

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016.**

**Public Forum**

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

No issues were raised.

**00/01**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Hughes & Paynter. There was 1 member of the public present.

**01/01**

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received and accepted in advance from Cllr Peters and the Clerk. Mrs Honor Jones had agreed to take notes of the meeting to assist the Clerk in preparing Minutes after the meeting with the help of the Chairman

**02/01**

**Declarations of Interest**

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

**03/01**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to one amendment within 05/12 Other Matters to include the word 'with' on the penultimate line.

**04/01**

**Matters Arising**

**Code of Conduct**

**Skate Ramp**

It was noted that Greenfields had commenced work on site to repair and refurbish the skate ramp with work having started on 4<sup>th</sup> January. All of the running boards, with the exception of those repaired following the recent fire damage, would need replacing but it was estimated that after completion the equipment would have at least a further 3 years of useful life under normal use. It was confirmed that the contractor was making use of their own site security/safety fencing and hence no additional cost had been incurred in this respect.

In regard to potential future equipment, it was noted that a quote had been received from Caloo but it was not for the equipment or design that had been discussed with the company by Cllr Peters.

**05/01**

**Police & Community Safety Matters**

An update on the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme had been received advising of the existing members of the North and South teams and that two new Wardens would be starting in mid-January with a further two to be employed as soon as possible. More information would be given at the Parish & Town Council Meeting being organised by SDC on 14<sup>th</sup> January. It was noted that the Parish Council should also be receiving a visit by a Warden in the near future.

PCSO Mark Lifton provided a report advising that a recent burglary had been resolved and giving crime figures for the months of November and December 2015 which were circulated. Details were also circulated of various Fire Brigade Community Safety events and of services offered including the free fitting of smoke detectors.

On the subject of the proposed Emergency Plan Review Cllr Peters had been in touch with Cllr Hay over producing a new form of template and Cllr Jones was to make contact with DanTERS (fun fair operators) to see if they would be able to provide a generator capable of powering the Village Hall in case of need. The Council then went on to discuss the recent gas outage that had impacted on the village.

## **06/01**

### **Planning**

#### Decisions to Note

S.15/2279/DISCON Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Discharge of Condition 26.

Granted.

S.15/2278/DISCON Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Discharge of Conditions 9 parts 3, 10 and 19.

Granted.

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

Discharge of Condition 13.

Granted.

#### Applications to Consider

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

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

Council resolved to support the application on the condition that an access is maintained to facilitate the ongoing access and egress of a motor home parked on adjoining land.

#### Other Planning Matters

Prior to the forthcoming 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 also been circulated by email.

Cllr Jones circulated a copy of Guidance Notes for SDC Members on the 'Call In' of Planning Applications to Development Control Committee.

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 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 Douglas commented that the two new bungalows recently completed in Paynes Meadow fitted in much better than had been anticipated.

## **07/01**

### **Highways & Byways**

The Clerk's letter to Daniel Tiffney of GCC Highways of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 was read out along with Mr Tiffney's response received by email. He set out that he was working to find a resolution to the problems with the carriageway through the Parish but no solution was yet offered.

It was reported that a sign had blown down on the A38 near Highfield garden centre. The Highways Dept. had been notified and it was to be reinstated.

Cllr Paynter informed the meeting that it had been too wet recently to fully review the footpaths. However, he had been working on the footpaths map and hoped it would be completed soon.

Cllr Douglas commented on the external lights at Whitminster Court which were very bright and could be of detriment to highway safety.

Cllr Paynter advised that he had spotted a tree in Hyde Lane that had come down but was being held up to some extent by brambles. Cllr Jones agreed to report it. Cllr Paynter also said that there had been an increase in fast traffic in Hyde Lane at night and Cllr Jones agreed to pass the matter on to PCSO Lifton.

## **08/01**

### **Accounts**

#### **Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts/donations were approved for payment:

Longfield (previously Cotswold Care Hospice)	Donation	£50.00
Air Ambulance	Donation	£50.00
SPAN Magazine	Donation	£200.00

It was noted that a donation of £50.00 had previously been given to the Poppy Appeal. No donations were agreed to CAB, Victim Support or the Stroud Valleys Project.

It was noted that the Clerk expected Council to carry forward a reserve of approximately £3,500 into the new financial year based on anticipated expenditure.

#### **Precept**

The Clerk had prepared a paper setting out the Council's expenditure for the year to date, anticipated costs through to the end of the financial year and the implication of various precept levels taking into account the fact that the LCTS Grant was likely to be withdrawn in full by SDC. Consideration was also given to the fact that Council would need to look to replace the skate ramp at some point in the future and alternative sources of funding were not guaranteed. On this basis it was agreed that the precept for the 2016/2017 financial year should be £14,000:00. The Chairman was to liaise with the clerk to confirm the details of this level of precept in terms of a percentage increase.

#### **Other Matters**

It was agreed that the notice board at the entrance to the Playing Field should be replaced at a cost of £258.14 in a material made from recycled plastic that resembles wood.

It was reaffirmed that the quote received by Caloo for replacement play equipment was not what had been asked for. Cllr Peters had met on site with Gill Rogers and Honor Jones of the Management Committee and a specification was being drawn up that would be sent to a number of appropriate suppliers, including Caloo to submit proposals.

Cllr Hay confirmed that grant applications were being submitted for the outdoor fitness equipment that he had been looking into with Cllr Paynter.

## **09/01**

### **Correspondence**

None not considered elsewhere on the Agenda.

## **10/01**

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

Cllr Jones reported that the Garden Waste Recycling Scheme being operated by SDC was due to start in February.

**11/01**

**Other Business**

Cllr Hay reported that faster broadband was not connected in the village and also that the landlord of The Forge public house was understood to be leaving at the end of January. It was suggested that Council should monitor what happens to the building and also the vehicular right of way across the forecourt.

**12/01**

**Future Agenda Items**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016.**