

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY, 2015.**

**Public Forum**

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

- Mrs Honor Jones, in her capacity as Secretary to the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee advised that a community consultation exercise had taken place earlier in the day seeking feedback from local parents regarding play equipment provision at the playing field. Further consultation events were to be arranged.
- Mr Pinkney of Oak Tree cottage raised concerns regarding a planning application submitted in regard to land adjacent to his property which is a listed building. He was informed that the relevant application would be considered later in the meeting.
- Mr Beard commented on the A38/Grove Lane left turn only restriction and stated that in his opinion the majority of local residents would like to see it removed especially considering how the layout of the road and characteristics have changed over the year since it was first installed. He suggested Council should consider reinstating the junction to being unrestricted. Councillor Jones informed the meeting that options were being considered but due regard must also be given to what might happen in the future if a sizeable residential development were to be built on land West of Stonehouse with an access onto Grove Lane. Mr Beard also stated that he had watched the webcast of the recent Development Control Committee meeting at which various notable planning applications concerning the village had been considered. His view was that it was disgraceful who will knowledge and considered opinion was shown by many of the elected Councillors who spoke on the subject.

**00/02**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Hay, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 5 members of the public who attended for the majority of the meeting.

**01/02**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Blackburn and Cllr Douglas who was away on holiday.

**02/02**

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**03/02**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to amendments as follows:

- 04/01 – first line ‘you’ replaced with ‘he’.

- 04/01 – Bus Shelters – Cllr Paynter corrected to correct spelling replacing ‘m’ with ‘n’ and it was confirmed that it was agreed that he should proceed with replacing 2 no. Perspex type panels at a cost of £71.23 each.
- 07/01 – 2<sup>nd</sup> para. 2<sup>nd</sup> line ‘hand’ should read ‘had’.

## **04/02**

### **Matters Arising**

#### Police Panel & Cluster Group Meeting

Cllr Peters reported that the two forums would be merging into one meeting format with effect from a meeting to be scheduled for March.

#### Community Payback Scheme

Cllr Jones advised that the work being undertaken in this regard at the playing field had been completed.

#### First World War Centenary

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had been liaising with the Asset Manager at Stroud District Council regarding obtaining consent for the proposed sign board to be affixed to the railings near to the War Memorial. Approval was required from the Housing Officer and if granted an appropriate agreement would need to be drafted. Meanwhile, Cllr Peters confirmed that with Councillor Jones he would progress the judging of material produced by the school children and Cllr Jones said that out of interest he had been going through old school logs of the relevant period.

#### Village Defibrillator

Cllr Jones reported that he had spoken with Mrs McGoldrick to enquire about the equipment that it was understood was being purchased for the village as a result of a fundraising event organised by the Whitminster Inn. She had advised that this was something she would need to raise with her husband who was away.

#### Canal Side Footpath

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he had been for a walk following the footpath along the route that Mr Watts, of Moreton Valence, had reported was unpassable. Cllr Paynter had found the route to be clear and had not identified any issues.

Other matters discussed before the meeting progressed included damage to the Playing Field Dug Out highlighted by Cllr Hughes and Cllr Peters congratulated Cllr Hay in regard to his work on the Village Website.

## **05/02**

### **Police & Community Safety Matters**

#### Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month were received and read out.

#### Dog Fouling

Cllr Jones raised the possibility of purchasing signs to link in to a new campaign to try and reduce dog fouling nuisance in the Parish. After some discussion it was decided that extra signage would make little difference to people who currently disregard their responsibilities. Cllr Paynter suggested that the associated literature could possibly be re-published in SPAN and Cllr Jones agreed to look into this.

#### Other Matters

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that there had been a further incident causing damage to the Cricket Square, this time due to someone playing golf on the field.

## **06/02**

### **Planning**

#### Decisions to Note

S.14/2718/HHOLD 3 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Single storey extension to rear.

Permission granted.

#### Applications to Consider

S.15/0090/GDPE 8 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Sun lounge to replace conservatory.

Council resolved to support the application but noted that the application lacked the detail that would normally be expected and had not been correctly notified through the District Council's alert system.

S.15/0062/OUT Land off Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of 3 dwellings.

Council objected to this application on the basis that it would be an overdevelopment of the site, thus creating a cramped and inappropriate layout. In addition it would impinge on the nearby listed building, be contrary to the principles set out within the adopted Village Design Statement and be new development outside of the settlement boundary only previously developed in part to replace the 3 no. mobile homes previously on site. Council also had concerns in regard to the safety of the proposed access and any increase in the traffic along the land used by pedestrians and cyclists without any means of segregation.

S.14/2901/FUL Land at 1 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.

Residential development with revised access and associated works.

Council resolved to support the application in principle but highlighted the comments that it had made previously concerning the proposed car parking arrangements and potential dangers to pedestrians using the adjoining footway. Council also requested that matters regarding the proposed materials be clarified so that the materials used match with the adjoining bungalow in Paynes Meadow and not the house types in Vaisey Field.

#### Conservation of Buildings

Cllr Peters had been in touch with Ms Russell, Conservation Officer at SDC, regarding the possibility of seeking a Conservation Area for the village. She had advised that there were not valuable architectural assets within the village to warrant such a designation. Cllr Peters went on to suggest that he might make a list of key properties within the village for Council's own interest when considering future issues of relevance.

#### Pre-Application Protocol

Cllr Peters had requested the matter be placed on the Agenda. Cllr Jones reported that a local landowner had requested a meeting to discuss issues relating to a specific site in the village and that a meeting was arranged for immediately prior to the March meeting. Cllr Peters queried whether this should be an open or closed meeting and Cllr Jones confirmed he felt it should initially be a private meeting and that it was unlikely there would be any plans to consider at that stage.

#### Other Planning Matters

The Clerk had received a response from Ricardo Rios on behalf of Phil Skill of SDC regarding registering an Asset of Community Value. He had spoken with Mr Rios and reported that to be able to take forward a registration it was necessary for named individuals to provide statements as to their specific use of the land in question and for those uses to comply with the relevant requirements. In addition a certain period of time must be established along with a clear indication that the use in question is likely to extend into the future and provide a clear community benefit. Having considered the forms and following the discussion with Mr Rios the clerk felt it was highly unlikely that an application in respect of the land in question would be successful nor that it would achieve the desired level of protection that was being sought. Mr Rios did provide the name of an organisation that helps with such applications and Cllr Jones had made some initial enquiries of Locality and they had provided some website links for further investigation.

**07/02**

**Highways & Byways**

**A38 Road Surface**

Cllr Jones had been following up Council's correspondence and conversations with Daniel Tiffney of GCC Highways but made contact with Jason Humm of GCC having failed to get any satisfactory response. Meanwhile Cllr Peters had also made contact and raised complaints about the condition of the road and quality of the workmanship. The response he received, detailing remedial work, was read out. It was felt that clarification should be sought as to the nature of the remedial work and whether it would also deal with the over-surface rumble strips and inappropriate markings/hatchings. Cllr Jones agreed to follow this up as well as the issues concerning signage coming off of the A38 roundabout and 'missing' village sign.

**Other Highway Matters**

Cllr Jones had been contacted by Open Spaces at SDC as there was an opportunity for a litter pick to be carried out in the village. No-one could think of anywhere requiring particular attention but all agreed they would get in touch if any bad areas were identified. The A38 was considered but it was noted that this was done anyway. A recent incident of fly tipping had occurred near to the School lane nursery site but the rubbish had been cleared away quickly by SDC. Cllr Paynter advised that a kissing gate had recently been cleared on Mrs Teesdale's land and was now operative and he would get in touch with her in due course to discuss dog flaps. Cllr Mrs Gilmore agreed to undertake litter picking at the Playing Field for the coming month.

**08/02**

**Accounts**

**Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

None.

**General Overview & Other Matters**

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank remained unchanged following the clearance of cheques drawn at the last meeting. There were no other financial issues to discuss.

**09/02**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Email correspondence from Revd Amys advising of contact details for new SPAN Editors from February 2015.

Letter of introduction from an Oil Buying Club operating in the area.

Greenbarnes notice board brochure.

Literature on Insight Gloucestershire – organisation helping sight impaired people.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

TROW Magazine.

Report from County Cllr Tony Blackburn.

**10/02**

**Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Jones reported that he had been in touch with the site manager concerning Schoolfield Close and had been informed that the damaged/missing bollards in the entrance area were being attended

to. He then informed the meeting of the activities of the Severn Voice School Admissions Sub-Group on which he was representing the Parish Council. Terms of reference had been prepared a copy received for circulation.

**11/02**

**Other Business**

**Walkers Welcome Scheme**

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that this was a scheme designed at highlighting to walkers the fact that they are welcome in a certain area and encouraged by certain businesses. He suggested it may be something worth considering in the future.

**1b Canal Restoration**

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that profiles were being sought of local people interested in the canal restoration in order to assist in supporting the bid for grant funding. Cllr Peters wished to put a profile forward but wanted to see approval from the Council given his status as a Parish Councillor. No-one could see any reason why he couldn't do this in a personal capacity.

**Annual Parish Meeting – Date**

A date was set of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. It was agreed that Cllr Jones would approach a speaker to attend on behalf of the Canal Trust to talk on the subject of the restoration plans.

**12/02**

**Future Agenda Items**

Annual Parish Meeting – to agree Agenda

Walkers Welcome scheme – at the request of Cllr Peters.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.**