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

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the member of the public in attendance along with Neighbourhood Warden Andy Beamish, the Councillors and the Clerk to what would be the last meeting of 2017.

There was 1 member of the public present who, when given an opportunity to speak, raised the following matter:

* Skate Ramp – Mrs Honor Jones spoke. The Council was urged to adopt a sympathetic approach if the ramp is to be demolished and removed. The village children must not be left to feel guilty as if it is their fault that it is being removed or that they have done something wrong. She went on to advise that volunteers had submitted an application for funding to the Co-Op and a decision was expected shortly. However, the maximum amount, if successful, was likely to be £2,000 thus being far short of the likely total needed for a replacement. Mrs Jones asked what efforts were being made by individual Councillors to secure funding. She concluded by stating that the skate ramp was the most used piece of equipment in the village, that it is greatly enjoyed by those that use it and that it must be replaced.

**00/12**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present together with one member of the public and Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Beamish, for part of the meeting.

**01/12**

**Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Gilmore had given her apology in advance at the last meeting as she was away on holiday. Cllr Braidford had sent an apology shortly after the November meeting for having missed it. Both apologies were accepted.

**02/12**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/12**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 1st November, 2017, were approved subject to one amendment:

08/11 Other Financial Matters – It was agreed that at the end of the paragraph the following wording should be inserted: ‘It was also agreed that it should be publicised through social media’.

**04/11**

**Matters Arising**

Fastershire – Cllr Jones advised that he had received one response to the request that anyone suffering poor broadband speeds should get in touch. This was from a resident in Upton’s Garden. Cllr Jones agreed to pass on the information to County Cllr Stephen Davies.

A38 Road Safety – Cllr Jones sought confirmation that the Parish Council supported the efforts of Moreton Valence Parish Council and others in seeking a speed awareness sign for the A38. This was confirmed and Cllr Jones suggested he might raise the matter again under Highways & Byways.

Councillor Disqualification – Cllr Peters commented on this matter and asked whether Council should be responding to a consultation document but it was clarified that the matter was being addressed on behalf of Parish Councils by GAPTC.

World War One Commemorations and War Memorial – Cllr Peters confirmed that he had been in touch with the proposed supplier of the interpretation board and could advise that their price was subject to VAT in addition. The Clerk had been in touch with Standish PC and was awaiting a response as to their view on the quality of the work carried out by the contractor that they had used for similar work to the War Memorial in that Parish. It was agreed that the work should be commissioned in due course in order to be complete for 11th November, 2018.

**05/12**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

It was noted that the project of updating the plan was on hold until Cllr Mrs Gilmore returns from holiday.

Neighbourhood Warden

Monthly reports for October and November had been received from Neighbourhood Warden Andy Beamish who was also present at the meeting. He advised that he had taken over during July and since then had been mainly engaged in dealing with neighbour disputes, antisocial behaviour issues and fly tipping. His working hours were 0800 – 1600 hrs or 1300 – 2100 hrs depending on shift and he would try to attend Parish Council meetings when possible if the shift pattern allowed. He explained that the Wardens have a range of topics to address as well as assisting in general at large events that the District Council is associated with. The main issue raised with the Warden during the meeting was that of dog fouling. Cllr Jones had received an email from a resident complaining about the problem in Little Holbury and it was noted that it remained prevalent throughout the village despite frequent mentions in the SPAN magazine. Warden Beamish agreed to apply some more stencilled reminder signs throughout the village. However, he concluded by saying that he is currently covering other areas as well and so his patrols within the Parish may be limited for the time being.

Other Matters

Severnside updates had been received from PCSO Mike Trebble and were circulated. Ongoing issues concerned those visiting the area to collect scrap metal and suspected of committing crimes in the process.

A Joint Cluster Group Meeting had taken place on 29th November. An agenda and minutes of the previous meeting had been received. Cllr Jones reported that there was the possibility of Dursley Police Station relocating to the fire station site whilst Stroud Police Station would definitely be remaining open although CCTV monitoring would be relocated. Future Cluster meetings would take place on 23rd May and 28th November, 2018, both in the Council Chamber at Ebley Mill and starting at 6.30pm.

Cllr Peters advised that although the Village Agents scheme had ended there was a community wellbeing service in operation that fulfilled a similar role.

SDC had written informing Council that Christmas tree skips would not be provided throughout the District but a scheme was being operated by Longfield hospice to collect and dispose of trees for a donation and details were supplied by all vendors of trees in the area.

Cllr Jones confirmed he had requested a litter pick along the A38 following the comments made by a member of the public at the last meeting. It was noted that thorough collections are scheduled on a regular basis with intermediary picks done as necessary.

It was noted that the police panel meetings were ending but pressure was being applied for a regular meeting to continue on some basis at which there would be a police presence.

The skate ramp was also raised briefly under this item but was deferred until Accounts below.

**06/12**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

S.17/1968/FUL Land adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of single storey 3 bedroom dwelling.

It was understood that this application had been withdrawn.

S.17/2306/TPO 10 Upton’s Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Fell or drastically reduce Sycamore tree.

Refused.

S.17/2390/MINAM Acacia, School Lane, WHitminster, Glos.

Raise ridge height by 200mm.

Approved.

Applications to Consider

S.17/2495/TPO 5 Upton’s Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Reduce height and spread of Lime tree.

Council resolved to pass no comments on this application but to leave it at the discretion of the relevant officer.

It was noted that some other minor applications had been listed with SDC including the installation of 2 dish antennas at a communication station at Manor Farm, Grove Lane. No comments were made and it was understood that the application was to be approved in any case.

Local Plan Review

Cllrs Jones, Douglas and Mrs Gilmore had attended the workshop held in Frampton Village Hall and Cllr Peters had also dropped in during the day. A discussion ensued concerning the potential sites for development that had been put forward for within the village. In conclusion it was agreed that no attempt should be made to amend the settlement boundary but that small scale development, preferably infill, would be acceptable. It was also noted that there remains an outstanding valid consent for development on the Parklands Farm site. Cllr Jones agreed to draft and circulate a proposed submission for further comment.

Cllr Jones also raised the issue of affordable housing and suggested consideration should be given to a new housing need survey but no conclusion was reached on this matter.

Other Planning Matters

Notes were received as an overview of the Parish/Town Council’s - Planning Public Access Overview event that had taken place in November.

Cllr Douglas informed Council that a large radio mast had been erected at 25 Paynes Meadow. It was agreed that it would be investigated to determine if planning consent was necessary.

**07/12**

**Highways & Byways**

Holbury Crescent

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the work had not proceeded as previously suggested but 3 options had been considered. It was now intended that the size would be reduced, the surrounding carriageway widened and a double kerb installed and the work was being programmed.

Footpaths Map

Cllr Paynter had been unable to progress this matter as he needed a new laptop computer to be able to do so. He hoped he would be able to make a start after Christmas.

Verge Cutting

Following discussion on the relevant rates and procedures it was agreed that Council should proceed and join the scheme operated by other Severn Voice members for the coming growing season. Cllr Jones would obtain the relevant contract documents for final approval and signature in due course.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones had looked into the use of the A38 speed camera and had received a general response advising that all cameras in the County were ‘serviceable’ with over 100 tickets issued in the County in the year to September.

Cllr Jones had been in touch with Mr Tiffney of the County Council who had already been asked to look at the A38 pavement in the Parish of Moreton Valence and hence had information to hand of use in considering those in Whitminster.. An inspection of the pavements in Whitminster had been undertaken and no safety issues raised. With an anticipated cost of close to £100,000 for the work of resurfacing the A38 pavements it was not something the County Council would be looking to do although they may be able to apply matched funding for some or all of the work if alternative funding sources could be secured.

There was no update on when any further work might be done to the gas main passing through the Parish.

**08/12**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

County Signs (Glos) Ltd Plaque for tree £90.60

T W Hawkins & Sons Grass cutting £830.00

Stroud District Council Warden contribution £300.00

Grant Thornton UK LLP Audit fee £120.00

The Play Inspection Co Ltd Play area inspection £120.00

Town & Parish Council Websites Website hosting £120.00

Budget Considerations

It was agreed that consideration of a budget for the coming year along with setting the precept would take place at the January 2018 meeting.

The Chairman suggested that it may be prudent to make an annual allowance for potential future election costs.

Skate Ramp

The Clerk had been in touch with the Public Works Loan Board and had obtained application forms along with indicative costings for a loan of £30,000.00 over differing repayment periods. It was agreed that the matter of the skate ramp be reconsidered at the January meeting with half an hour set aside at the start of the meeting, to commence at 7pm , for public comments and that Cllr Hay would promote this discussion through social media.

Other Financial Matters

It was noted that the cost of GAPTC membership for the coming year would be 32.36 pence per elector.

A receipt and note of thanks had been received for the donation of £50.00 to the Poppy Appeal.

Details had bene received for alternative audit arrangements for 2018.

It was agreed that the Clerk should order one 1.8m bench for the North bound A38 bus shelter at a cost of £239.00 plus VAT.

**09/12**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Request from SDC Business Liaison Dept to find land for a local bee keeping business.

Details of the recent Gloucestershire Charter Parish Group meeting.

Advance notification of the meeting with Parish and Town Councils to be hosted by SDC on 30th January.

War Memorials Trust bulletin.

Trow magazine.

SDC E News.

CPRE Field Work magazine.

CPRE Countryside Voice magazine.

A written report was received from County Councilllor Stephen Davies. He advised that the next County Council meeting was on 6th December so there was little to report administratively until after that date. In January the Council would be discussing the budget for the coming year. He advised that he had visited the village school and had been working on issues concerning highway safety arising from Hunts Grove, at the Cross Keys roundabout, the A38 and the Perryway. He also confirmed that funding for improvements on the A419 had been approved in connection with the ongoing development West of Stonehouse and now to be known as Great Oldbury.

**10/12**

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

Cllr Jones advised that there had been no meeting of the full Council but a Task & Finish Group had been set up to consider the future of the Stroud Subscription Rooms.

**11/12**

**Future Agenda Items**

No new items were requested.

**12/12**

**Other Business**

Parish Walk – Cllr Peters advised that he had nothing further to report for the time being but was recruiting people to assist and would update in due course.

Parish Website – Cllr Hay confirmed that all information had received had been posted on the website and all Minutes were displayed up to date.

It was noted that the deadline for the next edition of SPAN was 15th December and the Clerk was asked to make special mention of the skate ramp and alter the format.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.04 pm.

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