

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH, 2013.

00/03

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hay and Paynter. The Clerk and four members of the public were also present.

01/03

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes.

02/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jones, Douglas and Mrs Gilmore declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 9 on the Agenda concerning the Village Hall and Playing Field. This was because all three were members of the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Coleman is also a member but as the representative of the Parish Council.

03/03

Minutes

The Minutes of the 6th February 2013 meeting of the Parish Council were signed as a true record without amendment.

04/03

Matters Arising

Casual Vacancy

Prior to the commencement of the public meeting letters of application, setting out experience and interests, were considered from both Mrs Janne Bunting and Mr Russell Hay who had both applied to fill the casual vacancy that had arisen from the resignation of Mrs Pockett as a parish councillor. Brief informal interviews then followed. After some deliberation Council noted that it was greatly pleased to receive applications from two individuals of such quality but it was decided that Mr Hay would be invited to join Council. It was felt that his involvement would widen the profile of Council members and it would be good to receive input from a member with children at the village school. As a result Mr Hay was co-opted from the commencement of the meeting.

Henry Withers Place

The Clerk advised that he had received no further response from Jeremy Turberville of Bromford Living housing association following his confirmation that he would conduct a site inspection and carry out any necessary action in respect of the foliage overhanging the path to the rear of the development. It was noted that no work had been undertaken and the Clerk was to follow the matter up.

Amenity Land Questionnaire

The Chairman reported that he had looked into the purpose of the recent questionnaire that Council had initially resolved not to respond to. It had become apparent that it was official and formed part of the activities of the Task and Finish Group at SDC and accordingly Cllr Jones had completed the survey, on behalf of Council, between meetings.

05/03

Police & Community Safety Matters

The Neighbourhood Warden's reports for the previous month had been received by email and circulated and it was understood that he hoped to be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Littering had become a recent problem particularly in the vicinity of the skate ramp and Cllr Jones advised that the Neighbourhood Warden had been asked to monitor this. There had still not been any response received from the District Council in reply to Council's letter concerning the Neighbourhood Warden Service. Similarly, there had been no recent contact from the police nor any crime figures for some months. However, it was known that several new boilers had been stolen from the development at Schoolfield Close and a Neighbourhood Watch circular had been issued regarding bike theft. It was noted that a SARA meeting had taken place on 28th February but it was not known if any new priorities had been adopted. Details had been received regarding a proposed meeting between GRCC and the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss reducing traffic speeds and this had been circulated.

06/03

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.12/2525/HHOLD Branscombe, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear.

Permission granted.

S.13/0381/MINAM Highfield Garden Centre, Whitminster, Glos.

Minor amendment to permission S.12/1866/FUL to accommodate operational amendment.

Permission granted.

S.12/1779/COU Land adjoining Belvedere, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Change of use of land to permit the siting of 8 no. permanent holiday caravans.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.12/0463/VAR Highfield Garden Centre, Whitminster, Glos.

Variation of condition 4 to enable pedestrian improvements to be carried out prior to use of the new facility rather than prior to the commencement of work.

Council resolved to object to this application on the basis that pedestrian safety should be secured before construction work commences as this is likely to be a dangerous phase in itself prior to increased visitor traffic once the development has been completed.

Village Design Statement

It was noted that an action day was planned for the coming Saturday. The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received advising that the maximum grant that could be awarded to support this project would be £500 and the application had been pursued on that basis.

Other Planning Matters

The Clerk reported he had received no further email correspondence from Cllr Dennis Andrewartha of Stroud District Council or the Officers that he had asked to respond on his behalf. An email had been received from Mrs Gillian Parker seeking clarification on the report concerning Local Plan matters in SPAN and the Clerk had responded circulating his reply. Cllr Jones gave a brief update on matters concerning the proposed Local Plan including a suggestion that some new housing might be accepted in Frampton on the former Cadbury's factory site as well as Minchinhampton with discussions thus far concerning locations rather than numbers. Cllr Jones also advised that he had been contacted by Budgens seeking an initial view about a proposed new store for the village. Council resolved that it would not be appropriate to comment until a proposal is put forward with supporting details. Details had been received relating to an Environment Agency drop in session as

part of their public consultation on their draft decision in regard to the permit application for Javelin Park. On a related matter information had been received from the County Council giving details of the planning meeting taking place on 21st March to consider the relevant planning application. The Clerk gave a further reminder of the details of the SDC Planning Department drop-in sessions with the dates for the Severn Voice area being 21st May and 12th September, 2013. A letter had been received from Neil Carmichael MP inviting Councillors to attend a meeting with Brandon Lewis MP, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Communities and Local Government to discuss how Neighbourhood Planning can help local councils.

07/03

Highways & Byways

The Clerk had received a quotation for a basic speed activated road sign in the sum of £1,450:00 plus VAT. It was decided not to pursue the matter for the time being.

A copy of a letter had been received from Severn Voice to Cllr Windsor-Clive at Glos County Council raising issues regarding road safety and speeding traffic on the A38. It was agreed that Council would also write on the matter of potholes and the quality of work undertaken by repair gangs. With regard to the work planned for The Close/Henry Withers Place organised by Cllr Tony Blackburn, Cllr Jones reported that he had been in touch with Dave Portlock at GCC who was able to confirm that the work had been put out to tender. No further response had been received from GCC to Cllr Jones' enquiries about work to the A38 roundabout after a vehicle had driven across it and he agree to follow this matter up. With regard to footpaths, Cllr Paynter had highlighted a kissing gate that required cutting out of the adjoining hedge where it had become overgrown and suitable locations for the installation of a dog flap type device but this would require the landowner's consent and the Clerk was instructed to write accordingly. He went on to report that some footpaths signs had been erected and information was awaited on the proposed waymark signs concerning the village walks.

08/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

F J Cambridge & Co Ltd were paid in the sum of £150.00 for repairs to the memorial at the church.

The Clerk's expenses were paid in the sum of £44.11

GAPTC annual membership was renewed in the sum of £171.33

General Overview and Other Matters

A letter of thanks had been received from Cotswold Care Hospice in respect of Council's donation.

The bank balance as at 8th January 2013 had been confirmed at £10,130.40

09/02

Village Hall & Playing Field

Fields In Trust Designation

The Clerk advised that the registration of the charge at Land Registry was being progressed by Roger James Clements and Partners.

Heads of Terms for proposed new long lease to Management Committee

Heads of Terms had been drafted by the Clerk had been amended and it was agreed further consideration would be given to the matter as to how funding would be passed to the management Committee in the future following the completion of any new lease arrangement. Revised Heads of Terms were with the Management Committee for consideration.

10/02

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the month of February.

Confirmation of the planned Outdoor Play Facility Annual Inspection.

Gloucestershire Charter meeting agenda.

Letter from Neil Carmichael MP updating Council on various matters of local concern and confirming his attendance at the next Parish Council meeting.

Confirmation that no further action was planned in respect of Boundary Reviews for Parliamentary Constituencies.

Notification that the new electoral register would be issued in March along with confirmation of the purposes which the information can be used for.

Details of the proposed District Charter 'Working Together' and notification of a proposed forum meeting – Council had previously resolved not to participate in the Forum or Charter.

Letter from Neil Carmichael MP on Neighbourhood Planning.

Updated GlosVAIN opponents list.

Trow magazine.

Information on Grounds Maintenance from SDC.

Letter of introduction from a lighting company.

Clerks and Councils Direct.

Letter from Tow Rivers Housing objecting to the proposed reduction in housing benefit payable to benefit claimants occupying properties larger than their requirements.

11/03

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones informed Council that the SDC Town and Parish Council Forum had been well attended. He went on to say that it was hoped that a new railway station could possibly be included in a future large scale housing development within the village and reminded those present of the next meeting of Severn Voice taking place in Frampton-on-Severn on 28th March.

12/03

Other Business

None.

13/02

Agenda Items for the next meeting

It was noted that Neil Carmichael MP would be attending the April meeting approximately mid-way through the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd April, 2013.