

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016.**

**Public Forum**

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

No issues were raised.

**00/02**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Douglas, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was in attendance. There was 1 member of the public present at the start of the meeting increasing to 2 for the majority of the duration. District Cllr David Mossman was also present for the majority of the meeting to comment on matters pertaining to the A38 and proposed Energy from Waste facility at Javelin Park and Mr Scott Tompkin, County Council Officer, was present to discuss highway matters.

**01/02**

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received and accepted in advance from Cllr Mrs Gilmore who was away on holiday.

**02/02**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in regard to items listed on the Agenda.

**03/02**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, were signed as a true record without amendment. The Clerk and Chairman thanked Mrs Honor Jones who had kindly taken notes of the meeting.

**04/02**

**Matters Arising**

It was noted that all potential matters arising were to be covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

**05/02**

**Highways & Byways**

**A38 Repair Works – Scott Tompkin – GCC Lead Commissioner for Highways**

Following on from various complaints and lack of communication from GCC Highways and Mr Tiffney in particular Mt Tompkin attended the meeting to give an overview of the challenges facing the Highways Department and specifically to provide an update on the A38. He started by giving a summary on funding including the competing demands on the County Council's resources and the various options available within the department in terms of maintenance strategies. He set out how roads deteriorate and the cost savings available through early intervention to maintain the lifespan of a road surface. He explained that the majority of the roads within the County fall within the categorisation of being 'good' but there is a significant cost to maintain that status before considering making any progress on the backlog of repairs needed to roads in poor order. As the cost of maintaining a good road is comparatively minimal compared with substantial repairs it is for this reason that works are often seen being carried out to roads that otherwise look to be in

reasonable order. He went on to explain why the approach that had been applied to the A38 had been taken, what had been done, what had gone wrong and what was to be done to remedy the situation. It transpired that there had been issues with the spraying of the adhesive layer prior to the application of the surface dressing where areas had not fully overlapped. Patches had not held and joints had been formed in the running lane that should normally be avoided. Some of the approach taken had been experimental, such as seeing what the results would be when surfacing over the hatching, while some failures had been the responsibility of various contractors. A degree of responsibility had been accepted by all involved with the exception of the patching contractor. The work had been left for a year to see what other failures might occur, if any, so that everything could be put right in one scheme and the appropriate remedial work would now proceed as soon as possible. A number of other items were covered including the LED street lights being rolled out and likely to be installed in Whitminster in the near future as well as road safety matters and the scheme of hatching on the A38. As far as road safety was concerned Mr Tompkin informed the meeting that recent accidents had been determined to be the result of driver error and therefore no new safety measures were being proposed. Finally, Mr Tompkin agreed to circulate a copy of his presentation and notes by email which the Clerk would then forward on. He then concluded by apologising for the poor communication that had been experienced before and he took a number of questions.

#### A38 Safety Matters

The discussions undertaken with Mr Tompkin had covered this matter but Cllrs Jones and Mossman confirmed that they would still be taking up their safety concerns in other forums.

#### County Councillor's Fund Repairs

The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Blackburn to put forward further pavement repairs, moving on into Paynes Meadow, as a proposal for a project under his local highways budget.

#### Other Highways Matters

A number of other items and general discussion progressed under this item. It was noted that cycling on pavements within the village was becoming an increasing problem. Consideration was to be given to a future line on the matter in SPAN and Cllr Jones agreed to raise the issue with PCSO Lifton if he were to meet with him. Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had recently reported seeing dogs loose and it was generally felt that dog fouling was increasing once again. Cllr Jones confirmed that he had reported a potentially hazardous tree in Hyde Lane, as highlighted previously by Cllr Paynter, and whilst it had been taken down debris had been left behind. Cllr Hay commented on another potential problem tree and Cllr Jones agreed to take a look at it and hoped to arrange a tour around the village with the Highways Area Supervisor to look at any other similar issues. Cllr Jones also informed those present that the road sweeper should be visiting the Parish in the near future. Under this item there was also some discussion concerning the progress being made by the proposed developer of the Parklands Farm site in regard to dealing with reserved matters.

A copy of the Amey Parish News newsletter was circulated along with road closure notification and copy correspondence with Cllr Blackburn.

## **06/02**

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

Crime Figures for the month of January were read out and circulated. There had been 4 crimes and 12 incidents. Following a recent burglary in Paynes Meadow the 'Mobile Police Station' had visited the village to provide crime prevention advice and the event was understood to have gone well. The next Police Priorities meeting was to take place at 7pm in Frampton-on-Severn Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Jones reported that the Neighbourhood Warden Service in its revised format was expected to be fully up and running by the end of the month and the Clerk reminded Council that the designated Warden responsible for the area should be attending a meeting in due course.

**07/02**

**Planning**

**Decisions to Note**

S.15/2663/FUL Kidnams Farm, Hyde Lane, Whitminster.

Conversion and extension of existing redundant barn to provide domestic accommodation.

Permission had been granted but there was no reference to any conditions applied in respect of the recommendations Council had made over access when commenting on the application.

**Applications to Consider**

None.

**Other Planning Matters**

The Clerk highlighted the fact that an application had been submitted (S.16/0043/OUT) on land at M5 Junction 13 West of Stonehouse for 5,000 capacity stadium, 22,800 m2 of commercial space and other ancillary matters. This would have an impact on Whitminster Parish and yet Council had not been invited to comment. It was further noted that part of the ancillary works would be in Whitminster Parish. Council did not seek to comment on the application at this stage but resolved to review the matter if appropriate.

Prior to the previous Development Control Committee meeting Cllr Jones had submitted comments in respect of the proposed development of 1,350 houses on land West of Stonehouse and the impact this might have on Grove Lane and the Whitminster A38 cross-roads. A copy of the submission had been circulated by email. It had turned out that comments had not been taken on board when a decision was reached concerning the proposal.

It was noted that following the adoption of the Local Plan a Strategic Land Assessment was ongoing providing developers with a further opportunity to put forward sites for consideration for development. Cllr Jones had suggested it might be appropriate for the Parish Council to nominate sites including the 'Rugby Pitch', between Parklands House and the Playing Field and also the land adjoining Paynes Meadow and bounded by Hyde Lane. Cllr Paynter gave his view on the SALA and Local Plan, following an update he had received from the relevant Office at SDC. Cllr Jones had also carried out some further investigation and it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for Council to consider or put forward potential sites.

Consideration was given to potential S.106 funding forthcoming from the Parklands Farm site. It had appeared that this had been earmarked entirely to go towards the proposed new Playing Field Pavilion which had not been Council's wishes. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Krista Harris at SDC to discuss the matter.

Cllr Hay raised the issue of whether the Parish should look to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Mossman commented that he had been involved with the production of a plan elsewhere and it had been very time consuming and involved. Cllr Jones agreed to discuss the matter with Ricardo Rios at SDC and to possibly invite him to attend a future meeting. The Chairman also gave a brief overview of how the Community Infrastructure Levy would work in the future.

**08/02**

**Accounts**

**Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Greenfields Garden Services Limited Skate Ramp Repairs £3,888:00

**Other Matters**

The Clerk explained that he had looked to place an order for the new notice board proposed for the entrance to the Playing Field at a cost of £258.14 but this was for the posts only and the brochure

price had been misread at the previous meeting. The minimum total cost would be approximately £1,500.00 depending on size. Cllr Jones agreed to seek an alternative price from a local supplier. The Clerk confirmed that the Precept request paperwork had been submitted seeking £14,000:00 and donation cheques had been issued. The Clerk had also informed those that had been unsuccessful in gaining financial support and an email of thanks had been received from CAB for giving the matter consideration.

A quotation for the coming season for grass cutting was received from T W Hawkins and Sons subject to a modest increase. It was resolved that the quote should be accepted. No bank statement had been received and hence the Clerk did not update Council with any change of the balance in hand.

## **09/02**

### **Correspondence**

Guidance notes on Local Elections from SDC.

Notification of works resulting in temporary closure of the Hempsted Household Recycling Centre.

Information on the lighting of beacons to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Details of a proposed framework contract for tree works and inspections from SDC.

Meeting notes of the last Chartered Parish Group Meeting – next meeting anticipated to be 9<sup>th</sup> March TBC.

Update on Energy From Waste Plant CLG and CFG meeting including a request from Cllr Mossman that a new Chair be found.

## **10/02**

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

Cllr Jones reminded those present that the Garden Waste Recycling Scheme being operated by SDC was due to start in February with food waste collections anticipated to start in November. Cllr Jones also reported that he had been in touch with SDC and had been informed that in the event of the Village Hall being used as an Emergency Rest Centre SDC would provide a generator if needed.

A date was set for the Annual Parish Meeting and it was agreed, after some discussion, that it should be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May with a brief meeting first to elect a chairman and constitute the new Council following the May elections.

## **11/02**

### **Other Business**

Those present were reminded of the Severn Voice meeting scheduled for 7pm 18<sup>th</sup> March and to be hosted by Elmore PC.

The offer of discounted outdoor exercise equipment put forward by Greenfields, as a result of a cancelled order, was considered but it was felt it was not the right type of equipment wanted. The Clerk would inform the contractor accordingly.

An update on the work of Severn Voice in the matter of developing a School Admissions policy was received and circulated.

**12/02**

**Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Peters asked for the PC Website and Gloucestershire Tackles Stigma (Mental Health Matters) to be agenda items for the next meeting. He also advised that he would liaise with Cllr Hay to further discuss updates to the Parish Emergency Plan.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016.**