

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY, 2017.

Public Forum

There were no issues raised.

00/02

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore and Peters.

The Clerk was also present along with one member of the public.

01/02

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Paynter who had a work commitment.

02/02

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made but Cllr Peters used the opportunity to enquire of the Chairman the number of members necessary to be present for the Council to be quorate. The Chairman advised that 3 councillors were needed to be present. Cllr Peters went on to ask if a member can ask for a matter to be deferred to be considered at a later meeting if they are unable to be present. The Chairman stated that such a request could be made but the decision on whether to agree to it would rest with Council. Finally, Cllr Peters asked if it was possible for the Chairman to make a proposal. After some clarification the Chairman advised that it is possible for him to put forward a proposal and it is his decision to decide when to curtail discussion and move to a vote but the proposal to be voted on is best put forward by an ordinary member of the Council.

03/02

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th January, 2017, were approved subject to one amendment within 04/01 changing 'bene' to 'been'.

04/02

Matters Arising

Skate Ramp Replacement

Cllr Peters confirmed that he did hold two quotes on a similar but not identical basis from Rhino Ramps and Caloo Ltd to compare but he had not brought them to the meeting. The costs were in the order of £44,000 to £46,000 .

World War One Display Project

The Clerk thanked Cllr Peters for supplying the necessary information to enable him to progress matters and that he would do.

Post Office Closure

The Chairman provided an update in that he had emailed Laura Tarling of the Post Office and she had informed him that they were seeking applicants for the Post Master/Mistress role and if no-one could be found and no premises sourced then a part-time visiting outreach solution may be progressed.

Website

Biographical information was awaited from Cllr Douglas along with information on footpaths from Cllr Paynter. It was confirmed that an additional log-on could be set up and the cost was accepted. No updates or material had been forthcoming from village organisations.

Bus Service

There was nothing more to report on this matter.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters asked for an update on the Chairman's/District Councillor's efforts in regard to the Holbury Crescent roundabout . The Chairman said he would update under highways. Cllr Peters also asked what was happening in regard to the garages at The Close and the Cllr Jones stated that he had nothing more to add.

05/02

Police & Community Safety Issues

Recent crime information had been circulated.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that a lifebuoy had been abandoned at the Playing Field and this had been found to have come from Arlingham. The police had been advised but he had felt the police response to the matter was inadequate especially considering the serious consequences that could arise if the buoy was not available when needed – a child had drowned a few years ago in the relevant location. As a result the matter was being pursued by the local Police Constable who had a lead to follow.

Cllr Peters confirmed that the speed check equipment promised for the Parish had been installed in School Lane. He also informed the meeting that he was hoping to form a Neighbourhood Watch Cluster Group and he asked who was responsible for the lay-by on the A419. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Murray, had been asked to replace a sign promoting the 101 non-emergency number in the village.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Peters reported that he was liaising with Cllr Hay and a meeting was being planned.

06/02

Planning

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.17/0072/COU Grove End Farm, Grove Lane, Whitminster.

Change of use of agricultural and industrial buildings to commercial use.

Council had not received formal notification of this application but had been alerted to it by the weekly planning list. Council considered the application and whilst not opposed in principle objected to the application as it stood. Concerns were raised regarding highways safety and the potential for increased vehicular movement at the adjacent junction without any consideration for appropriate improvements. Other issues included the development being outside of the Settlement Boundary; lack of provision for pedestrian access; no detail on proposed landscaping; lack of local consultation; missing detail on gate arrangements and therefore concern over traffic backing on the carriageway; lack of clarity on any proposed stopping-up of existing access and how access would be maintained to the residential property to the South of the site; insufficient clarity on the boundary treatment and, finally, concern over the nature of the materials proposed and a desire to reflect the existing agricultural

nature of the buildings. Reference was made to the relevant policies of the Whitminster Design Statement where relevant.

S.17/0095/REM Land West of Stonehouse

Council had become aware of an application dealing with further detail on this scheme and proposing a road layout providing access and egress to a number of new houses north of the traffic measure designed to discourage the use of Grove Lane as a 'rat run'. As a result Council objected to this application and the Clerk was requested to write setting out the impact such a change might have on the A38 crossroads in Whitminster.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones gave an overview of matters discussed at the Parish & Town Council meeting hosted by Stroud District Council. This included the new CIL and the impact of Neighbourhood Plans along with the proposed creation of new heritage areas.

07/02

Highways & Byways

A letter was received from Amey Gloucestershire advising of a closure of the A38 to facilitate the next stage of the Berkley bridge replacement.

Cllr Jones gave a report on the recent highways meeting arranged through Severn Voice. Issues raised included the Public Rights of Way department at the County Council and the fact that the Lengthman and Highways Local budget were both likely to be continued in the following year. Cllr Jones had raised the matter of white lining in the Parish and was pleased to report that some work had just been carried out in School Lane. On the matter of the Holbury Crescent roundabout Cllr Jones was pleased to announce that the hole that had opened up had been cordoned off and work was being carried out to investigate the presence of services with a view to reducing the diameter of the grassed area and resurfacing the roadway.

The Clerk circulated the print-out of his further report of footpath issues and the missing bridge handrail but no-one had walked in the area recently to be able to advise if it had been attended to for certain and Cllr Paynter, Council's Footpaths Officer, was not present at the meeting.

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had telephoned the contractor who had recently been carrying out work to the gas main following the route of the A38 to ask them to remove materials that had been left behind.

08/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

Lifelong Steel Sheds	Donation/purchase for PCC
£1,800:00	

Reimbursement as Clerk had purchased by credit card to provide additional protection ahead of delivery.

Other Financial Matters

A quotation for grass cutting for the coming year was received from T W Hawkins. As this had previously been tendered and the price increase for the year was minimal this was accepted. The number of extra grass cuts around the village, mainly in the area of Little Holbury, was agreed to be capped at a maximum of 10.

A receipt for membership was received from Fields In Trust and a request for a donation to the Stroud Valleys Project was declined in view of the discussions on donations at the previous meeting and a desire to build a sizeable reserve.

The Clerk confirmed the balance at the bank, as per the last statement received, as being £9,216.03

09/02

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received and circulated:

Stroud District Council Tree Policy.

Chartered Parish & Town Council notes.

Slide presentations from recent SDC Parish & Town Council Meeting.

Active Places Data Platform information request - actioned by Clerk and Chairman's details also provided.

Update on BT kiosks consultation.

Gloucestershire County Council Members Matters update log-on details forwarded by Severn Voice.

Clerks & Councils Direct.

SDC Briefing Notes circulated by Cllr Jones.

10/02

Chairman's Items & District Councillors Report

The Chairman gave a roundup of District Council matters and concluded by advising that the proposal to seek devolved powers to a Gloucestershire grouping of Councils looked like it had come to an end.

11/02

Other Business

Cllr Peters advised that he was hoping to attend the forthcoming Youth Forum meeting and would be willing to once again look into the possibility of booking a guest speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting to talk on mental health issues, although there was some concern this may not be a subject likely to enhance attendance. The Annual Parish Meeting date was set as 19th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:41pm.

CHAIRMAN - Wednesday 1st March, 2017.