

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL, 2014.

00/04

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hay, Hughes and Paynter. The Clerk was also present together with 8 members of the public in attendance.

01/04

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Blackburn.

02/04

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jones and Douglas declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 4 (ii) concerning the Village Hall & Playing Field. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Gilmore is the Parish Council representative on the Management Committee.

03/04

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th March 2014 were signed as a true record without amendment.

04/04

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Jones reported that he had heard from Upton St Leonards Parish Council and could confirm that there was not any prospect of pursuing a joint project as that Parish would be pursuing its own independent bid for Heritage Lottery Fund grant aid. He had also heard from Lisa Hinkley, Head Teacher at the village school. She confirmed the School's interest to become involved with any project to refurbish the area around the war memorial and in giving an educational perspective to an application for grant aid. She hoped that this would link in with the new curriculum for history and that it could work into the autumn term starting in September and said she would be in touch again during late summer. It was agreed that the Clerk would collate the various grant aid paperwork and a plan as to how to proceed would be formulated by the new Council after the May elections. Cllr Jones suggested there could be an opportunity to involve the County Archivist.

Village Hall & Playing Field

The Clerk reported that he had confirmed to those concerned that Council would not be proceeding with the grant of a lease or licence to the Management Committee. It was also agreed that the registration of a charge to the benefit of Fields In Trust would not be completed and the file would be closed. The Clerk advised that he was following matters up with WSP Solicitors to resolve the situation concerning the proposed lease of land adjoining the school that was being taken by the Management Committee to enable the playing field access to be widened. It had been suggested that the Parish Council would need to be party to the agreement but no correspondence had been received.

05/04

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime figures for the month of March had been received from PCSO Lifton. There had been 14 incidents but only 3 crimes in the area with 2 in Whitminster. One was damage to the skate ramp and the other was property that had gone missing from a car at Highfield garden centre. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden was on holiday. A recent SARA meeting had taken place and the Grove Lane/A38 junction had been reinstated as a priority for the area. Attempts were still being made to resolve various issues within The Close mainly concerning parking and the use of a garage structure for vehicle repairs. It was understood that planning matters had been investigated but were in order and consideration was being given to the issues by the Environmental Health department at Stroud District Council and other research and liaison was ongoing. Finally on this item Council was advised that the annual inspection of the skate ramp and playground equipment had been booked in with Cllr Jones to be present to accompany the inspector.

06/04

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.14/0086/FUL Orchard View, School Lane, Whitminster.

Demolition of garage and erection of single garage with new vehicular access. (Resubmission)
Permission granted.

S.14/0007/FUL Church Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster.

Erection of new two storey dwelling to replace existing dwelling (replacing previously approved application).

Permission granted.

Cllr Jones advised that a planning consent had been granted in respect of No. 10 Little Holbury, School Lane, Whitminster but no notification had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.14/0629/HHOLD Orchard View, School Lane, Whitminster.

Two storey extension to side of property.

Council resolved to support this application.

2014/0708/EIAS Land at School Lane, Whitminster

A request had been received by the District Council for an Environmental Screening Opinion on land at School Lane adjoining Schoolfield Close. The general details suggested any subsequent application would be for 100 dwellings, A1 retail unit of up to 300 m² and associated parking. Cllr Jones had responded on behalf of Council between meetings and a copy of his response was circulated. The Clerk had circulated the request between meetings and Cllr Jones had taken on board any general or previous observations regarding future development and the site in particular. Consideration was given to the level of detail to be given in response to such requests so as not to identify Council's objections at too early the stage in any planning application process. It was also noted that a consultation event had been organised by Pegasus Group in respect of their proposals for the above site. Council had been invited to visit the display that was arranged at the Whitminster Inn and had been informed of a leaflet drop taking place around the village. Individual Councillors had visited the display but Council resolved not to comment or respond as a Council.

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

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

Details had been received of a Residents Meeting taking place on 14th March to discuss the anticipated planning application for development at Parklands Farm. Following the presentation given by Hannaby Planning Solutions and others the Clerk had drafted and circulated a letter to Mr Hannaby confirming Council's objection to any development outside of the settlement boundary but

making constructive comments on the scheme that had been prepared. This had been agreed and sent. Mr Hannaby had responded and had made changes based on various feedback and this had included:

- The number of dwellings backing onto School Lane had been reduced by 1 and the proposed dwelling to the centre of this group reduced in height to a barn style unit.
- Gardeners Cottage was to be retained.
- An area for allotments was to be included with the size and position to be agreed.
- 4 of the 10 affordable units had been increased in size to 3 bedrooms.

It was understood that similar information had been sent to the organisers of the residents' meeting and Mr Hannaby advised a planning application was anticipated to be lodged with the District Council very shortly. The application had since been registered as above. Cllr Jones advised that he would make enquiries but it was most likely that due to the elections in May the application would not be considered until the DCC meeting in July. In the meantime it was resolved that Council should seek assistance in formally submitting its anticipated objections and initial advice and a quotation should be obtained from a suitable qualified planning consultant. It was agreed that Mark Snook Planning should initially be contacted as a local firm and being knowledgeable of the Local Plan and current situation within the District. Council was greatly concerned at the impact of the development in terms of its sustainability and the harm it might do to the local environment and amenity of nearby residents. The matter would be reported on further at the Annual Parish Meeting and June meeting of the Parish Council.

Village Design Statement

It was reported that refinement of the VDS was being considered following the initial comments of Conrad Moore at SDC. The Clerk advised that he had made contact with SDC and submitted the claim for £500 grant aid in this respect.

Other Planning Matters

Within this item Cllr Jones reported on his ongoing efforts to secure the proper completion of the Schoolfield Close affordable housing site and he hoped that all issues had either been attended to or would soon be in hand. He also circulated information supplied to District Councillors by Mr Wyatt of the Planning Department concerning the limited basis of objection that exists in respect of new development and foul sewerage system connections.

It was noted that future SDC planning notices would be published in the Stroud News & Journal and Gazette rather than Stroud Life. Correspondence had been received from Claire Snow of SDC seeking a 'Project Wish List' of community project ideas to aid the District Council in negotiations with prospective developers. Cllr Jones had agreed to respond and focus on the proposed replacement Playing Field Pavilion.

In light of the various speculative applications being submitted throughout the District and the current and potential applications for the Parish and Council's experience to date, the Clerk questioned whether adopting the GRCC Parish Planning Protocol was a sensible action. He expressed concerns that it acted simply as a means for developers to obtain and hence mitigate objections at an early stage rather than allowing any significant benefit to the Parish. However, it was agreed that confirmation of adoption should be sent to GRCC.

Cllr Jones circulated a list of current SDC Local Plan policies that might be of relevance to the Parish and of use in responding to current or future planning applications.

07/04

Highways & Byways

Cllr Mrs Gilmore reported that dog fouling continued to be a problem in the Paynes Meadow area. Other issues commented on included the tree stumps remaining in The Close/Vaisey Field, the litter

bin at the junction of Hyde Lane and School Lane, that had recently been fixed to a new base and the ditch at Schoolfield Close that was accumulating litter.

An update was received from GCC regarding the transfer of the GCC Highways Contract to Skanska.

Various emails had been received and circulated from Cllr Blackburn regarding the proposed resurfacing and safety works planned for the A38.

There was nothing further to report regarding the installation of proposed new dog gates/flaps on certain footpaths.

08/04

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following payments were agreed and made:

Cotswold Care Hospice	£50.00	Donation
SPAN Magazine	£200.00	Donation
Air Ambulance	£50.00	Donation
D Lord	£3936.00	Charges and expenses
Viking	£67.84	Stationery

General Overview

The Clerk reported a balance at the bank as at 2nd April 2014 of £7,330.11

A request for a donation was received from St John ambulance and it was agreed that this would be deferred for consideration at the relevant meeting.

09/04

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

CPRE newsletter and magazine.

Notice for meeting of Severn Voice held on 24th March.

Various notices and information regarding Parish, District and European elections.

Invitation to join a Rural Sounding Board.

Notice from Revd Amys that he would once again take over as editor of SPAN.

Derails of a GAPTC allotment management event.

Consultation information on a Severn Rivers Trust project.

Information on the role of the Democratic Services Officer at Glos County Council.

10/04

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones reported on the meeting of Severn Voice advising that 90% of the area would soon have broadband of a speed of 2MB. A letter had been sent to Owen Paterson MP calling for changes to revert back to the National Rivers Authority from the Environment Agency and other subjects touched on were the Local Plan and Boundary Review.

Cllr Jones also advised that he had been invited to join a Rural Sounding Board aimed at conducting surveys and providing a collective voice for rural councils.

11/04

Other Business

Cllr Mrs Gilmore agreed to take on litter picking duties for the coming month.

The Clerk noted that some consideration may need to be given in respect of standing orders and authority for signature in respect of leases/licences pertaining to the playing field.

It was noted that as matters stood and with elections taking place during May there would not be a further meeting of the Parish Council until the first Wednesday of June.

12/04

Future Agenda Items

It was noted that an Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting would need to be agreed at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:48pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4th June, 2014.