

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 1st April, 2015.

Public Forum

15 minutes were allowed for public question and comment at the start of the meeting. The Following issues were raised:

- Mr G Wilks wished to make his objection know to any new residential development proposed that might take access through The Close because of the existing problems with car parking and access. He also commented on the sewage system serving the village being overloaded.
- A resident passed further comment on any development of the land bounded by Paynes Meadow, Vaisey Field and Hyde Lane asking if any likely timescales were known and whether access could be found off of Hyde Lane. An explanation was given of the discussions had with the land owner and his agent when it was explained that Hyde Lane was not suitable to provide access and a planning application was anticipation during the course of this year. The resident also asked if any news had been heard concerning the current application for three dwellings off of Hyde Lane and Cllr Jones responded that it was his understanding that the Planning Office dealing with the matter was minded to refuse consent.
- Mr Wilks added further comments highlighting the fact that many families with small children had moved into Vaisey Field because it was a quiet no through road.
- Another resident asked if it was known who owned the land that had been the main subject of public comment. It was reaffirmed that Council had been approached by Mr Attwooll. A supplemental question related to the potential number of houses and it was advised that 35-40 might be proposed although the owner's agent suggested that the site could possibly accommodate up to 50 units. It was understood that maintaining the footpath route and other issues imposed restrictions.
- A resident posed the question 'Would Whitminster still remain a village?' as a result of all planned and proposed development.

00/04

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hay, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 6 members of the public.

01/04

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes who was unable to attend having suffered a fall.

02/04

Declarations of Interest

None.

03/04

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th March, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to amendments, raised by Cllr Jones, as follows:

- 10/03 – last line – 'at' replaced with 'near'.

- 11/03 – Annual Parish Meeting – 2nd line ‘quest’ changed to ‘guest’.

Cllr Peters raised a question in clarification regarding why the Parish Council had made a payment for the hire of the Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was explained that the Parish Council meeting dates are free of charge but the APM is not a Parish Council Meeting and hence a charge is levied.

04/04

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Peters reported that he would be meeting with Cllr Jones to judge the work of the school children in regard to this project. Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had been through the school log book for 1914 which was interesting reading. The operation of the school had been structured very much in accordance with the direction of the Vicar at the time. The Clerk reported there had been no news on the initial grant aid submission but Council had been informed at the outset that it might take a considerable time. The Clerk agreed to follow up.

Walkers Welcome Scheme

Cllr Peters advised Council that he had not been able to put an article about his proposal in SPAN for the current edition but it would be in the following month. He was also planning to put some details on the website and Cllr Jones suggested he should outline the scheme at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Village Defibrillator

Cllr Hay asked if there was any update on the proposed equipment for the village that the owners of the Whitminster Inn announced, in the local press, they would be supplying from a fundraising event. Cllr Jones reported that he had not heard anything more from either Mr or Mrs McGoldrick.

Chartered Parish Meeting

Cllr Mrs Gilmore had attended the recent meeting and raised Council’s concerns regarding the recent work undertaken to the A38. The comments were noted but the focus of the meeting was mainly on Care and Community issues.

05/04

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were received and read out. There had been a recent burglary as well as thefts from garages and sheds in the area and Cllr Jones urged residents to review their security.

Other Matters

The Clerk reported that that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s meeting planned for 21st April had been postponed and details were awaited as to a new date. Cllr Peters reported that he had attended the Panel Meeting in Slimbridge. Three priority tasks had been agreed upon but none related to the Whitminster area. He went on to say that it was hoped in the future the meeting could include the Neighbourhood Wardens and encourage the participation of younger people. He concluded by discussing new dog fouling signs. Cllr Jones advised that the existing Neighbourhood Warden Scheme was under review by Stroud District Council.

06/04

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.14/2901/FUL Land at 1 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.
Residential development with revised access and associated works.
Permission granted.

S.15/0119/CPL Ivydene, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.
Certificate of Proposed Lawful Use/Development – Single storey rear domestic extension/
Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.15/0553/HHOLD Church Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Glos.
Addition of two storey extension and conservatory.

Council resolved to support the application being in keeping with the property in terms of design, scale and materials and having no detrimental impact on any neighbours.

S.15/0702/FUL Highfield Garden World, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.
Erection of a replacement shop and canopy.

Council requested an extension to the time period for commenting on this application as although notification had been received there were no details uploaded to the Local Planning Authority website on which to comment.

S.15/0532/HHOLD Rose Cottage, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.
Two storey extension.

Council had received representations from a neighbour along with copies of documents supplied to the planning officer dealing with the matter. After careful consideration Council resolved that its comments should be limited only to the nature of the application. Whilst Council felt the proposed development appeared sizeable for the site and significantly increased the footprint of the building it was decided to pass no comments on the design or scale but to ask that in determining the application the Planning Authority has due regard to the setting of the nearby listed buildings and ensures that boundary features are preserved if consent is granted.

S.15/0581 Land at 1 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.
Discharge of condition.

Whilst Council had been notified of this matter it had no comments to make.

Land Adjoining Paynes Meadow/Vaisey Field

Consideration was given to the proposals outlined by Mr Attwooll and his agent of Evans Jones. In light of recent larger scale applications in the village and the fact that, in principle, Council is against further development and such development would be outside the settlement boundary/village envelope, Council felt it would not be appropriate to engage in dialogue prior to an application being submitted. It was also considered appropriate to seek guidance from the Local Planning Authority as to how such an application might be considered in context with other recent applications and the progress being made with the Stroud Local Plan. Accordingly it was agreed the Cllr Jones would liaise with Ms Simkiss of SDC and the Clerk would not provide any response to Evans Jones for the time being until the wider context could be considered.

Other Planning Matters

Council had been made aware of a Planning Enforcement Report concerning Land at 12 Holbury Crescent, Whitminster. Work had commenced to a site for a single dwelling without the conditions of the consent being complied with. Council noted that enforcement action was being recommended. On the subject of enforcement, it was noted that engineering works had been carried out in the formation of hard standing on land abutting the south bound A38 carriageway between the cross-roads and the roundabout. It was agreed that this should be raised with the enforcement team at SDC. Details were received of the Standish Draft Planning Concept Statement concerning proposals for the former hospital site. A consultation was ongoing and Cllrs were invited to respond individually if interested. Cllr Douglas questioned the ownership of the land at 1 Paynes Meadow and the positioning of the fence that had been erected but this was considered not to be a matter of Council's concern.

07/04

Highways & Byways

A38 Road Surface

There was nothing more to report on this matter.

Other Highway Matters

Cllr Jones reported that he had been following up the replacement of the bollards at the entrance to Schoolfield Close and understood they would be reinstated prior to the final site sign-off. He also informed Council that he had been in touch with local resident Mr Smith who had agreed to repair the fence between Paynes Meadow and the A38 (previously erected by Council) that had been damaged when a stolen motorcycle was taken through it. The cost was estimated to be around £100 for materials and this was agreed. County Council Blackburn had written to Council by email drawing attention to the proposals for boater operated bridges on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. Cllr Jones advised that this was being discussed at a forthcoming meeting of Severn Voice and a consultation was also planned. Correspondence had been received regarding the Councillors Focus Group meeting on this subject scheduled for 27th April. Cllr Jones also reported on his recent tour of the village with Yakub Mulla of the County Council Highways Dept and notes of various matters discussed had been circulated by email. An email was received from Mr Welberry suggesting the installation of an ANPR type system to monitor the enforcement of the Grove Lane left turn only order.

08/04

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

Clerk's remuneration and expenses £3622.73

General Overview & Other Matters

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank as at the date of the last statement was £7,019.61 with the first precept payment of the new financial year anticipated shortly. Notification of Audit had been received from Grant Thornton and the audit date for 2014/2015 was set as 29th June 2015.

09/04

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Details of a survey on bus use from Gloucestershire County Council.

GRCC/SDC Stroud District Newsletter.

Information on GAPTC courses and topic updates.

Details of traffic cone offers.

Came & Company Council Matters magazine.

Draft Agenda for the meeting of Severn Voice planned for 13th April and Minutes of the last meeting.

10/04

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones gave an update on matters concerning Stroud District Council mainly focusing on the new arrangements planned for waste collection in an enterprise in partnership with other local authorities. It was noted that food waste collection is likely to be introduced. He also reviewed the

ongoing Boundary Commission review of the Stroud District and reaffirmed his view that Slimbridge should not be grouped with Berkeley and should remain within the current District Ward. Finally he summarised the recent Environment Committee report on the Review of the Options for the Disposal of Dog Waste. Cllr Jones also confirmed that Ken Burgin, CEO of the Cotswold Canal Trust had confirmed his attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and District Councillor Haydn Jones and County Councillor Tony Blackburn would also be present and give their reports.

11/04

Other Business

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he understood the existing park and ride arrangements serving Gloucester were coming to an end with access to the city centre likely to be using an indirect and more expensive service. He was concerned that there had been no consultation or publicity concerning this.

An email had been received from Mrs Pockett seeking Councils support with a garden competition being planned for the village. It was agreed that Council would contribute to the administration costs up to a maximum of £150 including and VAT and would also supply a cup or shield for the best overall garden subject to further approval on cost and Cllr Jones agreed to investigate this.

12/04

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 6th May, 2015.