**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**Public Forum**

There were 2 members of the public present for this part of the meeting. When given an opportunity to speak both members of the public said they wished to enquire concerning progress on investigating the refurbishment of the War Memorial. They were advised the matter would be reported on during the meeting and were content to wait and hear what would be said.

**00/09**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present together with District & County Councillor Stephen Davies and two members of the public.

**01/09**

**Apologies**

An apology was received and accepted from Cllr Paynter as he joined the meeting ½ hour late. An apology was also received and accepted from Cllr Jones who was attending Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council’s meeting in his capacity as District Councillor and hence Cllr Hay chaired the meeting.

**02/09**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/09**

**Minutes**

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

**04/09**

**Matters Arising**

Bus Service Route 62

A response had been received from Mr Carr at Gloucestershire County Council (G.C.C.) advising that Stagecoach had revised their routes effective from 3rd September and services 60/62 would travel via the Severnvale Shopping Centre to maximise use and also service 201 (operated by Mike’s Travel) would also go via the shopping centre on Wednesdays only from 5th September. It was agreed that this would be publicised in the next available issue of SPAN. The Clerk advised he was chasing for the delivery of the perch seats that had been ordered for the bus shelters.

Website

Cllr Hay was still requiring some biographical material from Cllr Douglas and he agreed to liaise with Cllr Douglas to assist him in putting this together. Information was awaited from Cllr Paynter in respect of the village footpaths. Cllr Douglas had provided some information concerning the church and under this item he informed those present that Rev Steve Harrison had been appointed as Rector to serve the 15 grouped parishes of which Whitminster formed one and he was likely to reside in Leonard Stanley.

School Lane Speed Survey

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had been told the speeds reported from the survey were fairly typical for a road of this type. No response had been received from the police or road safety partnership in reply to the Clerk’s letter.

Javelin Park – Incinerator

Cllr Mrs Gilmore circulated project update No. 9 that had been provided at a recent meeting she attended and which summarised matters well.

World War 1 Project & War Memorial

Cllr Douglas had obtained a quote from McAllister Masonry for work to the War Memorial in the sum of £2,240 plus VAT. It was not clear if this included relaying and repointing the surrounding paving slabs and he agreed to investigate. The Clerk had made contact with Ransomes Memorials Ltd and they had requested some photographs and additional information before quoting. Cllr Douglas believed that Ransome would in fact be subcontracted by McAllister to do some of the work and it was not therefore anticipated that there would be any great different in price. It was agreed that a price should also be sought from Cambridge stonemasons. Meanwhile, Cllrs Jones and Peters had been to see Footprint Interpretation Design concerning the proposed display board. They had been impressed by the company and a proposal was expected.

Holbury Crescent

In the absence of Cllr Jones there was nothing further to report on this matter.

**05/09**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

A copy of the Community Safety Strategy 2017-2021 had been received and circulated.

The Minutes of the last Stroud Cluster Group Meeting had been received along with notice of the next meeting to take place on Wednesday 29th November, 2017, at 6:30pm.

Contact details were received for Andy Beamish who had been appointed as the new Neighbourhood Warden for the area following the departure of Andy Murray.

An email was received from Nikki Humphries, Senior Emergency Planning Officer at Stroud District Council (S.D.C.), asking for updated contact lists in relation to the village’s Emergency Plan together with an updated version. Cllr Peters suggested this should be an Agenda item for further consideration towards the end of the year.

It was noted the application process for the Stroud Community Safety Partnership Grant scheme 2017/2018 had opened as had the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Fund for 2018/2019.

A police open day at the Gloucestershire Constabulary HQ was promoted for 16th September.

Details of the Abandoned Vehicle Reporting Process was received from S.D.C. and Cllr Peters advised that he had reviewed and agreed with the revised Dog Control Orders that had been the subject of a recent consultation by the District Council.

Crime figures and policing reports had been provided by PCSO Mike Trebble and duly circulated but there were unlikely to be any further reports until the end of September or early October due to annual leave.

Speeding on the A38 was discussed and Cllr Hay suggested that the Council should seek to determine if the A38 speed camera was in operation by requesting statistics for the number of fines issued and this was to be raised at the next relevant policing/community safety meeting.

**06/09**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.17/1715/FUL Hurst Lodge, School Lane, Whitminster.

Full planning permission for a barn in pasture land (250sq m).

Council resolved to support this application but requested that a scheme of landscaping be applied to minimise the visual impact when viewed from nearby properties.

S.17/0095/REM Land West of Stonehouse, Nastend Lane, Stonehouse, Glos.

This application was discussed with Cllr Davies who explained some of the background behind the current application. It was agreed that the Clerk should write in objection reinforcing comments made previously and expressing concern that a means of access directly onto Grove Lane beyond the proposed main access road into the development remained evident. This could have significant highway safety implications for pedestrians in Grove Lane and the A38 junction.

Other Planning Matters

A reminder was received concerning the Stroud District Heritage Strategy Consultation that was due to close on 15th September.

An update on CIL matters was received from GAPTC.

It was noted that a decision concerning Grove End Farm had been deferred for further highway consultation and Cllr Jones had left, for the information of the meeting, a print-out detailing the proposed traffic measures that appeared to be satisfactory by all.

**07/09**

**Highways & Byways**

There had been no further update from Wales & West Utilities on their proposals for planned gas main work in the vicinity of the A38 cross-roads.

Council had been advised of a temporary closure of Grove Lane in regard to the Stroud Half Marathon to take place on 22nd October.

Details were circulated on proposals to apply double yellow lines in the vicinity of certain canal bridges in the area. None fell within the Parish.

Cllr Peters circulated a copy of an email exchange he had engaged in with David Collicott of the Road Safety and Traffic Management department at Gloucestershire Constabulary. This advised that the number of vehicles speeding in School Lane was 12% and was below the average of 30%. He had asked further questions concerning some form of device he had seen attached to a street light in School Lane and how Council may go about obtaining a 30mph flashing sign but no response had been received.

Cllr Paynter agreed that he would research any footpath issues and contact the PROW department at GCC directly.

Other matters discussed included the noise of the A38 surface, which was considered noisy by Cllr Douglas but acceptable by others, tree works in the area, overgrown hedges and speed limit repeater signs. It was also noted that the caravan stationed in the A38 North bound remained in situ but it was understood it would be moved on shortly and there was some suggestion it had already gone.

Cllr Davies was reminded of the various works Council had proposed in regard to his Local Highways Budget and also the Lengthsman Scheme. He advised that he had received many requests but had sought to focus his efforts where the work would make the greatest impact and resolve issues that would not otherwise be undertake in the normal course of events. His main expenditure would therefore be to create a new car park area in Slimbridge. However, he took on board the various requests for Whitminster and in particular would raise safety concerns over uneven footpaths with Daniel Tiffney.

**08/09**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

T W Hawkins & Sons Grass cutting £735.05

Clerk’s Expenses Postage £15.60

Came & Co Insurance £773.88

Mr M Woodward Skate Ramp works £60.00

Other Financial Matters

The latest bank statement received was as at 28th July and showed a balance of £5,527.05 but with various cheques outstanding and not presented and also a precept payment anticipated shortly.

All final documents had been submitted to Council’s auditors and no queries received to date.

A request for grant aid by Cotswold Boatmobility was turned down as a result of Council’s decision to build reserves for the Skate Ramp Project. The same had applied in respect of a request from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

**09/09**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

GAPTC advice note on pros and cons of Parish/Town Councillors being District/ Borough or County Councillors.

GAPTC Newsletter.

Home Start flier.

S.D.C. ThE News.

G.C.C. Information on adult learning opportunities.

CPRE Countryside Voice Magazine.

Fliers concerning Frampton Country Fair.

Stroudwater Navigation ‘Prospectus’.

Clerks & Councils Direct.

**10/09**

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

Cllr Davies gave a report on District & County Council matters. At S.D.C. the ruling group had set out plans to reduce the workforce by 20% to mitigate the impact of a planned expenditure of £8m to build 34 new Council Houses. Meanwhile, consent had been granted for a new Aldi supermarket in Stroud. Other matters raised included the canal project and also the proposed business park for land East of the M5 where further highways deliberations were awaited but may well run into next year.

At the County Council the Children and Families Dept had failed its OFSTED inspection and much effort was being made to seek improvements. Issues raised included the secondary and potentially hazardous access being used at Javelin Park, the future control of the fire service in the County and further highway issues to be discussed with Daniel Tiffney.

**11/09**

**Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Peters requested that the proposal of a Parish Walk be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Jones had made a written request, via Cllr Hay, that verge cutting be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**12/09**

**Other Business**

It was noted that there was a forthcoming meeting of Severn Voice scheduled for October but it was agreed there were no Agenda items to put forward from the Parish Council

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 4th October, 2017.