

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

Public Forum

As there were no members of the public present there were no questions or issues raised during the public forum.

00/03

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hay, Hughes, Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present.

01/03

Apologies

None.

02/03

Declarations of Interest

None.

03/03

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th February, 2015, were signed as a true record subject to amendment as follows:

- 11/02 – The letter ‘t’ was missing from the word ‘sought’.
- 06/02 – The word ‘lane’ was inserted to replace ‘land’.

04/03

Matters Arising

World War 1 Commemoration

Cllr Peters reported that he and Cllr Jones had not yet had an opportunity to meet to review the results of the efforts produced by the children of the village school but Cllr Jones had been continuing with his research into the school log book from the time and was finding it to be interesting reading. The Clerk reported that there had not yet been any responses in regard to the grant aid being sought and Cllr Jones advised that he would wait for the matter to progress before formally seeking permission from the District Council for the erection of the proposed sign board.

Boundary Review

Details of the Boundary Commission proposals for the Stroud District had been circulated by email between meetings and were available for individual review on-line. The proposals for Whitminster would see the Severn Ward adjusted to become a 3 member ward with Slimbridge and Moreton Valence grouped elsewhere and Eastington brought in as a new addition. A majority view was that the status quo was preferred and the Clerk was asked to record the Council’s opinion accordingly during the consultation period.

Village Defibrillator

Cllr Jones reported that he had not heard anything more on this matter from either Mr or Mrs McGoldrick.

05/03

Police & Community Safety Matters

Crime Figures

Crime Figures for the previous month, February, had been received by email and were read out before being placed for circulation. Cllr Jones warned those with electric garage doors to be wary of the fact that they are vulnerable and additional locks as advised. A particular incident involving theft from a garage was reviewed. The offenders had taken a motorbike and had broken down a fence between the A38 and Paynes Meadow in their efforts to get away. It was noted that the fence had been erected by the Parish Council and Cllr Jones agreed to see if local resident, Mr Smith, would be able to carry out a repair.

Dog Fouling

Cllr Paynter stated that in his view the problem in the village was getting worse. Cllr Jones suggested that the provision of additional signs should be reconsidered but it was generally felt that this would have little impact. Cllr Jones reminded those present that at some point someone will have to be prepared to give evidence of witnessing an offence in order for a case to be prosecuted and at that time perhaps people would take the matter more seriously. Cllr Paynter said that later in the year he would be prepared to sit out in Hyde Lane, the location of the main problem, and speak with dog walkers and it was thought a good idea for some poop scoop bags to possibly be made available in strategic locations.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters asked if anyone was experiencing problems with rats. It was generally felt that they were around in parts of the village but there was no particular issue.

06/03

Planning

Decisions to Note

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

Sun lounge to replace conservatory.

Permission granted.

Whilst no formal notice had been received, Cllr Jones advised that he was aware that consent was being granted in respect of land adjoining 1 Paynes Meadow and the proposal for 2 new bungalows and associated works. It was noted that some preparatory works had already started on site.

Applications to Consider

S.15/0119/CPL Ivydene, School Lane, Whitminster, Gos.

Council had been notified of this matter but there was no formal requirement for the Local Planning Authority to consult the Parish Council. It concerned the replacement of a conservatory with a garden room. Council passed no comments.

Local Plan

Cllrs Jones and Peters had attended the District Council's meeting arranged for Parish and Town Councils where the Local plan had been a topic. Information relating to the Local Plan was available on-line and the Consultation on Post-submission Proposed Changes (including potential Main Modifications) would run until 25th March 2015. Council made no comments.

Other Planning Matters

The Clerk sought clarification as to how he was to progress matters regarding the proposed registration of a Community Asset, being the land adjoining the Playing Field previously discussed. It was noted that someone would be required to confirm and declare that they had used the land in a way that could be considered a community benefit and Council would need to demonstrate there was a reasonable likelihood of that use being continued into the future. After consideration it was decided not to pursue the matter for the time being.

Cllr Peters read out a list he had prepared detailing buildings within the Parish that he considered to be of particular character. There was some discussion to clarify the location of the various properties but no other comments.

The Clerk asked for clarification as to what he was to do in regard to the completion of forms relating to potential projects to access S.106 funds potentially forthcoming from future development. Cllr Jones advised that he had been in touch with Krista Harris at SDC and no further action was needed on the part of the Clerk in regard to the forms previously received. Cllr Jones also reported at this stage in the meeting on the efforts of the Management Committee to secure funding for additional play equipment on the playing field and advised that in addition to S.106 funding the Council could look into obtaining grant aid for gym equipment from Awards For All and Cllrs Hay & Paynter agreed to look into this. Cllr Jones also gave an update on the consultation exercise being undertaken by the Management Committee in regard to play equipment for younger children and that repair works were being looked into concerning the hard surfaced play area. Various pamphlets from play equipment and outdoor gym equipment suppliers had been received. Prior to the meeting a closed meeting had taken place with David Jones of Evans Jones, planning consultants, and Mr Nigel Attwooll. This was concerning the proposed development of land bounded by Vaisey Field, Paynes Meadow and Hyde Lane. It was agreed that the matter should be considered at a formal Parish Council meeting before any comments were made and that it should be on the agenda for the April meeting.

07/03

Highways & Byways

A38 Road Surface

Cllr Jones had been following up matters after the last meeting and various emails had been circulating to Scott Tompkins and Daniel Tiffney at GCC as well as Cllr Blackburn concerning the proposed A38 remedial works. Confirmation was being sought in regard to the nature of the remedial works, whether or not the issue where the rumble strips/hatching had been surfaced over would be rectified and whether any resolution was proposed concerning the hatching and carriageway arrangement outside of Whitminster Garage. Cllr Jones would continue to follow up all of the aforementioned issues as well as pressing for the promised 'Welcome to Whitminster' sign to be erected on the North bound carriageway coming off of the roundabout.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a member of the public who had suffered damage to his car that he believed was due to the 'wrong type of chipping' being used during the surfacing works. The Clerk had advised that whilst Council had concerns over the quality of the work it was not aware of any particular issue with the type of material used. The Clerk had suggested the person concerned should raise the matter with the County Council and perhaps their local County Councillor.

Other Highway Matters

Cllr Jones had also been following up matters regarding the A38 – Grove Lane – School Lane cross-roads. He was able to report that the recorded injury accident record was actually very good and therefore it would be difficult for the County Council to justify funding for any changes. The last fatal accident had occurred in 1980 and therefore the only changes likely to take place would be those funded by S.106 payments arising from development and hence there was a need to keep in touch with the Highways Planners in regard to any potential development on land West of Stonehouse or future development within the village. The views raised by Mr Beard during public comments at the last meeting were considered, being a suggestion that the order be removed, but it was generally felt that the current arrangement encouraged caution even in those ignoring the order and therefore it should remain in place.

Cllr Peters passed comment on the pavement clearing that had recently taken place along sections of the A38 locally.

Cllr Jones was please to confirm that he had managed to make contact with Yakub Mulla, the local area highways representative of the County Council, and as a result was carrying out a tour of the village with him in the near future. Various issues were noted for Cllr Jones to raise during the tour including potholes requiring attention and gulleys/drains needing jetting. It was noted that there were also issues with streetlights and Cllrs Jones and Peters advised Council of the telephone number that exists to report such matters. There were no particular footpath issues to discuss but it was considered a good idea to write to landowners, including Mr Attwooll and Mr Merrett (Packthorne Farm) to ask that footpaths crossing planted crops be sprayed off as is the requirement.

08/03

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques drawn:

Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field

Management Committee	£31.00	Hall hire for APM.
D Lord	£64.56	Clerk's Expenses.
GAPTC	£198.02	Annual Membership.
Cllr D Paynter	£170.95	Materials for bus shelter repair.

General Overview & Other Matters

The Clerk reported that the balance at the bank remained unchanged following the last meeting as no cheques had been drawn. Various information had been received concerning potential internal auditors. The main audit would be undertaken once again by Grant Thornton. Cllr Jones explained that when cutting the grass at the village hall for many years he had also cut the verge outside between the site and the A38. However, he was no longer able to do this and the contractor appointed by the Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee to cut the grass at the village hall would not be insured to undertake this work. Therefore he asked if the Parish Council could add the area, along with around the A38 bus shelter, to the work to be undertaken by SGMS/Hawkins & Sons. Providing this would be at a reasonable cost it was agreed. Cllr Jones would liaise with Hawkins & Sons accordingly. Cllr Jones had provided the Clerk with details of various suppliers who provide discounts for members of Fields In Trust which may be worth considering in regard to future play area inspections etc.

09/03

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

TROW Magazine

Waterside Living leaflets and covering letter from Gloucestershire County Council.

GAPTC update including networking event for clerks.

CPRE diary of events, Branch AGM Agenda, Annual Review and Magazine.

The News from SDC.

10/03

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that all of his Chairman's Items had been covered elsewhere on the Agenda. In regard to the District Council he was able to report that there would be no increase in the Council Tax arising from the main elements being the District & County Council costs. On the matter of the last full District Council meeting, it had been a very quiet affair and finished very early. One issue of note was that the Council had given authority for the purchase of a new depot for

use in conjunction with the new waste collection contract that was being awarded. Whilst the District Council had made no decision in regard to siting delegated authority had been given and it was most likely to be at Javelin Park.

11/03

Other Business

Walkers Welcome Scheme

Cllr Peters circulated more information relating to this peer operated scheme. He read out the aims, being to promote a friendly approach in order to attract tourists and boost the local economy. There were no comments from Council but it was suggested that Cllr Peters may like to put an article in SPAN to see if anyone in the Parish has any interest in getting involved with the scheme.

1b Canal Restoration

Cllr Peters read out the profile he intended to put forward for inclusion with the list of people interested in the canal restoration scheme. It was understood that this would be used in support of applications for grant funding by the Cotswold Canals Trust. Council had no objection to the profile wording. Cllr Peters advised that whilst he was doing this in an individual capacity he still wished council to be happy with the wording he was using as he intended to refer to his role as a Parish Councillor.

Annual Parish Meeting

A date had been set of Thursday 2nd April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Cllr Jones had arranged for Ken Burgin Chief Executive of the Cotswold Canals Trust to attend as the guest speaker. The Agenda would be as follows:

- (1) Chairman's Welcome
- (2) Apologies
- (3) Guest Speaker
- (4) Parish Council Report – Cllr Jones
- (5) Church Report – Cllr Douglas
- (6) Neighbourhood Watch Report – Cllr Peters
- (7) Reports from other Village Organisations with Officers in Attendance
- (8) Potential Future Development
- (9) Open Forum

Local Transport Plan

Cllr Peters advised that the document was out for Consultation and Cllr Jones ran through the main issues being strategic highway schemes and such matters. The details had been circulated around Council and no further comments were made.

Chartered Parishes Meeting

The Agenda for the forthcoming meeting was circulated.

12/03

Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that the discussions with Mr Attwooll and his Agent that took place before the meeting concerning the development potential of land bounded by Hyde Lane would be considered at the April meeting with an item listed under Planning.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.11 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 1st April, 2015.