

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY, 2013.

00/07

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gimlore (Vice-Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hay, Hughes and Paynter.

The Clerk and 3 members of the public were also present.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a group photo was taken to record the current membership of Council.

01/07

Apologies

An apology was received from County Councillor Tony Blackburn.

02/07

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Douglas declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 8. (v) on the Agenda as it was noted that he is a member of the Parochial Church Council. Cllr Mrs Gilmore declared an interest of a similar nature concerning Agenda Item 6. (b) as a planning application to be considered related to a property close to hers and she knew the neighbour as a friend.

It was noted that Cllr Hay had sent his Acceptance of Office forms to SDC but had not passed a copy to the Clerk. Cllr Jones agreed to collect a copy when next visiting Ebley Mill.

03/07

Minutes

The Minutes of the June meeting of the Parish Council were signed as a true record subject to two minor amendments that were made.

04/07

Matters Arising

Severn Voice – Schools Admission Policy

Whilst it was noted that the Clerk had issued a response to the paper prepared by Cllr Shaw from Arlingham Parish Council, Mr Shaw had offered to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to go through the proposals in detail. It was agreed that this offer would be taken up and that he would be invited to attend prior to the commencement of the August meeting at 7pm.

Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management

Details had been circulated at and between previous meetings. It was agreed that individual Councillors would be asked to review the documents and submit comments in line with the principle of supporting the Severn Voice position, this being to prioritise the continued maintenance and funding of the existing bank structures.

Village Hall & Playing Field

The annual safety inspection of the playing field and associated equipment had taken place and the report from The Play Inspection Company had been received. The Clerk sought instructions and clarity on the position regarding the cost of the inspection, as extended to include the risk posed by cricket balls, and the chain of responsibility in relation to this additional risk. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay in the first instance but the additional cost would be recovered from the Management Committee who would pass it on as appropriate. Further it was noted that all dealings arising from the previously reported cricket ball incident would be pursued by the Management

Committee and others. It was agreed that, if at all possible, a more simple way to formalise the Management Committees occupation of the Playing Field and Village Hall would be looked into. A meeting would be arranged to discuss the main aims and objectives.

05/07

Police & Community Safety Matters

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden's reports had been circulated around Council by email. The Warden, Phil Drew, had been in touch with the Chairman enquiring as to potential community jobs that could be undertaken by the Wardens within the Parish. The repainting of the bus shelters was proposed and would be suggested. There was no Police presence at the meeting. The half yearly Community Safety Panel meeting had taken place on 11th June and Cllr Jones had attended. He gave an overview of issues discussed and highlighted such as the common theft of catalytic convertors, encouragement to householders to use security lights and lock sheds during the holiday season and the new Paws on Patrol scheme. Generally it was reported that crime in Whitminster remains low other than antisocial behaviour issues and patrols continue to try and combat this. Cllr Jones' report in this regard was to be circulated. Cllr Paynter commented on continued issues concerning dog fouling an un-leashed dogs and Cllr Jones agreed to liaise with the Neighbourhood Warden and Dog Warden.

06/07

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.13/1253/OUT 1 Police Houses, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Revised consultation - Erection of detached dwelling in garden of existing dwelling.

Cllr Jones reported that he had attended and spoke at the DCC meeting, together with Cllr Mrs Gilmore and the applicant had been asked to submit a full application for further consideration. No formal notification had been received.

S.13/0236/HHOLD 25 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.

Proposed rear flat roof extension and garage conversion.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.13/1253/HHOLD 16 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.

Single storey front and rear extensions.

Council objected to this application as it would be out of character with the locality, would alter the street scene and would be imposing and cause a loss of light to the adjoining property.

S.13/1350/FUL Highfield Garden Centre, Whitminster, Glos.

Installation of external lighting.

Council objected to the proposals because of the type of lighting column proposed and their proximity to the A38. Council suggested that low level lighting should be used instead, to avoid potential light pollution and distraction to motorists, and also that it should be low energy.

S.13/1225/HHOLD 1 Moss Views, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Single storey garage extension.

Council objected to this application following a review of previous documentation, notably the Case Officer's Review dated 9/5/11. The history of the site had been long and Council had resisted the original proposals, being outside of the settlement boundary, in favour of more modest dwellings without garages and laid out in such a way so as not to impinge on adjacent, existing properties. It was felt that the extension of the property to provide a garage would reintroduce the building line to a position that would be and had previously been considered to be unacceptable.

Village Design Statement

Members of the steering group present advised that the draft document was being written up and it was hoped that the project would be completed by the autumn for submission to SDC.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones has visited the housing site adjacent to the playing field, Schoolfield Close, and school to raise issues regarding the fact that the adjoining ditch had not been piped as had been proposed and also highlighted the presence of dead elms. The issue was on-going although it was understood a licence was being sought for the piping of the ditch. There was no news on allocation of the new houses.

07/07

Highways & Byways

The Clerk had written to Eastington Parish Council regarding potholes at Nupend but it appeared that work had been scheduled in any event. The Chairman was still trying to get in touch with the snow plough operator. It was noted that grass cutting of verges was behind schedule for the time of year. The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr Turberville of the housing association, once again, regarding the conifers to the rear of Henry Withers' Place. A press release from the County Council had been forwarded by Cllr Blackburn highlighting achievements that had been made in opening up and improving access to bridleways providing circular routes for riders, cyclists and walkers. He was asking if there might be any similar projects in the village. Cllr Paynter was asked to liaise with Cllr Blackburn and the PROW office concerning the dead end bridleway leading off of School Lane. Cllr Jones had followed up on the fact that the central reservation of the A38 had not been attended to during recent grass cutting but this was due to the need for additional safety measures being required for this operation compared with the nearside verge and work was in hand. Cllr Jones reported that no progress had been made regarding the A38 left turn only order relating to traffic emerging from Grove Lane but a meeting was planned with Neil Carmichael MP, the Police & Crime Commissioner and Cllr Tony Blackburn to explore issues relating to the A38 in general and a report was expected thereafter. Some general statistics relating to average speeds on the A38 were read out and circulated. The Clerk had not received any copy correspondence from Michelle Dale who had made contact and had agreed to write to Highways regarding the A38 junction. Cllr Paynter reviewed the draft letter and plans that the Clerk had prepared to send to Mrs Teasdale regarding cutting back overgrowth around a kissing gate and installing dog gates adjoining stiles situated on her land. Cllr Jones advised the meeting that he had been in contact with SDC regarding the Poplar trees at the entrance to The Close and as they were not looking healthy an inspection had been requested.

08/07

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

Broker Network Ltd	£671.82	Insurance
National Playing Fields Assoc.	£25.00	Membership

General Overview

The bank balance as at 10th June 2013 had been confirmed at £11,586.08

Insurance

The insurance policy had been renewed with Came & Co (Broker Network) in accordance with the fixed term agreement. A letter requesting financial support had been received from the Cotswold Care Hospice and would be considered at the appropriate meeting together with other requests received throughout the year. Further details were awaited from Mrs Tricia Hay as to how the Parish Council might be able to support the Friends of Whitminster School. Email correspondence

was received from SDC asking Council to select a preferred option for the use of funds remaining from the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2013/14.

Skate Ramp

It was agreed that in the first instance a quote for repair of the skate ramp would be sought and the Clerk and Chairman had thoughts on two companies to be approached. Cllr Hay put forward suggestions as to alternative equipment that could be considered if a repair does not appear to be economic.

Lawn Mower Purchase

It was agreed that Cllr Douglas could proceed with the purchase of a lawn mower for use at the Churchyard as per the previously agreed budget. A Viking mower was the likely preferred choice costing £309 incl VAT at Countrywide Stores in Gloucester.

09/07

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the month of June.

Report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn on highways matters and broadband speeds.

Email providing information on the Penderels Trust and the support it can provide.

Details relating to the Stroud District recycling video.

The News from SDC.

HAGS MP Parish & Community News.

Information on Frampton Country Fair 2013 including various footpath and road closures.

Email of introduction from an arboricultural contractor.

Email exchange from SDC regarding the proposed siting of recycling banks in the Village Hall car park which had been turned down by the Management Committee between meetings.

Email exchange with GAPTC in which the Clerk advised that the Council had previously resolved not to participate in the Stroud District 'Working Together' Agreement.

Chartered Parish Group meeting agenda, minutes and future dates.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Details of the next meeting of Severn Voice to take place in Saul on 23rd September at 7:30pm.

Information relating to a GCC Flooding Survey.

Details of the SDC Youth Grant Funding Programme.

NHS Trust flier.

SDC update on recycling calendars.

10/07

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones updated Council on various matters relating to the District Council including the change from a cabinet style to a committee led administration. Cllr Jones also updated the meeting on information regarding war memorial after he had investigated ownership with the District Council. This remained unclear but it was agreed that the Parish Council was not minded to take on responsibility.

11/07

Other Business

Cllrs Douglas and Mrs Coleman apologised as they would not be present for the August meeting.

The SDC Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy was circulated and it was agreed that members would comment individually. The matter of the War Memorial listed under Other Business was considered under Chairman's Items. Cllr Paynter suggested that when reviewing equipment on the playing field in the future it may be appropriate to consider outside gym equipment. It was noted

that Cllr Mrs Gilmore had been appointed as Parish Council representative on the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee.

12/07

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7th August, 2013.