

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014.**

**Public Forum**

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

- Mr Harrison voiced his objection to a proposed development of two new houses on land adjoining 1 Paynes Meadow. He commented that he felt the site was suitable for one property only.
- Mr Lyes raised concerns regarding the recent work completed to the A38 and the white lining arrangement in the location where vehicles accessing his property, located behind the garage, turn. He considered the current marking to create an unnecessary hazard.
- Mrs Catanzaro raised objections regarding the planning application commented on by Mr Harrison. She stated that she had no objection to development on the site in principle but felt the proposed scheme placed a new house too close to the boundaries and an extension to her property not shown on site plans would suggest that the agent's calculations regarding light would be incorrect.

**00/11**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hay, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 8 members of the public who attended for the majority of the meeting and PC Melanie Campbell & PCSO Mike Trebled who attended for the duration of Police & Community Safety Issues.

**01/11**

**Apologies**

None.

**02/11**

**Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were raised by Councillors Jones and Douglas concerning Item 4. (ii) as both Councillors were members of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee. Cllr Jones also identified the fact that he was a District Councillor and therefore could be affected by the Boundary Review to be considered within Item 9. Cllr Peters declared an interest in regard to 12. (vi) as he was a School Governor at Whitminster School.

**03/11**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014, were signed as a true record subject to two amendments, one within 06/10 where 'Local Plan' was replaced with 'Village Design Statement' and 11/10 where 'appetite' had been misspelt.

**04/11**

**Matters Arising**

**First World War Centenary**

Cllr Jones had not been able to look out the original quotation from Greenfields but the Clerk confirmed that he had a copy on file. Cllr Peters confirmed that the village school children were

progressing with their project and would be attending the memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> November. It was noted that 44 men returned to the village after the end of the war. Any details or information that anyone might have on anyone who was killed or served in the Great War would still be welcome.

#### Outside Gym Quotations

It was agreed that this matter would be considered within Item 6. (iv) below.

**05/11**

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

This item was advanced on the Agenda to allow the officers present to report and then continue with their duties. It was noted that the offender who had damaged the Playing Field Pavilion security camera had been caught. A reprimand had been given, a letter of apology sent and the cost of repairs reimbursed. Recent damage to the skate ramp was also being investigated and was likely to be pursued in a similar fashion. The meeting was opened for members of the public to raise any points and parking on pavements was highlighted as a matter of concern. However, PC Campbell advised there was little that could be done by the police to stop this. The reports recently issued by the Neighbourhood Warden had been circulated by the Clerk and Cllr Peters commented on what a good job he feels the Warden performs. Cllr Jones had received no report with regard to the action the Warden was taking concerning overgrown hedges in the village but he would follow this up as well as discussing other relevant issues with the Warden. It was agreed that the potential provision of a defibrillator for use in the village would be considered at the next meeting and the donation of the equipment that had been promised by the Whitminster Inn would also be looked into. Finally on this Item Cllr Jones confirmed that he had raised the issues reported by a local resident, relating to children causing a nuisance and damaging trees in The Close/Vaisey Field with the Neighbourhood Warden but had received no report. It was noted that with the onset of Winter the problem was likely to abate if it had not done so already.

**06/11**

#### **Planning**

##### Decisions to Note

S.14/2236/HHOLD Church Cottage, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Addition of two storey extensions and conservatory.

Withdrawn.

##### Applications to Consider

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

Residential development with revised access and associated works.

Council resolved to object to this application due to the loss of light to the adjoining property; the overbearing impact on existing dwellings; issues concerning highway safety and the visibility of vehicles accessing and egressing the site with no means of turning; the likely detrimental impact on the visual street scene; the density of the proposed development and the proposed materials and design being out of character with the adjoining properties and contradictory to the information contained within the adopted Village Design Statement. Council also commented on the fact that the extended footprint of the adjoining property had not been shown on the plans and therefore threw doubt on the daylight diagram and stated that if the District Council were minded to grant consent then permitted development rights should be removed. Discussion resulted in it being concluded that Council would most likely support a proposal for a single dwelling of a bungalow design with suitable off road car parking and materials and design in keeping with the nearby bungalows in Paynes Meadow.

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

Internal alterations, removal of modern extensions and new extensions.

Council had no comments to make on this application.

There were no applications considered at the meeting but the following matters were discussed:

S.14/1829/OUT Land at School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

To build 95 residential dwellings including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Construction of a new vehicular access from School Lane.

A meeting had taken place on 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall between the Parish Council and Darryl Rogers and Laura Humphries both of Stroud District Council. They had both outlined the nature of the application and the key factors that would influence the decision of the District Council when considering the application. Whilst it was made quite clear that the application will be considered on its merits in an impartial way set against the wider planning framework and implications of the Local Plan they acknowledged that development at such a scale would have a notable impact on the village and they wished for the Parish Council to be fully informed.

Cllr Jones updated the meeting by advising that both this application and S.14/0716/OUT would now most likely be considered at the December DCC meeting after the progression of other matters pertinent to the emerging new Local Plan. It was recorded that Council had unanimously resolved to object to the proposed development but a formal response would be refined and submitted in due course. It was agreed that Cllr Jones would draft Council's proposed objections and reasons.

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

Outline planning application for residential development of 31 dwellings, associated open space and community facilities.

Following the drafting of Council's formal letter of objection this was submitted to Stroud District Council dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014. No comments were received from Parish Councillors when circulated for comment. Cllr Peters did make observations but his comments were not received in time by Cllr Jones prior to the letter of objection, as drafted, being handed over.

#### 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

Quotes had been received from Caloo Limited (in the sum of £24,000 plus VAT) and Hags –SMP (in the sum of £17,208.27) for outdoor gym and children's play equipment suitable for siting on the playing field. Cllr Jones advised that he would liaise further with Krista Harris, SDC Regeneration Officer, to ensure that she was aware of the projects Council has started to identify in regard 'Youth and Adult Recreation' ideas for the benefit of any S.106 funds that may be forthcoming from future development if consented. It was also agreed that the replacement of the playing field pavilion and possible the replacement of the skate ramp might also be projects to consider. Under this item details of the Gloucestershire County Council Active Together grant scheme were also considered but it was apparently too late for the current year to seek any of the £40,000 available through Cllr Blackburn as the significant part of his budget had already been claimed and allocated. It was possible that other sources of grant funding could also be considered in the future.

#### Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones confirmed that matters relating to the adoption of Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol had been completed.

It was reaffirmed that Council's objections had been submitted regarding the application for 31 dwellings at Parklands Farm. Cllr Jones had amended the letter used in the objection to that application for use in regard to application reference S.14/1809/OUT. Council had previously resolved to object to this application. The draft letter of objection had been circulated and was reviewed in details with amendments made. Cllr Jones agreed to circulate a further amended version for final approval before submitting the latter as Council's comments and objections to the Local Planning Authority. The Clerk confirmed that the local branch of CPRE had objected to both significant developments proposed for the village. It was noted that both applications were likely to be considered at the Development Control Committee meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Correspondence had been received from various groups and Councils concerning the Stroud District Local Plan Examination and the outstanding planning application relating to Land West of Stonehouse. Council resolved that it could not provide financial support nor indeed support the group opposing this proposal but would wish them luck in their efforts.

**07/11**

**Highways & Byways**

Following receipt of an email from Mr Clewes of The old Nurseries concerning a ditch near his property Cllr Hughes advised he had met with Mr Clewes and no further action was required.

The Clerk confirmed that he had advised the County Council of the Snow Warden and other relevant details as previously agreed.

Unfortunately it had transpired that there were no funds remaining from County Councillor Blackburn's highways budget to carry out further works to Hyde Lane or the pavement in Paynes Meadow. However, the Local Highways Manager was looking into whether it could be funded in the next financial year through the Minor Works Budget.

Cllr Douglas commented on a number of potholes in The Close and School Lane and various other items were discussed that Cllr Jones agreed to bring up the new local highway area supervisor, who had taken over following the departure of Mr Portlock, if a meeting and village tour could be arranged.

**A38 Works & Orders**

A copy of the Confirmed Order, relating to the A38 Hardwicke to Whitminster 50mph limit and u-turn traffic order, had been received. No date had yet been confirmed for the installation of the new signs at the A38 cut-through. The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr Tiffney of GCC regarding the finish of the resurfacing work to parts of the A38 and had also commented on the slow progress with the white lining. No response had been received. It was agreed that this should be followed up with the comments of Mr Lyes also passed on. It was commented that it would have been appropriate for 'New Road Layout' signs to have been erected.

**Street Signs**

Cllr Peters commented that he was pleased with the new/replacement signs that had been erected. Cllrs Paynter and Hay advised that there were not happy with the detail and would have liked to have seen a copy of what was proposed before the work had been undertaken. The Clerk confirmed that he had asked for proofs but had received no reply from Street Naming & Numbering at SDC.

**Dog Fouling**

Cllr Peters had commented on the suggestion that Parishes may be required to contribute towards the cost of emptying poop scoop bins. Cllr Jones advised that his understanding was that any suggestion was in relation to new bins installed by or at the request of a Parish or Town Council. It was understood that there would be more clarity on the situation following a meeting to be held in February 2015.

**A38/Grove Lane Junction Survey**

Cllr Jones thanked all of those who had given up time to undertake the recent survey. 77 users of the junction had failed to comply with the left turn only order representing approximately 80% of vehicles exiting Grove Lane. Cllr Jones agreed to circulate the findings to the relevant authorities.

**08/11**

**Accounts**

**Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

£50.00	Poppy Appeal	Donation
£240.00	Grant Thornton LLP	Audit fee
£612.00	Mark Snook Planning	Professional fees

£522.27

Clerk

Reimbursement of printing and

stationery costs.

#### General Overview

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. 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 .

#### Audit

Completed and notice posted.

#### Precept Considerations

No correspondence had yet been received from SDC regarding the coming year's precept procedure.

Letters seeking donations were received from Stroud Valleys Project and Cotswold Care Hospice. It was agreed that these would be put to one side to consider with other requests for donations, previously received, at a future meeting.

### **09/11**

#### **Stroud District Council Ward Boundary Review**

Councillor Jones had circulated details relating to the current proposals that would see the current District Council Ward changed to include Eastington and Standish with Whitminster. It would also possibly result in changes to the Parish boundary. However, this would require further review if existing proposals for new residential development on land west of Stonehouse is approved. This information was considered by Councillors but no comments made or actions proposed.

### **10/11**

#### **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month showing the Parish Council page at number 2 in the most viewed ranking.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

CPRE Gloucestershire Views.

CPRE Fieldwork magazine.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine.

Update from Neil Carmichael MP on relevant Parish & Town matters.

Information of Gloucestershire County Council's responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority.

Letter from GRCC Rural Housing Enabler with information on affordable housing developments.

SLCC catalogue.

### **11/11**

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

Cllr Jones gave a brief report on District Council matters and mentioned a meeting taking place the following day that would consider future waste collection services. It was noted that a weekly food waste collection could be introduced. Cllr Jones also reported that in his Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee role he had been in contact with the Community Payback Project Officer covering the area for the Probation Service and was looking into arranging for a team to carry out work at the playing field. All Chairman's Items that had not been covered elsewhere within the agenda.

Under this Item Cllr Hughes agreed to take on the litter picking at the playing field for the coming month.

**12/11**

**Other Business**

**Village Website**

It was confirmed that Cllr Hay had taken over the role of Webmaster and would be uploading details onto the website in the future.

**Local Transport Plan 2015**

Cllr Peters reported that he had attended a workshop the considered the plan.

**Canal Restoration**

The Clerk had circulated details of an event to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December to consider the proposed restoration of the canal from Stonehouse to Saul Junction (Phase 1B). Cllr Peters commented that he believed the project would have significant benefits for the area. It was noted that Heritage Lottery Fund support was being sought.

**District & County Council Newsletters**

Cllr Peters advised that these newsletters can be viewed on the websites of the respective organisations.

**Bus Service to Stroud**

Cllr Jones confirmed that as a result of the recent trial a new contractor would be running a revised service from the week of the meeting and this would be a 36 seat bus. Cllr Douglas advised that he understood the timetables for Stagecoach buses serving the A38 were changing and the Clerk was asked to write to Stagecoach and request copies of any amended timetable for circulation. This related to Service 62.

**Severn Voice Report & School Admissions Sub-Group Representative**

Cllr Jones reported that EU funding was being pursued to enable the Glos-Sharpness Canal bridges to be opened by canal users by mobile phone. A safeguard was proposed in relation to preventing bridge openings when an emergency vehicle is approaching. Cllr Jones was nominated as Council's representative on the sub-group and he agreed to respond to Cllr Shaw of Arlingham PC accordingly.

Cllr Paynter advised that he was sourcing a sheet of plastic to replace the weathered sheet in the A38 bus shelter.

Cllr Peters suggested that the Clerk should obtain an updated version of the Local Council Administration Handbook and the Clerk was to look into the cost.

**13/11**

**Future Agenda Items**

It was requested that bus shelters and the 2015/2016 precept should be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

There were four members of the public remaining in attendance when the meeting closed.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014.**