

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 7th JANUARY, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allowed for public question and comment at the start of the meeting. The following issues were raised:

- Mrs Honor Jones, in her capacity as Secretary to the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee advised that forms would need to be completed in respect of potential S.106 funding from development consented within the village. Costings would need to be put together for Council's proposed projects including in respect of the Playing Field Pavilion Project. At this point Cllr Jones relayed the detail of a meeting that had taken place with Krista Harris of Stroud District Council explaining the process to be followed.
- A resident voiced the opinion that various people were disappointed at the outcome of the planning application for development on the Parklands Farm site. His view was that issues relating to ecological matters had been passed over without regard and the focus of the Development Control Committee had been on trees and the restoration of the existing Listed Building. He asked for support from the Parish Council when the reserved matters are considered in relation to the site lay-out and landscaping.
- Mrs Jones raised a further comment stating that in her view the Parish Council had done the best that it could to oppose or in the worst case mitigate the impact of development on the site. She thanked the Parish Council for its efforts and for succeeding in the result of a refusal in regard to the proposed 95 new dwellings.

00/01

Present

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

01/01

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Blackburn and Cllr Paynter who was unlikely to be able to stay for the full meeting. Cllr Paynter subsequently left the meeting at 9:25pm.

02/01

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were raised by Councillors Jones, Douglas and Peters concerning any matter relating to the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee.

03/01

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 3rd December, 2014, were signed as a true record subject to one minor amendment. Within 07/12 'and' should have read 'had'.

04/01

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

There was nothing further to update on this matter. Cllr Peters asked if you could be assisted when the time comes to judge the merits of the material, produced by the village school children, to decide what should be included on the sign board. Cllr Jones said he would be happy to assist and also agreed to investigate whether any consents would be necessary for the erection of the sign.

Community Payback Scheme

Cllr Jones advised, for information, that labour provided by the scheme was being used to tidy the Playing Field hedgerows and margins. Work had started and consent had been granted for debris to be burnt on the adjoining land forming part of Parklands Farm.

Bus Time Tables

Cllr Peters advised that a time table for the No. 62 service was being displayed and the Clerk advised that he had downloaded a number of copies from the internet.

Bus Shelters

Cllr Paymter informed the meeting that he had measured up for the material proposed to replace the tarnished/damaged panels and the cost would be £71.23 each. It was agreed to consider this further under Accounts later on the agenda.

05/01

Police & Community Safety Matters

Council was reminded that 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. However, in the meantime an email of introduction had been received from Andy Murray who advised that he would be the interim main point of contact.

Crime figures for the month of December 2014 had been received and disseminated.

Cllr Jones also reported a recent incident of vandalism to the Playing Field Cricket Square. He went on to advise that he had not been able to make contact with Mrs McGoldrick to raise the issue of funding for a defibrillator, as previously discussed, but would endeavour to do so.

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that there was a likely drive towards the area Police Panel meetings moving to a more community orientated basis as opposed to being police led. This change was likely and may apply from a meeting scheduled for March.

06/01

Planning

Decisions to Note

S/14/2429/FUL Land at 1 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Gos.

Residential development with revised access and associated works.

Refused.

S.14/2431/HHOLD Highfield House, School Lane, Whitminster, Gos.

Internal alterations, removal of modern extensions and new extensions.

Permission granted.

S.14/1829/OUT Land off School Lane, Whitminster, Gos.

Residential development for up to 95 dwellings including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Construction of new vehicular access from School Lane

Refused.

S.14/0716/OUT Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster, Gos.

Residential development for 31 dwellings and associated open space and community facilities.

Permission granted. However, whilst Council was aware that this resolution had been made at the relevant committee meeting no decision notice had yet been issued as it was understood that matters relating to S.106 agreements were first being finalised.

Council had been invited to be represented at the Development Control Committee for both this application and S.14/1829/OUT above and Cllr Paynter and put over Council's views.

Applications to Consider

S.14/2718/HHOLD 3 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gos.

Single storey extension to rear.

Council resolved to object to this application on the basis that it would be overbearing in character and cause loss of light to the adjoining property. Therefore it would be in contravention of the considerations set out with planning policy GE1.

Listed Buildings

Cllr Peters had requested this matter be placed on the Agenda to consider the possibility of identifying properties suitable for listing so as to preserve the character of the village, prevent unwanted development and maintain a range of un-modernised houses illustrating different periods in the village's development. Some discussion ensued highlighting the fact that listing is intended to preserve buildings of special architectural or historic importance and some consideration was given as to the possible merits of a Conservation Area or other similar designation. Cllr Peters advised that he would look into the matter further for consideration at a future meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Peters had requested the matter be considered leading on from the successful completion of the Village Design statement. There was some discussion but it was generally felt there was no appetite to embark on such a project for the time being.

Settlement Boundary

Cllr Peters had asked if the matter could be considered. Cllr Jones explained how the existing settlement boundary had come to exist and that there might be an opportunity for it to be reviewed further in the future.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Haydn Jones had circulated to Council a briefing from Phil Skill together with a statement from Planning Minister Brandon Lewis removing the requirement for Affordable Housing within developments of less than 10 units or having an aggregate floor area of under 1,000 square meters. However, this would not apply within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Clerk had not received any response from Phil Skill of SDC regarding registering an Asset of Community Value and he agreed to follow this up.

07/01

Highways & Byways

The Clerk advised that he had not received any response in regard to the issues raised concerning the quality of the finish of the surfacing works to the A38 nor safety concerns regarding signage and lining schemes. Cllr Jones confirmed that he had also emailed Daniel Tiffney of GCC regarding the revised road layout coming off the A38 roundabout heading North and a request for signage warning of the revised layout. No response had been received but he had raised the matter and other issues again at a meeting and hoped a response would be forthcoming. Cllr Blackburn had also raised the issue.

Cllr Paynter advised there was nothing to report on the matter of footpaths but Cllr Jones advised of the comments of Mr Watts from Moreton Valence who had encountered difficulties concerning an unpassable footpath near to the canal. Cllr Paynter agreed to investigate. Cllr Douglas raised the issue of various potholes throughout the village and Cllr Jones confirmed that he was still trying to make contact with the new County Council Highways Area Supervisor to arrange a tour of the Parish.

08/01

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

£50.00	Cotswold Care Hospice	Donation
£200.00	SPAN Magazine	Donation
£50.00	Air Ambulance	Donation
£73.93	Clerk	Stationery

Donations

After a discussion of the various requests for financial support received throughout the year Council resolved to make the donations as per the cheques drawn listed above in addition with the support to the Poppy Appeal that had already been given.

Precept 2015/2016

After a detailed consideration of the expenditure for the year to date, the Clerk's anticipated budgetary costs for 2015/2016, the reserves on account and likely future projects Council resolved to leave its budgetary requirement unchanged at £12,500 resulting in a precept of £12,045 after the inclusion of the Local Council Tax Support Grant given by government.

General Overview & Other Matters

The Clerk reported the balance at the bank of £8,234.46 as per the last statement received.

Details of the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2015/2016 had been received.

Consideration was given of quotes for grass cutting received from SGMS /TW Hawkins & Sons and Centigen. The current contractor remained notably cheaper and it was agreed that SGMS would be appointed for a further year to include cutting of the grass verge outside of Little Holbury limited to a maximum of 16 cuts per annum.

It was agreed that Council would pay 50% of the cost of submitting a revised planning application for the redevelopment of the Playing Field Pavilion. Only those Councillors with no connection to the Management Committee took part in this discussion.

The Clerk had received details of the 9th Edition Handbook on Local Council Administration at a cost of £82.50 plus delivery – as suggested by Cllr Peters. It was decided to not purchase the book at the current time but to keep the details on file.

Cllr Douglas advised that no progress with regard to the repair of the Church Clock was anticipated before March and Council resolved that the financial support previously pledged would remain available.

09/01

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

TROW Magazine.

Report from County Cllr Tony Blackburn.

Copy correspondence between Cllr Jones and The Oil & Pipeline Agency.

Details of Parish & Town Council Meeting to be held at SDC on 19th February.

GAPTC Buckingham Palace Garden Party information.

Details of new Clerk for Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council.

Invitation to GCC focus group meeting.

GAPTC briefing papers.

10/01

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones told the meeting that his various local issues had all been covered elsewhere during the Agenda. He provided a brief update on matters concerning the Stroud District Local Plan.

11/12

Other Business

Village Website

Cllr Hay gave an overview of the operation of the current website and it was agreed that there was no desire to upgrade it at the present time.

Canal Restoration

Following his attendance at a meeting Cllr Peters provided an overview of the plans afoot for further restoration of the Canal. It was agreed that a representative of the Cotswold Canals Trust could be considered as a potential meeting for the Annual Parish Meeting.

On other issues, Cllr Hughes agreed to undertake the litter picking duty at the Playing Field for the coming month and Cllr Douglas gave his apology in advance for the February meeting.

12/01

Future Agenda Items

Annual Parish Meeting – to set a date.

Walkers Welcome scheme – at the request of Cllr Peters.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.59 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4th February, 2015.