**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY, 2017.**

**Public Forum**

There were no issues raised as there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chairman gave his welcome to the assembled Councillors and reminded those present that it was the start of a new civic year for the Council.

**00/05**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present.

**01/05**

**Apologies**

There were no apologies recorded.

**02/05**

**Election of Chairman**

Cllr Douglas proposed Cllr Jones. This was seconded by Cllr Peters. There were no other nominations. Cllr Jones indicated his willingness to accept the role for a further year and was duly elected unanimously.

**03/05**

**Appointments**

The following appointments were made to official and advisory roles:

**Vice - Chairman** – Cllr Hay – Appointed by gift of the Chairman.

**Responsible Financial Officer** – Clerk.

**Watercourse Wardens** – Cllrs Paynter and Peters. It was noted that no communication had been received from Stroud District Council (S.D.C.) concerning this role for some time and the Clerk agreed to contact Nikki Humphries at S.D.C. to investigate.

**Snow Warden** – Cllr Peters.

**Representative to the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee** – Cllr Mrs Gilmore.

**Footpaths Officer** – Cllr Paynter.

**Communications Officer/Webmaster** – Cllr Hay.

Under this item Cllr Jones commented on the fact that the Council’s contact details and telephone numbers were wrong on some contact lists. He was to investigate. The Clerk also advised that a new email address would be adopted from the end of May.

The Chairman thanked all members of the Council and the Clerk for their efforts over the past year and he in turn was thanked for his commitment and continued service.

**04/05**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he was aware that Cllr Braidford’s Declaration of Interest forms had not been recorded by S.D.C. The Clerk advised that he held copies of all forms submitted and would contact S.D.C. and would also enquire if there was an updated version of the Standards of Conduct and Ethics guidelines for circulation.

**05/05**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 5th April, 2017, were approved without amendment.

**06/05**

**Matters Arising**

Post Office Closure

There was no further update on developments concerning the potential replacement of the village Post Office. Cllr Jones had been seeking a progress report from Laura Tarling, of the Post Office, but she had been on holiday and he had received no reply from her colleague who was dealing with her work in her absence.

Website

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

30 MPH Notices

Cllrs Hay and Paynter confirmed that they would follow up replacing/repairing the 30mph repeater signs that had been put up in School Lane.

World War 1 Project

The Clerk advised a provisional allocation of funding for the project and it was agreed that consent should be sought to affix the proposed signed on the District Council’s fence between the war memorial and A38 as well as further thought being given to the presentation of the information.

**07/05**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

An email update had been circulated from PCSO Michael Trebble. There had been an attempted break in to two sheds to the rear of a property in The Close but nothing had been taken.

A Neighbourhood Warden Monthly Report for the month of March was received and circulated.

Council had been made aware, by a local resident, of youths attacking cows and a swan with bricks and a catapult. The police had been informed and apprehended those involved. This was an illustration of how directly reporting issues in a timely matter can give rise to a swift response and appropriate results.

The results of the recent speed monitoring in School Lane, close to the School, had been received, circulated and reviewed. The Head Teacher had been informed and was supportive of any action the Parish Council proposed pursuing to reduce vehicle speeds. 1,981 vehicles were found to be speeding at an unacceptable level, that being over 36mph. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Insp Brian Clifford at Stroud Police Station to ask what action he intends.

Concerns were raised relating to issues arising from long-term parking and misuse of lay-bys. It was noted that a caravan was frequently parked in the A38 North-bound lay-by near Attwoolls and it was thought that it may be being lived in. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate if there were any relevant rules concerning lay-by use.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Peters reported that nothing further had been done on this project and he requested that it be removed from the Agenda to potentially return for consideration during the 2017/2018 winter period. He went on to alert Council to an AGM taking place of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation on 15th May.

**08/05**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

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

Single storey side extension.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

None.

Other Planning Matters

A copy of the Stroud District Local Plan: Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document was received.

A copy letter was received from Gloucestershire County Council (G.C.C.) to S.D.C. stating that no objection was raised, subject to conditions, on the part of the Lead Local Flood Authority concerning the outstanding application S.17/0563/OUT for up to 60 dwellings on land off School Lane.

Concern was raised that a new barn had possibly been built at Hurst Lodge, off School Lane, without planning permission. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate the matter and raise it with Jamie Cooper, Enforcement Officer at S.D.C.

**09/05**

**Highways & Byways**

A schedule of temporary road closures taking place within the area between 1st July and 31st August had been received.

Cllr Jones circulated an update concerning his efforts relating to the Holbury Crescent ‘roundabout’. A case was being developed for it to be redesigned and efforts were being made to keep lorries from parking on the grass.

Cllr Paynter informed the meeting that he had inspected some of the village footpaths and had found the handrail on the canal bridge to be present but loose. It was also noted that the footpath leading from Hyde Lane to the canal was overgrown and Cllr Paynter was to inspect the kissing gate on the footpath that leads towards the A419. Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had reported issues concerning footpath no. 16 involving a fence around the field and a problem with the stile.

Cllr Douglas commented on the work being done to replace lamp bulbs in street lights and it was noted that they were being attended to throughout the village in a sporadic fashion.

It was noted the lengths of cord wood had been left at the side of the Stroudwater Canal following recent work. It was not known if the Cotswold Canals Trust still sold this off but anyone interested could contact Ken Burgin of the Trust.

Cllr Hay commented on the hedge forming the boundary of the new property being built opposite the village school. This was growing into the road. Cllr Jones stated that he had already spotted the problem and had emailed Highways asking that it be looked into.

**10/05**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

Whitminster Garden Competition Donation £50.00

CPRE Membership £36.00

Village Hall Management Comm. Hall Hire for APM Amount to be confirmed.

Other Financial Matters

Notice was received of the payment of the first instalment of precept from S.D.C. in the sum of £8,500 .

**11/05**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received and circulated:

Notice of a temporary closure of the Hempsted Recycling Centre for improvement works.

An update bulletin on the Gloucestershire Energy From Waste Facility under construction.

ThE News from S.D.C.

**12/05**

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

There were no Chairman’s Items but Cllr Jones did raise the matter of Council’s informal Wards under his items and the allocation was confirmed as follows:

School Lane Cllr Mrs Gilmore

Hyde Lane & Holbury Crescent Cllr Paynter

A38 Cllr Peters

The Close, Vaisey Field & Manor Court Cllr Douglas

Paynes Meadow & Little Holbury Cllr Jones

Upton’s Garden & Rickyard Way Cllr Hay

Kidnams Walk Cllr Braidford

In regard to District Council matters Cllr Jones had nothing to report as the recent scheduled meeting of the District Council had been cancelled due to a lack of business.

**13/05**

**Future Agenda Items**

No matters were raised.

**14/05**

**Other Business**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 7th June, 2017.