

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

00/09

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Mrs Gilmore (Vice Chair), Douglas, Hughes Paynter & Peters. The Clerk was also present together with 1 member of the public in attendance at the start increasing to 3 as the meeting progressed.

01/09

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay.

02/09

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Douglas declared an interest in relation to item (ii) within Accounts, being the consideration of a request for the Council to make a donation towards the repair of the Church clock. This was because of his position as Church Warden. It was agreed that he would leave the room for this item and have no input in the decision.

Declaration of Member's Interest forms were completed and handed to the Clerk by all present.

03/09

Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th August, 2014, were signed as a true record subject to two amendments within 05/08 and the heading. Some matters were also clarified at the request of Cllr Peters.

04/09

Matters Arising

First World War Centenary

Cllr Jones reported that he had been in touch with Greenfields on the matter of their quote for work to the paving slabs surrounding the War Memorial. They affirmed that there would be no change for the price previously given providing the work was to proceed within a reasonable time. Cllr Jones agreed to look out the original quotation. Cllr Peters reported that plans were being made at the School to spend a day working on the project and visiting the memorial. He also confirmed that there were indeed 5 names listed on the memorial rather than 7 and as far as he was aware there were none that had been missed off. Following the research undertaken by Cllr Peters the Clerk had been in touch with local designer, Chris Bailey, from Middle Street, Stroud and a sign company, Shelley Signs. A formal quota was awaited from the latter whilst an estimate of £1,000 to £1,500 had been put forward by the former. Prices had also been requested for replacement notice boards that could be mounted with a plaque to advise that they had been erected to commemorate the centenary

Local Bus Services

Following discussions at the last meeting the Clerk had written to the relevant parties as requested. No further comments had been received from Bev Hemming, Business Development Manager from Third Sector Services and no reply had been forthcoming from Mr Bassett at the County Council. However, Cllr Tony Blackburn had advised that he was told consideration was being given to a larger vehicle and reaffirmed the trial additional run that would take place for 5 weeks. It was noted

that the second scheduled run would accept bus passes as it was a service operated on behalf of the County Council and speculation to the contrary was considered incorrect.

Parish Project Aspirations – Outside Exercise Equipment

No public feedback had been received regarding this proposal directly but from general discussions it was understood that the popular view was that such equipment would be well used. A brochure and price list had been received from Caloo and the Clerk had circulated this by email. A hard copy brochure had been requested. Meanwhile Cllr Paynter was looking into obtaining a plan of a suitable size and scale to consider locations where such equipment could be located on the playing field.

05/09

Police & Community Safety Matters

There was no Police or Neighbourhood Warden presence at the meeting. Crime figures for the month of July had been received from PCSO Lifton. They had previously been circulated by email and were read out.

Email correspondence had been received from a resident of The Close concerning the anti-social behaviour of school age children on the parcel of land to the rear of The Close and facing onto Vaisey Field. It was agreed that Cllr Jones would refer the matter to the Neighbourhood Warden and the Clerk was to respond accordingly.

Cllr Jones provided a further update regarding the offenders who had set light to the skate board ramp. They had been continuing their community service through painting the skate ramp up to chest height, as they were not allowed to carry out tasks standing above ground level, as well as conducting litter picks. It was agreed that given the unlikely chance of receiving payment and that fact that the majority of the costs of repair were covered by insurance no legal action would be undertaken on the part of the Council and the matter would be left at the discretion of the insurers.

06/09

Planning

Decisions to Note

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

This application had been withdrawn. This had been previously noted but formal notification had been received.

S.14/1888/MINAM Orchard View, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Minor amendment to S.14/0629/HHOLD.

Applications to Consider

S.14/1789/TPO Haresfield House, 54 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Crown reduction and removal of dead wood to Lime tree.

Council resolved to make no comments on this application.

S.14/1787/ADV Fromebridge Mill, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Replacement signage and lighting.

Council resolved to make no comments on this application.

S.14/1909/HHOLD 6 Holbury Crescent, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Retrospective application for the erection of a shed with apex tiled roof.

Council resolved to make no comments on this application.

S.14/1829/OUT Land at School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

To build 95 residential dwellings including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Construction of a new vehicular access from School Lane.

This application was not discussed but a separate meeting had been arranged to review information on the proposal to take place on 10th September at 6pm in the Village Hall. This would be a closed meeting at this initial stage.

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 issues were noted as Council's main resolved matters 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 consideration of the application was expected to occur at the October meeting of the Development Control Committee and the planning officer's report was being written up shortly thus requiring Council's formal response to be submitted. Cllrs Jones and Peters, together with the Clerk, had met with Council's retained planning consultant the previous day. As a result a letter was being produced referencing Council's objections against the appropriate local and national planning policy and providing additional supporting information. A draft, as had been produced so far, was circulated and a further version would be circulated for approval prior to submission. The Clerk had been contacted by CPRE asking for details in relation to the village as the local branch was preparing a map identifying significant applications for development within the Vale and would most likely be confirming objections.

Local Plan

Cllr Jones advised there was nothing further to update in regard to the Local Plan.

Village Design Statement

Cllr Jones thanked all those that had been involved with the project. The Council unanimously resolved to adopt the Village Design Statement. 25 copies were to be printed by the Clerk with a number of copies to be passed to Mr Moore at the District Council with the intention being that the statement would be formally adopted at a meeting of the Environment Committee on 23rd October.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones reported that he had confirmed the Parish Council's adoption of the Pre-Application Development Consultation Protocol by submitting the necessary additional information.

07/09

Highways & Byways

Cllr Paynter raised concerns regarding the recent resurfacing works to the A38 that was already breaking up in places and had produced a very noisy running surface in parts. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Tiffney, at the County Council Highways Dept, raising Council's concerns. At a recent highways meeting Cllr Jones had highlighted to Mr Tiffney the ongoing problems with the Grove Lane/A38 junction and the 'left turn only' order. It had been suggested that a record should be kept of the number of vehicles failing to comply during the course of a day and this could be used by the County Council to liaise with the police and see if pressure could be applied for an engineering solution to be proposed. Several Councillors agreed to work shifts during the course of a day to be determined. Cllr Douglas advised that he had been approached by local farmer, Mr Beard, who was concerned by the lack of visibility when exiting Grove Lane caused by signage at the Old Forge public house. Cllr Jones stated that he had previously investigated this issue and the signs had not been considered to cause a problem by the Highways Dep. Mr Beard has also raised questions regarding a central reservation cut through that he believed had previously existed to access a field on the Eastern side of the A38 close to the Whitminster Inn. However, no-one had any recollection of this and no action was proposed. Cllr Jones advised that he had asked the Neighbourhood Warden to take action in regard to overgrown hedges in the village and it was noted that some markings had been made on the road close to the obscured speed limit sign in Hyde Lane. An overgrown hedgerow had been cut back in Grove Lane and Amey had advised that an area steward was investigating the matter of potholes and overgrown hedges generally in the area of Kidnams Walk. Councillor Jones had received a quotation from SGMS to cut the verge adjoining Little Holbury (facing onto School Lane) in the sum of £40 plus VAT per cut. It was agreed that the matter would be considered further at a future budget setting meeting. Council was advised that Mr Dave Portlock, Highway Officer, had left Amey and Yakub Mulla was the newly appointed area supervisor covering Whitminster and the surrounds. A newsletter had been received covering issues relating to winter maintenance and insurance. It was agreed that no additional road salt would be required and the Snow Warden and Snow Plough Operator details were re-affirmed. Finally, Cllr Paynter reported that the footpaths throughout the village were in reasonable order and that he would meet with Mrs Teesdale in due course to discuss the various ongoing issues with her.

08/09

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

None.

Request for Donation Towards Cost of Church Clock Repair

Cllr Douglas informed Council that the clock had been repaired a few years ago but now the rod and gearing between the mechanism and clock face had failed. The cost of the work of repair would be £1,720 not subject to VAT plus scaffolding at a cost of £1,280 plus VAT. Cllr Douglas then left the meeting for the matter to be considered. After deliberation it was agreed that Council would contribute 50% of the cost of the necessary scaffolding.

General Overview

The Clerk reported a balance at the bank of £5,574.25 as per the last statement received.. The Clerk also reaffirmed that the Audit forms had been completed and submitted to Grant Thornton and a request for additional information was still anticipated.

A request to support the Cobalt Appeal was received and it was agreed it would be put forward for consideration at the relevant donations meeting.

Following the submission of the play area inspection by The Play Inspection Company it was agreed that a cheque previously drawn would be issued. This was after clarification confirmed that the 'attended' visit that had been requested had not been erroneously charged for even though it did not take place.

09/09

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Website statistics for the previous month.

Information from The Local Government Boundary Commission regarding the electoral review of Stroud District Council.

The Trow magazine.

Stroud District Youth Council's Annual Review.

Young Gloucestershire's Annual Review.

Minutes of the last Severn Voice meeting and future agenda.

Details of consultation events for the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan Review.

Clerks & Councils Direct.

10/09

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones reviewed the Parish Council Wards that had been agreed before going on to suggest the information circulated on the Youth Council was interesting reading and informing those present that District Council may move to collect food waste in the future.

11/09

Other Business

Village Green/Assets of Community Value

Councillor Jones advised that he had been liaising with Phil Skill of the District Council and he would be in touch with him again to obtain a full appraisal of how such assets are identified, what the procedure is and what benefit may accrue.

Play Area Inspection

The report received was briefly reviewed and it was agreed that issues relating to the skate ramp would be considered further at the next meeting. The Report on the Skateboard Ramp itself suggested the expected life of the structure was possibly not much more than one year. Under this item it was also noted that an open afternoon was shortly taking place to allow parishioners to consider the proposals for the replacement playing field pavilion.

12/09

Future Agenda Items

It was agreed that the Parish Website and including an early opportunity for members of the public to address the Council would be considered at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:24 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd September, 2014.