

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHTIMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY, 2017.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present and hence no issues were raised.

00/01

Present

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore and Paynter.
The Clerk was also present.

01/01

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Hay and Peters. Cllr Paynter also apologised for joining the meeting slightly late.

02/01

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Douglas declared an interest in relation to matters pertaining to the proposed contribution/part purchase by Parish Council of a new storage shed for the Church/Parochial Church Council.

03/01

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 7th December, 2016, were approved subject to the removal of an erroneous 'e' from the name of Mr Bently within 04/12.

04/01

Matters Arising

Skate Ramp Replacement

Cllr Jones advised that Cllr Peters was intending to bring to the meeting a quote and layout that had been received from Rhino Ramps but as he was not in attendance this was not available. Cllr Jones had brought with him the proposals previously received from Caloo Ltd to compare but this would be considered further at a future meeting.

World War One Display Project

The Clerk advised that following discussions at the last meeting he was awaiting the details to be provided by Cllr Peters that would enable him to progress matters further in demonstrating the educational benefits of the project.

Post Office Closure

No further response or update had been forthcoming although the Council had received the formal notification of temporary closure from the Post Office, that which had previously been forwarded on by Neil Carmichael MP. It was also understood that a post office was re-opening in Frampton-on-Severn very soon.

Website

A reminder was given for those that had not done so already to supply some basic biographical information to Cllr Hay, just a brief paragraph would suffice. Details of the website had been circulated in SPAN together with a request for any extra content but there had been no responses. However, Cllr Jones had obtained and supplied information relating to the football and cricket teams. In

response to an email from Cllr Hay it was agreed that an additional cost of £60 could be incurred to create an extra log-on for the website.

Bus Service

Following the last meeting various email exchanges between Cllr Blackburn and Mr Bently at Gloucestershire County Council had been circulated. Cllr Jones gave a further update on the email traffic he had seen between Mr John Welberry, a parishioner, and Mr Bently. This related to a connecting bus service that could, theoretically, be used to connect with and reach the shops at Quedgeley. However, there were some errors in what Mr Bently had suggested and practically it was not a solution that anyone would wish to pursue. However, Mr Bently had concluded by stating that he would apply pressure on Stagecoach in the hope of running at least one service to the Severn Vale shops. It was noted that the current service runs without subsidy.

Other Matters

None.

05/01

Police & Community Safety Issues

It was noted the Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Murray, had been seen around the village.

The Minutes of the last Cluster Group meeting were circulated and the next meeting date confirmed as Wednesday 31st May, 2017.

It was agreed that the matter of providing a defibrillator within the Parish would be considered at a future meeting.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the Community Safety Partnership would soon become a County wide organisation.

Emergency Plan

As Cllr Peters was not present there was no update given.

06/01

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.16/2291/FUL Belvedere, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Conversion of outbuilding to sewing workshop for lessons and part retail.

Permission granted.

S.16/2692/DISCON Orchard View, School Lane, Whitminster.

Discharge of condition.

Permission granted.

S.16/2560/OUT Land at Hillview House, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Outline application for development of 3 detached dwellings.

Refused.

S.16/2301/REM 1 Police Houses, School Lane, Whitminster.

Approval of reserved matters.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.16/2776/HHOLD Acacia, School Lane, Whitminster.

Loft space conversion to form new bedrooms and bathroom. Open air covered space to rear of property.

Council resolved to support this application.

Telephone Kiosk Removal notification.

Council resolved to oppose this proposal.

Council was unable to review the further information submitted in regard to the application on land west of M5 Junction 13 as the Stroud District Council website was not functioning fully.

Other Planning Matters

None.

07/01

Highways & Byways

Proposed Verge Cutting Project

Further information obtained on this proposal by Cllr Jones was considered and on balance it was agreed not to proceed as the benefits were limited for a parish such as Whitminster whilst there were many potential risks.

Correspondence was reported between the Clerk and Mr Clewes of the Old Nurseries. He was complaining about damage to safety mirrors, the verge and drainage grips after hedge cutting work undertaken by a contractor presumably working for a local farmer.

On a similar point, a list was compiled of various overgrown hedges around the Parish and the Clerk was asked to make contact with the relevant landowners to request they are cut before the bird nesting season prevents this from happening.

Cllr Douglas commented on a manhole cover near Kidnams Farm that was developing a gap around the edge that could be hazardous or lead to it sinking. Cllr Jones agreed to raise this with Amey at the same time as pressing for the white lining in School Lane to be reinstated.

It was noted that no warning signs had been erected, as had been agreed with Wales & West Utilities, concerning the forthcoming closure of the centre of the A38 crossroads. Cllr Jones agreed to raise the matter with their representative.

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.

08/01

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Grant Thornton LLP | VAT Element of Audit Fee | £30.00 |
| Stroud District Council | Neighbourhood Warden | £300.00 |
| T W Hawkins | Grass Cutting | £1,716.54 |
| T W Hawkins | Grass Cutting | £51.00 |

Other Financial Matters

Precept - after a discussion of the expenditure for the year to date, anticipated to year end and the Clerk's anticipated budget on that basis, consideration was given to future projects and the need to build a reserve fund to be able to progress plans such as the skate ramp replacement without the need for borrowing. An analysis was worked through of the impact on an average Band D property of various alternative proposals and it was agreed that the precept for 2017/2018 should be set at £17,000:00 .

Donations - donations of £50:00 each were agreed to the Air Ambulance and Longfield Hospice along with £200:00 towards SPAN production costs. It was agreed that, with the exception of the contribution to the Church shed provisionally agreed, future donations and contributions towards ad hoc projects would be curtailed. On the matter of Council's support of the PCC, it was re-affirmed that this would be to the value of £1,500:00 plus VAT and Cllr Douglas would arrange for Mr Adrian Hale to liaise with the Clerk directly as to how this would be arranged and how the shed would be ordered.

09/01

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received and circulated:
Reply from South West Ambulance Services concerning complaints over response times raised by Severn Voice.
Invitation to Environment Agency consultation briefing re Advanced Boiling Water Reactors.
Invitation to Western Power Distribution Seminars and Business Plan Summary Report.
Information from Healthwatch Gloucestershire.
Gloucestershire County Council Waterside Living leaflets and information on the pilot Waterside Mapping Project that Council did not express any interest in pursuing.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine.
The Trow.
CPRE Gloucestershire Views.

10/01

Chairman's Items & District Councillors Report

The Chairman advised that his issues had already been discussed but wearing a District Council hat commented on the mix up with Direct Debits that had led to Council Tax payments being taken from accounts incorrectly before Christmas and also advised that an application was likely to be forthcoming for the replacement of the garages accessed off the The Close to be replaced with new dwellings.

11/01

Other Business

Cllr Douglas asked if there was any further update concerning the proposed pavement works in Paynes Meadow and Cllr Jones suggested it would be done in March.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:48pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 1st February, 2017.