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

**Public Forum**

There were no issues raised.

**00/03**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present along with District Councillor Stephen Davies.

**01/03**

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Jones who was attending another parish council meeting in his capacity as District Councillor for the area.

**02/03**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made.

**03/03**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 20TH February, 2017, were approved without amendment.

Under this item Cllr Peters advised that he had been told the Council should archive all Minutes after the passage of 20 years and that he was liaising with Cllr Jones to try and trace the Minutes and other records taken to the County Records Office by previous Clerks and Chairmen.

**04/03**

**Matters Arising**

Skate Ramp Replacement

Cllr Peters passed around details of the two proposals received from Rhino Ramps and Caloo Ltd to compare. It was noted that, subject to amendments, both fell within a budget range of £40,000 to £43,000.

World War One Display Project

The Clerk advised that he was following up the matter of the potential grant aid and a response should be received within 60 days.

Post Office Closure

There was no further update on developments concerning the potential replacement of the village Post Office but it was noted that a Post office would be opening in the Frampton-on-Severn Village Shop the following Tuesday.

Website

Cllr Hay reminded those present to supply biographical information where necessary.

Other Matters

On the subject of Compliance, the Vice-Chairman had highlighted the need to comply with the Transparency Code and it was noted that efforts in respect of the new website and publishing information in that format would address this.

**05/03**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

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

Cllr Peters advised that news of a fine being issued in respect of dog fouling was not true. He went on to reaffirm, as previously advised, that one Panel Meeting was being convened for the enlarged policing area with a single policing priority. Cllr Peters also commented on a street light that had recently been repaired and that the replacement of standard bulbs with LEDs was being undertaken.

Concern was raised regarding various tree limbs and it was noted that if on District Council (SDC) owned land such issues should be reported to SDC.

Cllr Jones had copied Council in on email correspondence he had entered into with the Police over what he considered to be a lack of diligence over the report of the lifebuoy discarded at the Playing Field. He had been assured the matter was being properly followed up.

It was noted that there had been a false start in regard to the installation of speed monitoring equipment in School Lane but it was understood that speeds were now being monitored with the results hopefully to be forthcoming in due course.

Emergency Plan

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

**06/03**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

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

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

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

None.

Other Planning Matters

The Clerk had circulated copy letters regarding the applications concerning Grove End Farm and Land West of Stonehouse as discussed at the previous meeting. Cllr Jones had listed in the notes he suppled that he was liaising with the Highways and Planning Officers over potential improvements to the A38/Grove Lane junction in connection with the Grove Farm application but subject to highways comments it was otherwise likely that approval would be given.

It was noted that at 8:05pm for 10 minutes Cllr Paynter was absent from the meeting as he had to take an important work telephone call.

**07/03**

**Highways & Byways**

It was noted that a 3 car collision had taken place at the A38 crossroads the previous Monday but no serious injuries were known of.

Cllr Jones had also stated in his notes that it would be necessary to lobby the new County Councillor for the area, following elections later in the year, for any further pavement work in Paynes Meadow to be achieved using the Highways Local Budget.

Cllr Paynter advised that he had not recently identified any footpath issues. He confirmed that the handrail to the canal bridge had been re-fixed but was still not particularly secure.

Cllr Peters had identified a lamp post that was unstable but which had been reported.

Cllr Douglas observed that the issue with the manhole adjacent top Kidnams Farm was worsening. He also added that a blitz on vegetation around the canal had produced very good results and that trees had been cut where overhead power lines passed through.

Cllr Peters returned a copy of the Information Request Form concerning the Snow Plough Operator and Equipment that he had recently completed and submitted.

**08/03**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

Whitminster Village Hall Hall hire for Annual Parish Meeting £22.50

Other Financial Matters

A request had been made for a donation to support the Whitminster Garden Competition 2017. In light of discussions concerning grants and donations at the meeting at which the precept was set it was determined that the amount of £250.00 could not be agreed to but Council would contribute £50.00

The Clerk confirmed the balance at the bank, as per the last statement received, as being £7,068.49

**09/03**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received and circulated:

The TROW magazine.

Correspondence concerning SDC’s policy on investing pension fund monies in companies producing fossil fuels – it was agreed that not response would be given.

Minutes of the meeting of Severn Voice held on 23rd January.

Correspondence from Mr John Welberry seeking further discussion on the re-routing of the Gloucester bus service to serve the Severn Vale Shopping Centre. In response to this Cllr Peters advised that he had been considering the matter and suggested that the 113 service could be diverted via Whitminster, missing out parts of Frampton-on-Severn in order to provide this service. He asked that this proposal be put forward.

**10/03**

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

There were no Chairman’s Items.

Cllr Stephen Davies gave a brief report advising that SDC had committed to spending £8m on housing from the Council’s general budget which was considered irresponsible. The Council’s reserves would also be completely depleted by the date of the next round of District Council elections. He went on to report that the application concerning Land West of Stonehouse had been withdrawn but that this was largely due to poor design characteristics needing to be addressed and there was a possibility that the access arrangements, that Council had opposed, would remain unchanged. Finally he advised that County Councillor Tony Blackburn would be standing down at the forthcoming County Council elections but that he, Stephen Davies, would be standing as the Conservative candidate.

**11/03**

**Other Business**

Future Agenda Items

There was discussion as to the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting that the Clerk would prepare. Cllr Peters advised the guest speaker would be from the 2gether NHS Foundation Trust and would speak on Mental Health Awareness and Reducing the Stigma. He asked that this be promoted via Facebook and other means.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm.

 **CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 5th April, 2017.