

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER, 2014.

00/08

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hay, Hughes and Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 6 members of the public in attendance at the start reducing to 2 as the meeting progressed. Bev Hemming, Business Development Manager, of Third Sector Services

01/08

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paynter.

02/08

Declarations of Interest

None.

03/08

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2nd July 2014 were signed as a true record subject to two amendments within 06/07 and 07/07.

04/08

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Peters reported that together with Cllr Jones he had been to see the Head Teacher at the village school regarding the school's proposed involvement in the commemoration project. It had been agreed that the children would undertake a project of research into the background of those named on the war memorial (believed to be 7 in number) and this would be used to create a display board. It was hoped the information board could be affixed to the railings between the memorial and the A38 if appropriate permissions could be obtained. Cllr Peters had researched a local designer, Chris Bailey, from Middle Street, Stroud and a sign company, Shelley Signs, and the Clerk was to obtain more detailed costings so a grant application could be put together. It was thought an A2 size sign would cost in the order of £350 plus VAT. Meanwhile Cllr Jones was to ask Greenfields to update their quote for work to the paving slabs around the memorial and the Clerk would also obtain quotes for new notice boards to see if some replacements could be purchased as part of the project.

Local Bus Services

Bev Hemming, Business Development Manager from Third Sector Services, had attended prior to the start of the meeting and gave an overview of the community transport services the organisation can offer. Originally her attendance was planned to widen awareness to generate more users and possibly to identify potential volunteer drivers. However, the discussion had focused on the 242 Service from Arlingham to Stroud that was being run by Third Sector on behalf of the County Council. Complaints had been previously received by Council that the service was often full by the time it reached the parish. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Mr Barrett at the County Council asking for a larger vehicle to be supplied. In regard to a proposed trial of the existing vehicle returning for a second trip it was asked that this should be scheduled rather than on demand and that the trial should be for a long enough period and sufficiently well publicised to attract back those potential passengers that had given up on the service. With regard to the original reasons for the

visit by Third Sector, various leaflets were distributed and Cllr Jones agreed to arrange for information to appear in SPAN.

Potential Village Green

The Clerk had sought some clarification following the brief discussion at the end of the last meeting. Cllr Hay confirmed that being aware that residents in part of the village were investigating the possible creation of a village green or seeking the registration of an area as an asset of community value this ought to be something the Council may wish to consider. Various areas of land within the village were discussed together the proposed site for a village green that had been included within a previous draft Local Plan. It was agreed that the matter would remain on future agendas, Cllr Hay would report any further developments to Council and Council would retain a watching brief. Cllr Jones also agreed to find out what information he could from SDC regarding registering Assets of Community Value.

Parish Project Aspirations

The following possible projects were identified at the last meeting and notified to the SDC Regeneration Officer :

- Outdoor gym equipment – possibly to include table tennis.
- Additional children's play equipment (for the over 5s) namely swings.
- Replacement playing field pavilion (estimated cost circa £300,000).

The Clerk confirmed that he would write to County Councillor Blackburn to see if grant funding might still be available for one or other of the projects from his allocated budget. Meanwhile Cllrs Hay and Paynter were looking into suitable items of equipment for an outdoor gym and suggestes were to also be requested via SPAN.

05/08

Police & Community Safety Matters

Cllr Jones advised that he had received an update regarding the offenders who had set light to the skate board ramp. Following a court hearing they had received cautions and had been compelled to carry out 10 hours each of community service. This had started with litter picking on site and painting of the skate ramp undertaken. The offenders were not allowed to work off of the ground and so the painting of higher parts of the skate ramp was to be carried out by Cllr Douglas and Hughes who had kindly volunteered. On the subject of the Playing Field, Cllr Jones confirmed that work was progressing with the driveway widening and the existing hedge was due to be removed the following day. Cllr Jones had also received some basic crime records from PCSO Lifton and these were read out together with an update on the proposal to re-start a Severnside Cluster Group to which a small number of positive replies had been given. Cllr Mrs Gilmore, following on from comments at the last meeting, reported that she had found the Police 101 number to be of very little use. During a recent incident when a road was blocked in the Parish she had been unable to reach anyone to provide any assistance.

06/08

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.14/1079/OUT Land at 1Paynes Meadow Erection of 2 dwellings.

This application had been withdrawn.

Applications to Consider

S.14/1650/HHOLD Halsey Cottage Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 7NP
Single and two-storey extensions.

Council commented on this application suggesting that the proposed metal roof covering was inappropriate and should be replaced with either slate or tile but otherwise supported the proposal in principle.

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

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

The following comments were re-appraised and maintained as points of objection to the above application:

- The site is identified on the local biodiversity plan and the NPPF states that Local Planning Authorities should take note of such matters.
- The estimate of 20 cars accessing and egressing the site during peak hours is low but even this number will have a notable impact given the prevailing issues with parking in the vicinity of the school and safety concerns at the A38 crossroads.
- The capacity of the school, the ability of the school to take additional pupils and expand to meet such need and the calculations of the County Council in arriving at the number of potential additional pupils were all questioned.
- Overlooking issues were raised as was the fact that the application was in outline form and hence the design and positioning of any residential units could change significantly at the detailed stage. Particularly if taken forward by an alternative developer.
- SDC by its own assessment considers Whitminster to be an unsustainable location.
- G1 – Loss of light, privacy and intrusion into the countryside – in connection with the impact on existing dwellings and the amenity the site currently offers.
- G5 – Detrimental to highway safety – in connection with existing safety issues pertaining to School Lane and the A38 junction.
- HN16 – Protection of open spaces – the area being a valuable open space and providing a vista from the village.
- HN10 – Development outside of settlement boundary – this would be development outside of the village's defined and tested settlement boundary.
- GE12 – Development affecting listed buildings – the proposed development would impact on the setting of the listed building as well as the view to and from the Industrial Heritage Corridor surrounding the canal. It was also noted that no detailed proposals had been made to bring the listed building back into good order and use.
- CP3 & CP14 – Sustainability issues – in relation to other larger settlements that could accommodate additional housing and the relevant tier 3 village status.

It was noted that further information had been requested by the LPA from the applicant and this was awaited. Council would seek final advise once all supporting information had been supplied and it was expected that formal objections would therefore be submitted during September.

Local Plan

Cllr Jones provided an update advising that the Inspectors request for more information on certain aspects of the draft plan and consultation was being dealt with.

Village Design Statement

Following final comments on the Village Design Statement some amendments were being made before adoption and publication. Copies had been circulated around Council and the only comment made was from Cllr Douglas in regard to the clarity of some of the photographs. It was hoped that the plan would be adopted at the September meeting.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones reported that the Parish Council's adoption of the Pre-Application Development Consultation Protocol had not been registered because further information that was needed by SDC had not been circulated to all Council's by Elin Tattersall of GRCC and this was being rectified.

07/08

Highways & Byways

A38 Works

It was noted that the work to the A38 was progressing well although there had been delays due to the weather.

Signage

Following on from the last meeting when Cllr Peters suggested that it would be appropriate for the sign at the access to The Close and Henry Withers Place, leading on to Vaisey Field and Paynes Meadow, to be renewed it was noted that a similar replacement sign at the School Lane end of Hyde Lane was proposed and the Clerk confirmed he would add this to the request.

Verge Adjacent to Little Holbury

Cllr Jones re-appraised Council of his various dealings with local residents and the County Council Highways Dept regarding the maintenance of the verge that had been previously undertaken by contractors working for Persimmon. Following the last meeting a quotation had been received from SGMS to cut the area in question at a cost of £40 plus VAT per cut.

Other Highway Matters

Cllrs Jones informed Council that he had heard the Highways Area Supervisor, Mr Portlock, was being made redundant. Various overgrown hedges impinging on roadways and pavements around the village were discussed and Cllr Jones agreed to bring them to the attention of neighbourhood Warden, Phil Drew. A member of the public asked who should be contacted in order to arrange for the weed growth in The Lagger to be addressed and he was referred to the PROW department. Cllr Jones advised that he had attended the recent highways meeting. Other issues discussed included trees on amenity land requiring attention, raised by Cllr Douglas, and footpaths in the village requiring reinstatement across fields. However, no action was proposed in either regard. Finally it was agreed that consideration would be given to printing additional copies of the Parish Walks Guide and the Clerk was to look into the costs of printing.

08/08

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following payments were considered, agreed and cheques drawn during the meeting:

Mr M Woodward	£194.00	Skate ramp repairs
Fields in Trust	£50.00	Membership

General Overview

The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £8,425.95 as per the last statement received but a recent statement was awaited to detail the account activity of the past month. The Clerk also reported that the Audit forms had been completed and submitted to Grant Thornton and a request for additional information was anticipated.

09/08

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Neil Carmichael MP news sheet and contact details.

Environment Agency newsletter – Life on the bank.

SLCC membership details.

CPRE Field Work magazine.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine.

Information on first aid skills from St John Ambulance.

10/08

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones gave an overview of how matters were progressing in respect of the ongoing Boundary Commission Review being carried out on the District. The ruling parties had voted in favour of maintaining the number of Councillors at no fewer than 51 Other issues he reported on included the fact that the District waste collection contract would be due for re-letting in 2016 and that Phil Sullivan, responsible for Community Safety matters at SDC was retiring.

11/08

Other Business

It was noted that the matter of the proposed incinerator/waste from energy plant at Javelin Park was still receiving consideration from the Secretary of State, Mr Pickles. A copy of the playing field safety inspection had been received but Cllr Jones had not been invited to attend as had been requested. Cllr Jones had raised a query in this regard with the company and it was agreed the report would be considered further at the next meeting.

12/08

Future Agenda Items

Cllr Douglas informed Council that the clock on the Parish Church had broken. Repairs would be expensive with the cost of just the necessary scaffolding being very significant. He asked if a donation could be considered and it was agreed to place the matter on the next agenda.

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

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd September, 2014.