

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH, 2014.

00/03

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Mrs Coleman, Douglas, Hay, Hughes and Paynter. The Clerk was also present together with approximately 40 members of the public in attendance for the start of the meeting, reducing to 3 by the end.

01/03

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Jones as whilst not a member of the Parish Council she would not be present to report on any issues pertaining to the Playing Field.

02/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jones and Douglas declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 (ii) concerning the Village Hall & Playing Field. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Gilmore is the Parish Council representative on the Management Committee.

03/03

Minutes

The Minutes of the February 5th meeting of the Parish Council were signed as a true record subject to 3 amendments.

04/03

Presentation by Mr Hannaby & Mr Davies on Proposals for 30 New Dwellings at Parklands Farm

A request had been made by Mr Hannaby (planning consultant) to put forward proposals to the Parish Council, on behalf of his client, for the development of land at Parklands Farm to include restoration of the existing listed building. The request was to facilitate consultation ahead of the proposed submission of a formal planning application. Mr Davies (architect) also attended and gave a presentation detailing the proposed property types, the overall concept of the proposed development, features taken into consideration and vistas toward the site. The meeting convened early to facilitate this and was opened to allow public comment and questions. The majority of the issues voiced by the public concerned the positioning of proposed new dwellings in relation to the rear of properties located along School Lane. Council resolved to consider its response within the Planning agenda item later in the meeting.

05/03

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Jones advised that he had nothing further to report on this matter.

Village Hall & Playing Field

The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing more from Jonathan Dawson (specialist solicitor) and as had been previously discussed had not pursued the matter further. He had heard from Mr Mundy of Roger James Clements and Partners with a summary of the current situation. It was agreed that the Fields In Trust documentation and registration would not proceed to complete and no further action would be taken in respect of the proposed lease to the Management Committee. This was

because it was determined that the current status quo provided adequate protection for all. Mr Mundy was to be asked to submit his account for work done and close the file. Meanwhile information was awaited from the solicitors acting on behalf of the Management Committee in respect of the licence being taken over land at the school to widen the Playing Field access road. There was the possibility that the Parish Council may be asked to be party to the agreement.

06/03

Highways & Byways

A letter was received from the Principal Rights of Way Officer setting out answers to various common questions that were raised at a recent meeting concerning the award of the Public Rights of Way contract from the County Council to Amey. This was circulated as was a paper copy of the presentation that had been given at the meeting.

Cllr Jones had met with Mr Portlock, Area Highway Supervisor, and had identified a number of issues within the village requiring attention. These were summarised within any email he had sent following up from the meeting and it was agreed this would be circulated within the correspondence pack. Cllr Jones had also met with representatives of the police and Daniel Tiffney, Local Highway Manager, regarding issues in The Close in relation to problem parking and untaxed vehicles. Investigations had revealed that the majority of the area in question was highway land and therefore it was hoped that various organisations would now work together to resolve this issue.

Cllr Mrs Coleman advised that the proposed lowering of a kerb, to assist mobility scooter users, to the footway adjacent to the A38 south bound carriageway had not been completed.

Cllr Mrs Gilmore reported issues regarding dog fouling in Paynes Meadow and overgrowing trees at a property neighbouring hers. She was dealing with the latter matter.

For information, Cllr Jones advised that the diseased pear tree in The Close/Vaisey Field would soon be removed.

Finally, it was noted that the A38 Highways Consultation event held on 25th February had been a positive and well attended afternoon.

07/03

Police & Community Safety Matters

Cllr Jones reiterated the fact reported under Highways & Byways above, being that he was liaising with the Police and Highways to seek a resolution to the issues arising from the apparent commercial use of garage premises accessed off The Close/Henry Wither's Place.

08/03

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.13/2805/HHOLD The Old Post Office, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.
Single storey extension to rear and internal alterations.

Permission granted.

S.14/0421/HHOLD 10 Little Holbury, Whitminster, Glos.

First floor extension.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

None.

Village Design Statement

It was reported that the VDS had been considered initially by Conrad Moore at SDC who had recommended some further work in certain areas. The Clerk advised that he had made contact with SDC regarding the claim of up to £500 grant aid that had been agreed and the Chairman and Clerk would liaise over submitting the final claim for payment.

Other Planning Matters

A copy of the response given by Cllr Jones in reply to the request from SDC for Council to comment on the EIA Screening Opinion request it had received concerning the proposed Parklands site was to be circulated. Further concerning the Parklands Farm site the issues raised during the presentation given earlier in the meeting were discussed. Notwithstanding the fact that Council would wish to maintain its object to any new development outside of the existing Settlement Boundary the following comments were made:

- At least 2 car parking spaces per dwelling, plus visitor parking, should be provided.
- Affordable housing, 1/3rd of the total, should be spread around the site and of mixed tenure including shared ownership with an opportunity to purchase increasing shares.
- Access should be taken off of School Lane with Gardeners Cottage being retained but appropriate traffic calming measures and a safe means of crossing the road being installed.
- Allotments should be included within the development instead of or to complement the proposed community orchard.
- The open aspect should be maintained.
- Instead of on site play provision a S.106 sum should be agreed to contribute towards enhancing existing facilities within the village.

It was agreed that the clerk would draft a letter to be approved by the Chairman and circulated around Council.

Within this item Cllr Jones reported on his ongoing efforts to secure the proper completion of the Schoolfield Close affordable housing site. The Neighbourhood Warden had recently collected litter from the adjoining ditch and Cllr Jones was in discussion with the County Council to get the culvert jetted through.

09/03

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

Whiteway Electrical £668.0 Installation of generator switchgear at Village Hall - £300.00 donation from WPC, £300.00 to be recovered from SDC and £68.00 to be reimbursed by Management Committee

General Overview

The Clerk reported a balance at the bank as at 6th January 2014 of £7,309.88

10/03

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Aon Insurance – marketing letter.

Gloucestershire Charter – group meeting agenda for 13th March meeting together with Minutes of last meeting.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

CPRE Branch AGM information and newsletter.

11/03

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

None.

12/03

Other Business

It was noted that a meeting of Severn Voice was scheduled to take place at the Village Hall on 21st March with rural broadband, the Severn Estuary Management Plan and the proposed boundary review for the District Council being key agenda items.

13/03

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 9:30pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 2nd April, 2014.