

**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> DECEMBER, 2014.**

**Public Forum**

15 minutes were allowed for public question and comment at the start of the meeting but no issues were raised.

**00/12**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 2 members of the public who attended for the majority of the meeting.

**01/12**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hay who was unable to attend the meeting and Cllr Paynter who arrived at 7:42pm. County Councillor Tony Blackburn also sent his apologies.

**02/12**

**Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were raised by Councillors Jones, Douglas and Peters concerning S.106 project matters and a request from the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee to assist with a planning application for a proposed new pavilion for the Playing Field. This was because all Councillors were members of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee.

**03/12**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, were signed as a true record subject to two minor amendments, one within 06/11 where a line of text that had been pasted in error was removed and one within 12/11 where the word 'the' was replaced with 'that'.

**04/12**

**Matters Arising**

**First World War Centenary**

Cllrs Jones and Peters had attended the memorial service that was held at the school due to the inclement weather. Cllr Peters was liaising with the school regarding the work being undertaken by the school children and the project of collecting information was to run through until the end of the year. Cllr Peters advised that effort would then be required to collate and select the relevant information to be used going forwards. The Clerk reported that initial submissions for grant aid had been made and acknowledgements received but with a caveat that many applications had been submitted during the year and a delay could be anticipated in regard to consideration and the request for submissions of full grant requests.

**Bus Shelters**

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he would be measuring up in order to obtain some new sheets of glazing to undertake repairs. He also agreed to cut back the brambles on the adjoining verge.

**05/12**

**Police & Community Safety Matters**

It was noted the Phil Drew had left the District Council and there was no longer a specific warden allocated to the area but a replacement was being sought. Nothing had been done by the Warden, before leaving, regarding the hedges in Hyde Lane and Cllr Jones agreed to insert a mention in SPAN. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Andrew Merrett of Red Hill Farm, Selsley, regarding the overgrown hedges on land he farms bounding School Lane and also Mrs Brake of Chambers Court Farm, Brookthorpe regarding hedges elsewhere in the village.

Correspondence had been received with details of defibrillators suitable for community sites. It was agreed that before considering the matter further enquiries should be made of the Whitminster Inn regarding a claim that had been rumoured in regard to equipment being funded from an event held at the venue. The Chairman stated he would make direct contact with Mrs McGoldrick.

Minutes and information arising from the Cluster Group Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November had been received. Cllr Jones had attended the meeting and reported that generally crime figures were reducing but there had been an increase in rural break-ins. Details of crime reduction measures were to be mentioned in SPAN. It was noted that Mr Sullivan had been appointed chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch group and the WVH&PMC had made an application for funding from the Police Commissioner's charity fund in regard to the upgrading of the Playing Field Pavilion CCTV system. This has been successful in part and a digital system was being purchased. Cllr Peters mentioned that 3G cameras were being used on a temporary basis in trouble hotspots around the District and also that he had stickers he could make available for people to display discouraging cold callers.

During the months of October and November there had been 2 crimes in each month together with a number of incidents.

**06/12**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

None.

Village Design Statement

Cllr Jones confirmed that the statement had been formally adopted by the Stroud District Council Environment Committee as supplementary planning guidance.

S.106 Project

Council discussed the condition of the skate ramp and its use and decided that in addition to the proposals for outdoor gym equipment the replacement of the skate ramp should be considered as a further project for potential S.106 funding arising from any new development within the Parish. Cllr Jones agreed to report this decision to Stroud District Council to supplement the proposal for outdoor gym equipment for users of mixed ages.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones advised that the application previously considered relating to Highfield House had been changed in that the proposed roof terrace had been removed. He also confirmed that the Council's submissions in regard to the application concerning land off School Lane had been recorded although there had been an issue when first lodged with the District Council's website. Cllr Paynter confirmed that he would be putting forward Council's representations at the Development Control Committee regarding this application and Parklands Farm on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Douglas advised that he had come across officers of the District Council inspecting the School Lane site during a recent walk.

It was agreed that Council would not participate in meetings organised by Eastington Parish Council and others opposing development on Land West of Stonehouse.

**07/12**

**Highways & Byways**

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he understood the new village gateway signs would be erected very shortly. The necessary remaining works to Hyde Lane and the condition of the pavement leading into Paynes Meadow had been raised with the Highways Area Manager and it was agreed that they would be identified for work but that this would be through the capital works programme and would not proceed during the current financial year. The location of various potholes throughout the village was discussed and Councillor Jones advised he would bring them to the attention of the new Highways Area Supervisor with whom he was seeking to arrange a meeting. Cllr Hughes and been to inspect the issues raised in previous email correspondence concerning drainage and the outfall from a private sewage treatment plant serving Highfield House and neighbouring properties. No further action was required.

Cllr Blackburn had written stating that the new Order regarding the speed limit on the A38 had been approved and would come into force shortly and that he had raised the issue of the vehicles ignoring the 'Left Turn Only' Order at the A38 crossroads with Daniel Tiffney of GCC.

Cllr Jones reported that he had met with the Dog Warden and more anti-dog fouling notices would soon be erected. He had also been in touch with Mr Tiffney regarding issues with the white lining following surfacing works and the access into the property belonging to Mr Lyes behind the A38 garage, the condition of the new surfacing and the A38 crossroads – the result of the recent traffic survey had been circulated. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Tiffney once again regarding the quality of the work to the A38 and also the need for a sign warning of the new road layout on the north-bound A38 carriageway coming off of the roundabout.

**08/12**

**Accounts**

**Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

£454.98	T W Hawkins & Sons	Grass cutting
£50.00	Poppy Appeal	Replacement for lost cheque
£52.00	Cllr J Jones	Chairman's Expenses
£187.78	Clerk	Stationery

**General Overview & Other Matters**

The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £9,442.46 as per the last statement received dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, no further recent statement had yet been received. The Clerk also confirmed that reimbursement of the District Council's contribution towards the cost of the Village Hall generator changeover switch in the sum of £300.00 had been received into the bank account by BACS. An approach had been received from Centigen FM ( a subsidiary of Two Rivers Housing) asking to be permitted to quote for Council's grass cutting and it was agreed that Councillor Jones would arrange a site meeting.

Cllr Douglas advised that due to an unforeseen need for consent to carry out works to the church clock this would not be proceeding before March 2015 and it was agreed that Council's offer of financial support (up to a maximum of £640 plus VAT towards scaffolding costs) would remain available.

The Clerk had received details of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Handbook on Local Council Administration at a cost of £82.50 plus delivery – as suggested by Cllr Peters. It was decided to defer any decision on a potential purchase until the January 2015 meeting.

A request was received from Mrs Jones, Secretary to WVH&PFMC, asking if the Parish Council would submit a revised planning application on behalf of the Management Committee relating to the proposed new Playing Field Pavilion. It was agreed that the Parish Council could legitimately submit the application and benefit from the reduced application fee but no agreement was reached as to whether the Council should be reimbursed fully by the Committee or if Council would pay for part or all of the reduced application cost. It was agreed that Council would submit the application on the Committee's behalf but any consideration of a financial contribution would be deferred until the January 2015 meeting.

#### Precept Considerations

Correspondence was received from Ms Cowley of SDC advising that the Local Council Tax Support scheme funding figures would be circulated in due course.

A GAPTC newsletter was received providing details of the Local Council pay award. The clerk stated that he felt there was no need for him to receive a pay review and for the sum involved it would not be worthwhile applying the Non-Consolidated One-Off Payment Award Proposed.

**09/12**

#### **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Notice of GlosVain AGM.

Details of Victim Support Volunteer Recruitment Day.

Invitation to Parish & Town Council Meeting at Ebley Mill on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 7pm.

Kingsdown Nurseries Season Book.

**10/12**

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

Cllr Jones gave an overview of discussions he had been having with the Community Payback Officer of the Probation Service regarding a works team carrying out vegetation clearance around the Playing Field and this was likely to proceed.

**11/12**

#### **Other Business**

##### Village Website

It was decided to defer this matter until the next meeting when it was hoped Cllr Hay would be present.

##### No. 62 Bus Service

The Clerk had sought to obtain timetables as requested but had been informed details were available on-line

**12/12**

#### **Future Agenda Items**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

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