**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL, 2017.**

**Public Forum**

A number of issues were raised during the time set aside for public question or comments including:

* A resident wished to refer to a letter of objection that he had copied to the Parish Council concerning a planning application for a single dwelling on land adjoining Yew Tree Cottage. However, it was noted that the application had been withdrawn based on an officer’s comments that it would be refused.
* Following a recent consultation event on the proposed reserved matters application to be submitted concerning development at Parklands Farm, Mrs Clare Pockett had written to Council on behalf of local residents with their comments and requests. These were outlined in the meeting and it was noted that some changes had already been accepted such as a revision to provide 2no. 2 bedroom bungalows in place of 2no. 2 storey 3 bedroom houses. Other changes were requested by residents in particular to reduce the ridge height and potential over-looking where new properties would be sited at the end of existing gardens. This would mainly involve changes to the proposed affordable/social housing. Email correspondence with the relevant officers at SDC was reviewed and stated that they would have no issues with changes to the type of properties provided but with reference to the fact the that housing types had been accepted at the outline stage of the application and hence the applicant could not be compelled to make changes.
* A number of other general questions and interactions between the public and members of the Council took place.

**00/04**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present along with nine members of the public.

**01/04**

**Apologies**

There were no apologies recorded.

**02/04**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hay declared an interest in regard to Agenda Item 05/04, Planning, as Application Reference S.17/0505/HHOLD concerned Wheatenhust Cottage being his residential property. Cllr Hay volunteered to leave the meeting when the application was due to be considered.

**03/04**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 1st March, 2017, were approved subject to the following amendments:

03/03 Minutes – The previous meeting had been on ‘1st February’ and not ‘20th’ as stated.

05/03 Police & Community Safety – Cllr Peters requested that the second line of first paragraph of the second page be changed removing ‘of dog fouling’ and replacing it with ‘walking a dog without a bag’.

07/03 Highways & Byways – Line 9, ‘top’ changed to read ‘to’.

09/03 Correspondence – Line 4, ‘not’ changed to read ‘no’.

**04/04**

**Matters Arising**

Post Office Closure

There was no further update on developments concerning the potential replacement of the village Post Office.

Website

Cllr Hay was still requiring some biographical material in order to complete the page of information on Parish Councillors.

Severn Voice

A short report was given on the recent meeting of Severn Voice that covered issued such as rural broadband; canals; grass cutting and policing. The next meeting would take place on 20th September and the Clerk would circulate the full minutes of the last meeting and agenda for the next.

Local Buses

A response had been received from local resident John Welberry suggesting that the proposal put forward by Cllr Peters to re-route the 113 bus service to pass through Whitminster and call at the Severn Vale Shopping Centre was not sensible. Various other copy email traffic had been circulated. As the route that had been altered was not a route subsidised by the County Council the Parish Council realised that the influence the County Council could apply would be limited. However, Council had been advised by Mr Bill Carr of GCC and his colleague Alan Bently that work was going into trying to find a resolution and Council felt there was nothing more for it to do in interim.

**05/04**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Recent crime information had been circulated between meetings by email where appropriate.

This included an update from PCSO Trebble concerning the damage to the skate ramp, the theft of tools from a property in Kidnams Walk and various other local incidents. Cllr Jones added that CCTV coverage of the incident at the skate ramp had been downloaded to a memory stick and passed to police and the work to repair had been put in-hand between meetings and had been carried out by Mr Woodward.

A report on further changes to Neighbourhood Warden staffing was received as a result of an additional resignation. However, a map of the District was circulated showing the areas of responsibility of the respective Wardens and Andy Murray remained the Warden for the Whitminster Area.

Cllr Peters commented on the fact that crime remained relatively low in the area. He went on to inform Council of a faulty street light that had been fixed; an issue with a tree in The Close and the fact that the speed monitoring equipment that had been installed in School Lane on a temporary basis would soon be removed. Cllr Jones commented that he was still following up with the Police the issue of the Life Buoy that was found on the Playing Field and he warned those present of the fire hazards associated with certain brands of tumble drier.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Peters reported that nothing further had been done on this project for the time being.

**06/04**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.17/0505/HHOLD Wheatenhurst Cottage, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Extension to residential property.

Cllr Hay had left the meeting for the consideration of this application.

It was decided that the proposed extension was in keeping in terms of scale, was respectful towards the Village Design Statement and was of no detriment to any adjoining properties and for these reasons Council resolved to support the application.

S.17/0640/FUL Agricultural Barn at Walk Farm, Whitminster, Glos.

Extension to agricultural building.

Council considered the application to be of no detriment to the local visual amenity, proportionate in size and sympathetic in terms of the proposed materials. For these reasons, combined with the benefit the development would accrue to a local agricultural business, Council resolved to support the application.

S.17/0563/OUT Land Off School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Outline application for new residential development scheme of up to 60 houses.

Council resolved to oppose this application due to a variety of reasons including:

* The site being outside of the defined Parish Settlement Boundary.
* The fact that the District Council Local Plan had been adopted, does not include the proposed site as a Strategic Site and that there exists a land supply accommodating more than the coming 5 year period.
* No local consultation had been entered into and no reference or consideration had been made of or given to the adopted Whitminster Village Design Statement.
* The proposed site would visually intrude into the Countryside and reduce the general amenity of the locality.
* Information put forward in support of the application was incorrect and poorly researched with omissions and errors. With the correct details taking into account it is apparent that development of this type and scale would be unsustainable.

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

Change of use to mixed use business units.

This application had been considered at a previous meeting and whilst supported in principle and objection was lodges based on the details of the plans as submitted. Following clarification previously received concerning materials and information advising that the owner of the site would make available land and cover the cost of improvements to the Grove Lane/A38 junction Council resolved to support the application. However, this was subject to a legally enforceable agreement being entered into to ensure that the highway works would be carried out.

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that more information concerning highway matters and other details relating to the proposed stadium and business park East of M5 Junction 13 had been received in CD form and was being circulated.

A print out of a Power Point presentation concerning the Community Investment Levy was circulated.

An application for a new dwelling on land adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage, School Lane had been withdrawn.

Following the information event that had recently been held by the proposed developers of Parklands Farm consideration was given to the details of their proposed Reserved Matters application. Representations had also been made during the Public Forum at the start of the meeting. Council considered the matter of the proposed Community Orchard and whether or not it would be minded to accept responsibility for it in return for a devolved sum. It was decided this was not an avenue worthy of further consideration. It was agreed that close monitoring of the proposed public access through the site would need to be maintained as the scheme proceeds. Whilst Council was generally content with the proposed site layout and housing types Council resolved to support the views of the local residents to seek the alterations proposed where they could achieve some further protection of the amenity of existing properties, although it was noted that sufficient distances from opposing windows had been maintained. Council also supported the comments made in regard to site fencing treatment.

**07/04**

**Highways & Byways**

Cllr Jones commented that some of the supplementary 30mph speed limit signs in the village had come loose. Cllr Hay confirmed that he had erected them and would try to repair where possible but he was quite busy for the time being. It was noted that some footpaths crossing fields had not been sprayed out but it was felt this wasn’t necessary as those concerned crossed grass fields. Cllr Paynter confirmed that whilst he had inspected the footpaths and had found the hand rail on the canal bridge to be present it was not securely attached. Other matters discussed included the kissing gate leading into Kidnams Walk and the hedge outside Schoolfield Close that was becoming overgrown and on which ownership was unclear. Cllr Jones volunteered to follow up these matters.

**08/04**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

Mike Woodward Carpenter Repairs to vandalised skate ramp £262.00

Other Financial Matters

A new cheque book was awaited that had been outstanding from before the last meeting. As a result there had been no payments made and the Clerk confirmed the balance at the bank there remained unchanged although the first instalment of precept payment could be expected soon.

The Clerk had circulated correspondence he had entered into with a resident who was concerned by the increase of the Parish Council Precept. The Clerk had explained that the increase was to build reserves to fund the proposed replacement skate ramp but the Parishioner remained of the view that the cost was excess at a time when she believed many young families to be struggling financially.

An email of thanks had been received from Mr Adrian Hale on behalf of the Parochial Church Council regarding the contribution Council had made towards the new storage shed. A VAT invoice had also been forwarded.

**09/04**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received and circulated:

The TROW magazine.

Notice of County Council elections in 10 Divisions including Hardwicke and Severn.

**10/04**

**Chairman’s Items & District Councillors Report**

There were no Chairman’s Items but Cllr Jones gave a brief overview of the matters discussed at the District Council meeting that had taken place towards the end of the previous month and gave a more detailed update on matters concerning the District’s leisure centres which reiterated some points touched on previously by District Councillor Stephen Davies. He also disseminated information concerning the garage block off The Close which was being considered for disposal by the District Council. It was thought the site may be suitable for 1/2 houses and options included an open market disposal or transfer to a Registered Provider.

**11/04**

**Other Business**

Future Agenda Items

There was some final discussion concerning the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and it was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which the Chairman and others offices would be elected and appointed for the ensuing year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.37pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 3rd May, 2017.