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

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public in attendance.

There were 3 members of the public present for this part of the meeting. When given an opportunity to speak one member of the public raised the following issues:

* A38 pavement – although the pavement had recently been sprayed for weeds the surface was crumbling away and no significant work had been undertaken since it was laid in 1968.
* Litter picking along A38 – this had not been done for some time and after enquiries a month ago action had been promised but was not forthcoming.

In response to both of these matters Councillor John Jones advised that he would follow the points up with the County Council and District Council respectively.

* Parish Website – a comment was made that the website had not been updated since March and it was suggested that the site would be a more useful tool for the village if other organisations provided information.

It was agreed that the matter of updating would be raised with the webmaster, Cllr Hay, at the next meeting and SPAN would be used to encourage other village organisations to provide relevant information.

**00/11**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore and Peters.

The Clerk was also present together with three members of the public.

**01/11**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was at home caring for his wife and Cllr Paynter who had previously advised he would be unable to attend following an operation.

Cllr Mrs Gilmore gave apologies in advance for the fact that she would be missing the December meeting as she would be away.

**02/11**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/11**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th October, 2017, were approved subject to 2 amendments:

08/10 Other Financial Matters – 7th line – ‘one two’ changed to read ‘to provide two’.

08/10 Other Financial Matters – 8th line – ‘sough’ changed to ‘sought’.

**04/11**

**Matters Arising**

Severn Voice Meeting Report

Cllr Jones provided a summary of the meeting covering a variety of matters:

* Hinton PC had requested to join the group and that had been agreed.
* Frampton-on-Severn PC would host the next meeting during March 2018.
* Update on the Community Shopper Bus that seemed to be of more benefit to the other parishes with more restricted bus services.
* Fastershire – Councils were urged to ask parishioners who were not receiving faster broadband speeds to inform their Council so information on problem areas could be collated. It was agreed that this should be mentioned in SPAN.
* A38 Road Safety – Moreton Valence Parish Council and others were seeking support from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Fund to purchase speed warning signs for the A38.It was noted that this would form an agenda item for the next meeting of Severn Voice and Cllr Peters commented that he believed such signs to be very effective.
* Verge Cutting – Cllr Jones had advised the group that the PC wished to join with this scheme in the Summer and Cllr Jones had contacted Daniel Tiffney of the County Council accordingly. Further information and details on the contractor’s rates for the coming season would be circulated.
* Cllr Jones had given a report on matters pertaining to the District Council.

Holbury Crescent

Cllr Jones reported what he hoped was the verge of a success story concerning his efforts relating to the roundabout. He had met on site with the Neighbourhood Warden and Housing/Estates Officer and following that meeting a further meeting had taken place with the County Council Highways Dept. The result was that work was planned for 20th November when the roundabout would be made smaller and the roadway would be resurfaced.

Website

It was believed that Cllr Hay was still requiring some biographical material from Cllrs Douglas and Paynter as well as information from Cllr Paynter in respect of the village footpaths. However, as he was not present at the meeting this matter would be considered again in December.

World War 1 Project & War Memorial

Cllr Peters advised he was checking with Nick Allen Design Ltd to see if the quote for the interpretation board was including or plus VAT. He confirmed that this was, in essence, one and the same company as Footprint Design. Cllr Peters went on to ask if there would be any objections to him placing two white poppies on the War Memorial. After some discussion over the meaning of the symbol it was concluded this was not really a Parish Council matter and as he would not be acting on behalf of the Parish Council it would be his own personal decision.

The Clerk had not received any further quotes for stone cleaning or repairs to the memorial but would enquire who had carried out the recent work to the memorial in Standish.

**05/11**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

It was noted that an initial meeting had taken place and a start had been made on the project of updating the Emergency Plan. More information would follow.

Other Matters

The Clerk reported that the new Neighbourhood Warden had been in touch and it was hoped that he would attend a meeting of the Parish Council over the coming few months.

Cllr Jones reported that the anti-speeding posters being produced by children at the village school would be judged very shortly and he reminded those present that the Council had offered a prize of £40.00 or thereabouts. An initiative was being organised for speed monitoring to be carried out by PCSO Trebble involving the schoolchildren and with appropriate press coverage in order to increase speed awareness in the vicinity.

Cllr Peters reminded those present of the Police Panel meeting taking place on 9th November at 7pm in Berkeley.

A report for the month of September was received from Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Beamish, together with Severnside Updates from PCSO Trebble.

Information was received on Community Alerts from the Police and OPCC and how to subscribe.

Cllr Peters circulated an email from Chris Thompson of the Gloucestershire Safety Hub that provided information ranging from ideas to address speeding concerns to the hotline to report someone committing a parking contravention.

**06/11**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

S.17/2124/DISCON 1 Police Houses, School Lane, Whitminster.

Discharge of condition (materials) – granted

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

Change of use to commercial use – granted.

Council was pleased to note that a condition attaching to the application required the highway improvement works to the Grove Lane/A38 junction that had been previously discussed.

Applications to Consider

S.17/2390/MINAM Acacia School Lane Whitminster Gloucester GL2 7NT

Minor amendment to raise proposed ridge height.

Council had no comments to make concerning this application.

S.17/2306/TPO 10 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Sycamore tree – fell or reduce.

Council resolved to support this application but would wish a replacement tree to be planted.

17/0008/STMAJW Smiths (Gloucester) Limited, The Old Airfield, Moreton Valence, Glos.

Variation of conditions concerning Consent 11/0017/STMAJW (27/09/2011).

It was understood that this related to a consent that had not been actioned for the construction of an incinerator type plant. Various questions were raised such as what material would it burn. However, Cllr Jones advised that, as yet, no permit to operate had been applied for and he suggested it would be more appropriate to comment at that stage. Therefore Council resolved to pass no comments but did ask that a hard paper copy of the proposals be requested.

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that there was no further news concerning any developments on Parklands Farm.

Information was received on the Stroud District Local Plan Review : Issues and Options Public Consultation. Consultation remained open until 5th December. The documents had been circulated by email and a hard copy was available. A Parish Cluster meeting was taking place to explain the process and receive Parish comments and this was to be on 9th November at Frampton-on-Severn Village Hall. Cllrs Jones, Mrs Gilmore and Douglas indicated that they hoped to attend.

Information was received on the new Planning Public Access website operated by Stroud District Council.

**07/11**

**Highways & Byways**

Notice had been received of proposed highway improvements to include a speed reduction along part of Grove Lane. Council considered the matter and resolved to request that a 40mph limit be impose on the remainder of the road through to the A38 crossroads junction.

The Clerk reported he had received an email from a local resident who was concerned by parking issues in The Close. The Clerk had responded confirming Council shared her concerns and had taken what action it could but also suggesting that she add her voice to the many complaints by raising the matter directly with District and County Councils as appropriate. Cllr Jones advised that he had nothing further to report on the matter.

It was noted that recent road sweeping in the Parish had not been done to an acceptable standard and Cllr Jones advised he had already raised the matter.

**08/11**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

A cheque was drawn in the sum of £50.00 as a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

Other Financial Matters

The matter of the skate ramp was considered in light of a recent inspection report that highlighted a number of shortcomings. Although not necessitating immediate closure, it was clear that the future use of the equipment would require close monitoring and potential closure/removal might be imminent. It was agreed that this possibility be publicised in SPAN and the matter be reviewed again at the next meeting to see if any potential offers of help with fundraising might be forthcoming and to investigate the possibility of a Public Works Loan Board Loan.

**09/11**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

GAPTC – matters arising from the AGM including circulation of a Public Health England briefing on Working Together to Promote Active Travel.

GAPTC newsletter.

CPRE Gloucestershire Views magazine.

Information on the Careline Scheme provided by Stroud District Council.

Kingsdown Nurseries brochure.

Consultation document on Councillor disqualification.

Other items of correspondence had been mainly received by email and circulated by email between meetings. However, it was noted that it had been a particularly quiet month.

**10/11**

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

Cllr Jones gave an overview of District Council matters reporting that consideration was being given to reducing staffing levels at the Council by 20% over the coming 4 years at the same time as spending up to £8m on various projects that would empty the Council’s reserves.

He reported that the new waste and recycling service had settled in well but costs were significantly over budget and proposals included a reduced frequency of recycling and residual waste collections. There would be a £3 increase in the cost of garden waste collection for the following year in anticipation of cost increases in that area. Other subjects covered included the Local plan review, canal restoration and car parking charges. The full report was circulated.

Cllr Jones had also circulated his proposals for the wording for the plaque to identify the English Oak being planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth 2nd. The tree would be planted at the entrance to The Close.

**11/11**

**Future Agenda Items**

It was requested that an update on website matters be included on the agenda for the next meeting, together with the Emergency Plan (to be on the Agenda each meeting until further notice), footpaths map, skate ramp (to include potential Public Works Loan Board loan) and future budget considerations.

**12/11**

**Other Business**

Parish Walk – Cllr Peters asked that this matter be kept on the agenda and suggested a parish walk could be considered in the summer to raise funds for a replacement skate ramp.

Parish Website – It was suggested that much of the information on the website was out of date and it should include a wider variety of information as suggested during public questions and comments at the start of the meeting. It was agreed this should be raised with Cllr Hay at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

 **CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 6th December, 2017.