**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2018.**

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the members of the public in attendance.

There were 8 members of the public present and all were given an opportunity to speak. The following matters were raised:

* War Memorial – Council was reminded of the need to progress with works to the War Memorial if it intends to do so in good time for the Armistice Service to be held there on 11th November. On the matter of the surrounding paving, it was suggested that this should be replaced rather than repaired. It was noted that some quotes had been received for the work and others were awaited.
* Footpath Near Whitminster Court – A complaint was raised that a footpath in this area had been blocked off and was not accessible. Cllr Paynter agreed to investigate and raise the matter with the Public Rights of Way Officer at the County Council or their contractor, Amey, as appropriate.
* Parklands Farm – A group of residents were present seeking support for their request that the houses proposed, for the intended development that back onto their properties, be of a low ridge height, with no rear facing high level windows and that identified social housing units should be bungalows. The residents had met with Newland Homes who had indicated they would be the developers. The Clerk and Cllr Jones had pre-emptively made contact with the developer to enquire if they would engage in pre-application consultation with the Parish Council and they had advised they would wish to attend a future meeting to discuss their proposals ahead of a Reserved Matters application but they would be unlikely to be in a position to do so before March.

**00/02**

**Present**

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

The Clerk was also present together with 8 members of the public.

**01/02**

**Apologies**

All Councillors were present and there were no apologies.

Cllr Mrs Gilmore did give her apology in advance for the March meeting as she would be away on holiday.

**02/02**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/02**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 3rd January, 2018, were approved subject to two amendments:

06/01 Planning – Other Planning Matters – 3rd Line – Amended to read: ‘would likely’ rather than ‘was end’.

07/01 Highways & Byways – 2nd heading changed to read ‘ Footpaths’ rather than ‘Footpaths Map’.

**04/02**

**Matters Arising**

World War 1 Commemorations– Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had not heard anything of late from the contractor undertaking the design of the proposed interpretation board and he would therefore call into their office in the near future to see how they are getting on.

Fastershire – Cllr Jones advised that he had passed on the details of the one resident he was aware of who was suffering from poor broadband speeds. Cllr Hay had not realised that he was to promote the issue via Facebook as he had thought the date to report issues had passed. Cllr Jones confirmed that it was an ongoing matter and hence Cllr Hay agreed promote the matter over the coming weeks.

Radio Mast at 25 Paynes Meadow – It was noted that no response had been received from the Enforcement Team at Stroud District Council and a direct approach would be made to Mr Jamie Cooper, Enforcement Officer.

Recycling Calendar – It was noted that the usual calendar promoting recycling and waste collection dates had not been printed and circulated by the County Council. Correspondence had been received advising why this had stopped, due to cost, and that the Stroud District was the last to do so in the County with other authorities experiencing no issues. For those without internet access paper copies would be issued on request. Cllr Peters told the meeting that he would print out a hard copy to place on the Parish notice board.

Land West of Stonehouse – Cllr Peters made a number of observations concerning the ongoing work for this large scale residential development. A general discussion ensued concerning the resulting disruption to local traffic and the time it had been taking to reach Stonehouse and Stroud.

**05/02**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

Cllr Jones reported that the matter of updating the Emergency Plan was on hold but he hoped to have more news for the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Warden

A monthly report from Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Beamish, had been circulated by email and would be placed in the correspondence pack.

Other Matters

PCSO Mike Trebble was in attendance for part of the meeting. He reported that for the period 5th September 2017 to 5th February 2018 there had been 11 crimes and that compared with 14 during the same time for the previous year. Generally, therefore, crime seemed to be reducing. He explained the operation of the new Community Alert service being operated by the Police and encouraged people to register. The Clerk advised that he had done so on behalf of the Parish Council in order to continue receiving the appropriate crime statistics for the area. With regard to a recent theft of tools, PCSO Trebble reported that enquiries were still ongoing. He confirmed that he would continue to arrange speed checks in the local vicinity when possible. He stated it was unlikely any action would be taken concerning high vehicle speeds along School Lane at night, in response to comments from the public, but he suggested that particular issues should be reported using the 101 telephone number. On that matter there was some criticism that it was very difficult to get through on the non-emergency number and a number of people present had given up when trying to report incidents by that means. PCSO Trebble suggested that sending an email may be a quicker means of communicating but it was noted this is not always practical when out and about dog walking or for elderly residents without the means. Generally it was felt that the Police were very difficult to get hold of.

Details were received concerning a meeting being arranged by Moreton Valence Parish Council for 19th February to consider a bid for Commissioner’s funding for speed reduction measures, namely a speed warning sign, on the A38. Cllr Peters stated he would try to attend and would confirm. The meeting was taking place in Whitminster Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Cllr Jones circulated copies of photographs of the presentation of the prizes for the speed awareness signs for School Lane designed by village school children. PCSO Trebble also thanked the Council for funding the production of the signs.

On the matter of dog fouling, it was noted that numerous deterrent signs had been erected.

**06/02**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

Application 17/0008/STMAJW concerning a variation of conditions relating to consent 11/0017/STMAJW of 27/09/2001 for land at The Old Airfield, Moreton Valence and being dealt with by the County Council had been withdrawn.

Applications to Consider

S.18/0154/HHOLD 12 Little Holbury, Whitminster, Glos.

Front porch.

Council resolved to support this application.

S.18/0043/VAR Whitminster Inn, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Variation of conditions concerning occupation of log cabins to include use in connection with or incidental to Whitminster Inn or the Marquee.

Council resolved to support this application.

Amendment to Outline Application S.16/0043/OUT concerning land at M5 Junction 13.

This related to proposals for a so called ‘Eco Park’ and ‘Sports Complex’. It was noted that the business park element from this long running application had been removed and the proposed football stadium relocated to the North of the site. Council had not been directly consulted on this proposal but had sight of correspondence and resolved to object on a similar basis to its previous comments.

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that problems still persisted with the District Council’s new planning portal.

Concerns were raised regarding the residential barn conversion at Kidnams Farm and it was agreed that the Planning Enforcement Officer should be asked to confirm that the development complies with the consent as granted.

Cllr Peters made comments concerning the length of time caravans can remain on a site and the number of mobile homes allowed at the A38 mobile home site.

The Parklands Farm site, as discussed under Public Comments above, was touched upon and it was agreed that a dialogue be maintained to seek pre-application consultation with the Parish Council prior to a reserve matters application being submitted.

**07/02**

**Highways & Byways**

Holbury Crescent

It was noted that works to reduce the size of the Holbury Crescent roundabout and improve car parking provision had been completed and all agreed that it was a very good job. It was noted that a commercial vehicle continued to park in the vicinity overnight and at weekends. Cllr Jones advised that if this became a nuisance then the matter could be referred to VOSA/DVSA, providing the registration and any company name and it could be checked against the conditions of the operator’s licence.

Under this item the attendance of a mobile Post Office in the village was also discussed. Cllr Jones informed the meeting that it would hopefully be locating in the Village Hall car park during its visits and it was hoped its presence would be widely publicised.

Footpaths Map

There were no footpath issues raised other than under Public Questions as referred to above. Cllr Paynter reported that he now had a new computer and hoped to make progress with updating the Village Walks Guide very soon.

Verge Cutting

Further details were reported concerning contracts and rates.

Other Matters

A copy of the Draft Order concerning proposed speed limits for Grove Lane was circulated along with email correspondence that Cllr Jones had engaged in with Alexis Newport, Project Manager – Traffic Regulation Orders, setting out the reasons why a lower speed limit along the full length of Grove Lane to Whitminster would not be adopted.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that Gary Handley OBE, Road Safety Delivery Manager, would be leaving the role as the position was becoming redundant following restructuring of the road safety service in the County.

**08/02**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Paynter and Hay advised that recent weather had prevented them from making much progress with their plans to carry out repairs to the skate ramp. However, they were sourcing the necessary screws and would also deal with the repair of the fasteners to the safety fencing protecting the play areas from cricket balls.

**09/02**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Cllr John Jones (Expenses) £31.55 Colouring sets as prizes for School anti-speeding poster competition.

Other Financial Matters

A cheque was drawn for the donation of £200.00 to be made in support of the production and distribution of the SPAN magazine within the Parish as agreed at the previous meeting.

No bank statement had been received.

**10/02**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Canal & River Trust information booklet.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Details of future meetings for the Chartered Parishes Group.

Survey concerning Stroud Subscription Rooms – An electronic copy had been circulated between meetings.

Cllr Mrs Gilmore circulated Project Update Bulletin No. 12 concerning the Gloucestershire Energy From Waste Facility.

**11/02**

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

Cllr Jones advised that he may be immobile for much of March due to his planned hip operation and again reminded Cllr Hay that he may be called on to stand-in as Chair for March as well as possibly later in the year. In regard to District Council matters he reported that Cllr Doina Cornell had been elected as Chair of the Council with Steve Robinson as deputy. Various budgets had been approved on a majority basis and the average Band D property Council Tax for the District would increase by 2.99%. Meanwhile, Council House rents were to reduce by 1%. The Conservative Group had put forward various amendments to the budget but they were outvoted.

**12/02**

**Future Agenda Items**

It was agreed that the matter of the commemoration of World War One would be a regular agenda item.

**13/02**

**Other Business**

Parish Walk – Cllr Peters advised that planning was underway for a walk to take place on one of the May Bank Holidays. Any suggestions in regard to sponsorship would be welcomed.

Parish Website – Cllr Hay confirmed that he still required biographic information for the website from Cllr Douglas an information of footpaths and village walks from Cllr Paynter.

Thursday 24th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall was set as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the CPRE be invited to provide a guest speaker and the Clerk would contact Mrs Prue Vernon in this regard.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

 **CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 7th March, 2018.