

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

00/02

Present

Cllr Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hughes and Paynter. The Clerk and two members of the public were also present.

01/02

Apologies

None.

02/02

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.

03/02

Minutes

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

04/02

Matters Arising

Casual Vacancy

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Mrs Janne Bunting expressing her interest in being co-opted to the Council. She was present at the meeting. Cllr Paynter advised that he had received an expression of interest from Mr Russell Hay, although he was unable to be present at the meeting. As a result it was decided that both candidates should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to be allowed to address the meeting and for a brief form of interview to be conducted. Council would convene at 7pm to facilitate this. The Clerk also advised that he had sent to Mrs Pockett the gardening vouchers proposed as a token of Council's gratitude for her service to the Council and a letter of thanks had been received.

Henry Withers Place

The Clerk advised that he had received a response from Jeremy Turberville of Bromford Living housing association advising 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.

Sue Ryder Care

The Clerk advised that at previous meetings the offer of a presentation from Duncan Willoughby from Sue Ryder Care had been welcomed but no action proposed. It was agreed that this might be a suitable topic for an Annual Parish Meeting address and would be considered in 2014. The Clerk was to respond to Mr Willoughby accordingly.

Government Oil Pipeline

The Clerk and Chairman confirmed that they had liaised over the positioning and notification details concerning the oil pipeline passing through the Playing Field and following the Clerk's correspondence with Fisher German everything had been confirmed as being in order.

Affordable Housing

The Clerk advised that he had been copied in on correspondence from Severn Voice to Mr Skill at the Stroud District Council Planning Department opposing a proposed affordable housing development in Slimbridge. The Clerk had responded advising that the views set out were not necessarily those of Whitminster Parish Council but that Council did share concerns in regard to the housing needs survey that had been carried out and also was not actively in support of the application. Also under this item the Chairman reported that he was in dialogue with the developers of the School Lane affordable development to ensure that the piping of the ditch adjoining the playing field and other matters are correctly attended to. It was also noted that the name Schoolfield Close was to be adopted.

05/02

Police & Community Safety Matters

The Neighbourhood Warden's reports for the previous month had been received by email and circulated. Still no response had been received from the District Council in reply to Council's letter concerning the Neighbourhood Warden Service. It was noted that the next SARA meeting would take place on 28th February and details had been received in respect of a recent South Cluster Group meeting. Cllr Jones reported that from a recent meeting he had gathered that the consultative groups were to be joined together in the near future. He also informed the meeting that changes were being made to parking fine administration with the function moving back to Ebley Mill from a shared department with Cotswold District Council. Other issues included work being undertaken to look into setting up a Dog Walkers Watch scheme and the possible purchase of an average speed camera.

06/02

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.12/2113/HHOLD Sandfurlong Cottage, Whitminster Lane (School Lane), Whitminster, Glos.
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey rear extension, 3 dormers to front elevation, porch canopy and single storey extension.

Permission granted.

S.12/2222/HHOLD 1 Manor Cottages, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of extension to link existing annex to main part of dwelling.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

None.

Village Design Statement

The meeting was opened to allow Mr Nick Peters to report that a meeting of the working group had recently taken place and March 9th had been set as a survey date to obtain more comments which would hopefully involve the school. It was hoped that the document would be finished in draft form by August. An application for grant funding from the District Council was also being pursued. It was confirmed that Marilyn Cox of GRCC would be speaking at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Other Planning Matters

The Clerk reported on email correspondence with Cllr Dennis Andrewartha of Stroud District Council in which he had asked for Council to advise where it could accommodate the up to 50 new residential units that it had agreed to take. The Clerk advised Mr Andrewartha that that was not the case and had asked how SDC had reached this conclusion. After an exchange of emails Cllr Andrewartha asked the Officers of the Council to provide further information and stated that he was determined that the Parish Council's view should prevail. It was noted that this was a rather odd exchange and nothing more had been heard since. Council reaffirmed its opinion that no additional

large scale development (i.e. anything more than infill plots) would be acceptable within the coming Local Plan period.

The Clerk gave a 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.

07/02

Highways & Byways

The continuing dialogue was reported between Councillor Jones, Mr Gray the Local Highways Manager and County Councillors Booth and Blackburn. It had become apparent that the idea of installing 'cheeses' at the A38 / Grove Lane junction was best pursued as part of an on-going review of the A38 and as a result the allocation of the County Councillor's highways fund was to be used to properly reinstate a sunken trench in The Close/Henry Withers Place. Some patching work may also be undertaken in School Lane if any money remains. Cllr Mrs Coleman also commented that the proposed cheeses for the junction may make the junction too narrow for buses and larger vehicles that can still use the lane. Cllr Paynter confirmed that he had been in touch with the County Council Public Rights of Way Officer on the matter of various issues recently discussed. As a result a footpath sign was being installed at the end of the dead end bridleway off School Lane and various way marker signs were being sent to Cllr Paynter which he had volunteered to install. He was also looking into the possibility of installing dog gates on certain routes within the village and the supplier of similar gates for the recent Arlingham footpaths project was being investigated. Cllr Hughes advised that he had looked at the ditch behind the A38 garage and Mr & Mrs Lyes' property and other than a discarded tyre could find no evidence of any blockage and Cllr Jones added that the matter of the ditch was being investigated by various officers at Stroud District Council and it was believed that the culvert beneath the A38 had been cleared out recently.

Confirmation of the naming of Schoolfield Close was received from the Street Naming & Numbering Officer. An email had been received from Moreton Valence PC attaching an email they had received from Mr Peters, a Whitminster resident. The Clerk had responded that his comments related to Moreton Valence and therefore would leave the issues raised as a matter for them to respond to should they so wish. It was noted that the majority, if not all, of the faulty street lights previously reported had been repaired. Finally on Highways and Byways the Clerk reported an email received from Mr McCrea of Henry Withers Place raising concerns about parking around the junction with School Lane. The Clerk had advised Mr McCrea that Council had previously raised concerns and the only way forward would appear to be for Mr McCrea and concerned residents to report each and every incident and concern to the police and other bodies as necessary. Council resolved that it had nothing further to add.

08/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The Clerk's expenses were paid in the sum of £217.69

General Overview and Other Matters

A request for a donation had been received from the Samaritans and it was agreed that this should be deferred until the relevant meeting at the end of the year. There had been no cheques drawn other than those previously reported and thus the bank balance remained unchanged.

Precept

The precept was reaffirmed at £11,484:00 being a reduction of £516:00 from the previous year but with the income receivable by Council remaining unchanged at £12,000:00 due to the Local Council Tax Support Grant to be received. Council's overall budget would remain unchanged for the coming year subject to consideration of certain items on a case by case basis.

09/02

Village Hall & Playing Field

Fields In Trust Designation

The Clerk advised that he was pursuing this matter with the appointed solicitor and Land Registry.

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.

10/02

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the month of January.

Clerks and Councils Direct.

Clerks and Councils Direct Yearbook and Suppliers Guide.

Information on the planned erection of Dog Control Order signs across the District.

Details of a vacancy at CPRE.

Information on a Gypsy and Traveller Awareness event.

Minutes of the last meeting of Severn Voice and the Agenda for the meeting scheduled for 28th March to be held at Frampton-on-Severn Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Copy correspondence with the Agent for the Uptons Gardens Management Company Limited – the Clerks actions were ratified.

Revive 2013 – flier.

Zurich Municipal – letter of introduction. As they had previously been invited to quote for insurance but had not put forward a price it was decided not to see their quotation again.

Notice of the planned Parish & Town Councils meeting scheduled for Ebley Mill on 27th February.

Invitation to a Community Asset event.

Invitation to attend a film screening by GlosVAIN.

Stroud District The News.

SDC survey on play facilities, orchards and allotments – as a similar survey had recently been completed and this form had been sent by a Councillor it was felt that this may be a political questionnaire and accordingly Council resolved that it should not be completed.

11/02

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones informed Council on various matters being dealt with by the District Council including the fact that the District Council budget was adopted by the current ruling groups after voting to prevent any discussion or debate by the opposition party.

12/02

Other Business

Cllr Mrs Gilmore agreed to undertake litter collection for the coming month.

To set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting

This was fixed as 9th May 2013 at 7:30pm.

13/02

Agenda Items for the next meeting

Cllr Mrs Coleman gave advance notice that when the appointment of a representative from the Parish Council to the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee is next

considered it will be her intention to stand down and therefore this will need to be an agenda item in due course.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.29pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 6th March, 2013.