present from the Mental Health Foundation.

11/04

Other Business

Churchyard

Council considered the request from the PCC to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard following the retirement of Mr Ken Jones who had undertaken the work. It was agreed that the costs would be looked into and Cllr Jones would investigate the matter further.

Garden Competition

In 2015 Council had contributed £150.00 to the successful competition. For the current year the organisers were looking for between £200-£500. Council agreed to contribute £200 to assist in enabling this community venture to proceed. Judging would take place in June with presentations in July.

Severn Voice

At the recent meeting it had been reported that works were in progress to enable Sandfield Bridge to become boater operated using a mobile phone application on a trial basis. An update had also been given on the work of the Schools Admissions Policy but a hiatus had arisen due to Academy consultations and changes in central policies. It was also noted that faster broadband had been delivered in Whitminster but was slow to be installed to the rest of the Severnside parishes.

Website

It was decided to defer this matter until after the election of the new Parish Council.

12/04

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items set but the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 1st June, 2016.