**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 4TH APRIL, 2018.**

**Public Forum**

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

There were 7 members of the public present who was given an opportunity to speak. The following issues were raised:

* Council was asked if the matter of the development of Parklands Farm would be discussed later in the meeting and if so would the members of the public present then be given an opportunity to comment. The Chairman suggested that the notes of the pre-application consultation meeting that had taken place with Newland Homes should be circulated and read out at that stage. It was noted that 4 proposed new dwellings to the rear of existing properties would take the form of bungalows with 2 being dormer bungalows. Council had also been advised that the minimum distance from existing dwellings would be exceeded and further consultation would be entered into with relevant local residents. A question was raised as to which residents would be consulted. The understanding was that those backing onto the site from School Lane would be involved but not residents of Upton’s Garden.
* An observation was made that it was considered unrealistic for the proposed drainage plans to work as the land drained towards Gardener’s Cottage on School Lane.
* It was suggested that if the site was being purchased or had been purchased without the inclusion of the farm house then the vendor ought to be ‘held to account’ and should use the funds to refurbish the property. Cllr Jones reported that he had taken the matter up with the Stroud District Council Planning Department but was informed that the building was not currently considered to be at risk but he hoped this would be investigated.
* It was suggested that dog fouling and litter were significant problems in the vicinity of the weir towards the boundary with Frampton-on-Severn. Cllr Jones stated than any new litter or dog waste bins would need to be funded by the Council both in regard to the initial purchase and emptying.
* It was noted that an incident of fly tipping had occurred in Grove Lane but the resident reporting the matter had removed the waste himself before it led to further incidents.
* Council was informed that heavy goods vehicles had been parking to the rear of the Whitminster Inn site close the marquee. It was unclear if the vehicles belonged to people staying in the hotel accommodation or were parked up for other commercial purposes. Council responded that it would monitor the situation and liaise with the Planning Enforcement Officer if necessary.
* Cllr Peters took the opportunity, with there being a number of members of the public present, to remind everyone about the Gloucestershire Police Community Alerts system. He also advised that there had been suspicious vehicles seen in the locality and details could be found on Facebook. He urged residents to report suspicious activity.
* A final query was raised concerning Parklands Farm as there had been a rumour circulating that 50 dwellings were to be constructed. Cllr Jones responded that he had ben assured by Newland Homes that their plans were to develop in accordance with the existing Outline Planning Consent and would be submitting an application to address the Reserved Matters shortly and on the basis of the plans consulted over subject to the proposed final liaison with residents.

**00/04**

**Present**

There were 7 Councillors present including Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Peters.

There were 7 members of the public in attendance for the majority of the meeting.

**01/04**

**Apologies**

None.

**02/04**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/04**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 7th March, 2018, were approved without amendment.

**04/04**

**Matters Arising**

Mobile Post Office – Following on from the last meeting, when Cllr Jones updated Council on the matter, a letter was subsequently received notifying Council of the measure and inviting comments through a consultation process that was shortly due to end. Cllr Jones reaffirmed that he had responded on behalf of Council, having received the communication directly himself on an earlier date and the proposal had been made that it would be safer and more appropriate for the vehicle to operate in the Village Hall car park.

**05/04**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report for the time being as Cllr Mrs Gilmore had been away and Cllr Jones had awaited her return before seeking to take matters forward.

Neighbourhood Warden

A monthly report from Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Beamish, had been received, was briefly considered and would be placed in the correspondence pack for circulation.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he had reported issues with street lights in Paynes Meadow that had since been attended to.

Cllr Peters also raised a number of issues concerning standing water and ditches that he considered blocked. He was reminded that he was one of the two appointed Watercourse Wardens for the Parish. There was some discussion that considered if issues were simply due to the recent volume of water that had to be catered for. However, it was agreed that Cllr Peters should report his concerns to Gloucestershire County Council Highways in the first instance.

**06/04**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

S.18/0460/TPO Uptons Garden, Whitminster.

Tree works.

Approved.

S.18/0285/COU Attwoolls Limited, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Change of use of land from residential to commercial to facilitate the display of tents.

Approved.

S.18/0312/TPO 28 Uptons Garden, Whitminster.

Fell Corsican Pine due to tree being inappropriate for the size of the plot.

Refused.

Applications to Consider

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that problems were still ongoing with the District Council’s new planning portal and it was evident from the use of the site during the evening that it did not function correctly.

Cllr Douglas asked if there was any further information available concerning the garage site off The Close. Cllr Jones responded that he understood it would be offered for sale with the benefit of planning consent for two new dwellings, assuming certain legal issues could be resolved and consent being forthcoming.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the field bounded by Paynes Meadow, Hyde Lane, Vaisey Field and Kidnams Walk had been put forward to be considered for development in the next stage of the Local Plan.

It was noted that no work had yet commenced on the farm buildings to commercial use development site on Grove Lane but Cllr Jones confirmed that consent had been granted some time ago as previously notified.

It was felt that all matters concerning the consultation meeting with Newland Homes concerning the Parklands Farm site had been covered and Council would consider the Reserved Matters application once submitted and invited to do so by Stroud District Council.

**07/04**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he would find the time to work on the matter in the near future.

Verge Cutting

Cllr Jones gave a further update on this matter and had circulated details by email. He confirmed that he had registered Council’s interest and was awaiting the proposed contribution figures from Daniel Tiffney of Gloucestershire County Council Highways. He would also undertake a tour of the village with the proposed contractor, Mr David Davies, to consider the work necessary particularly in regard to visibility splays.

Other Matters

It was confirmed that the perch seats for the bus shelters had been ordered and would hopefully be delivered by the end of the month.

Cllr Jones had received no update on the footpath issues he had raised with the Public Rights of Way Officer and agreed to follow up.

Cllr Jones also raised the matter of the condition of School Lane particularly from the A38 to the mini-roundabout. All agreed that the surface was particularly poor. It was noted that some white paint had been applied to certain areas, presumably denoting areas for planned repairs, prior to the recent snow but nothing had been done. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Tiffney at County Council Highways requesting necessary repairs and copying in County Councillor Stephen Davies.

A discussion ensued concerning the operation of the County Council Snow Plough Scheme. During the recent bad weather the village snow plough had not been deployed but it was understood that School Lane was cleared by employees of Mr Roger Godwin of Yew Tree Farm, Longney. He had subsequently pout forward a proposal that his agricultural employees take on responsibility for snow clearance throughout the Severn Voice area. The benefits being the scale of his employee base, suitability of his machinery for the task and the cost saving for the County Council not having to maintain numerous snow ploughs in the various villages. Council agreed that this sound a good idea and agreed to write giving initial support. It was noted that an appropriate letter of thanks be sent to the current operator should the change take place. It was also made clear that it is currently only a suggestion and approval would be needed from the County Council.

The speed awareness signs designed by children from the village school had been erected. Some comments were voiced that they would benefit from being larger.

the following day.

**08/04**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Paynter advised that he had received the necessary screws and present an invoice for payment. He had investigated the supports at the top of the ramp and had considered them to be sound. He and Cllr Hay confirmed they would now proceed with their planned repairs as soon as possible.

**09/04**

**World War One Commemoration**

Cllr Peters presented to the meeting a mock-up of the proposed interpretation board. He confirmed that it would be encapsulated in such a way so as to not require enclosing within a notice board. All agreed that it looked very good.

Contact had ben made with Greenfields Ltd concerning an updated quote for paving work around the War Memorial. They had advised that given the passage of time since they last considered the work their recommendation would be to replace the slabs with new and they hoped to forward a quotation before the end of the week.

**10/04**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

……Fasteners £00.00 Screws for skate ramp repairs.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank as per the last statement dated…….. was £ ………..

Cllr Jones reported that he had heard from T. W. Hawkins and Sons and had accepted their quote for the coming grass cutting season subject to a nominal increase.

**11/04**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

The Trow magazine.

There were no other hard copy items of correspondence that had not been considered under other items.

**12/04**

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

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of Severn Voice. Chris Brierly, Assistant PCC, had spoken about rural and community policing that he, understandably, considered to be very good. He also touched of illuminated speed awareness signs and stated that they were only permissible on main roads. The proposal being pursued by Moreton Valence Parish Council concerning flashing speed signs for the A38 in their parish was supported by all present given a common need to make use of the road.

It was understood that the proposed gasification plant for the former Moreton Valance airfield had stalled due to the lack of a necessary licence from the Environment Agency.

Flooding was also discussed.

The next meeting would take place on 24th September and would be hosted by the Parish in the Village Hall.

**13/04**

**Future Agenda Items**

It was agreed that in future items 13 and 14 of this Agenda would be switched in order of consideration.

Litter Picking and the General Data Protection Regulations would be placed on the Agenda for the May meeting.

**14/04**

**Other Business**

Schoolfield Close Ditch - The matter of the ditch between the carriageway and Schoolfield Close raised at the last meeting had been investigated further online at Land Registry. There did not appear to be any intervening ownership between the Housing Association site and the roadside verge and thus it was agreed that a letter should be sent to County Council Highways requesting that, one way or another, they press for the hedge to be cut back and the ditch cleared out.

Parish Records – Cllr Peters circulated a note from GAPTC detailing the type of records that should be kept. Most paper records were to be destroyed if no longer required with the exception of Minutes.

Litter – All agreed that litter was a growing problem. Cllr Peters agreed to liaise with the Neighbourhood Warden to look into the possibility of equipment being provided and a litter pick organised.

Parish Website – Cllr Hay reported that he had now created and uploaded some biographical information on all members. He had also received some information from the Cricket Club but details were awaited on parish walks and the Football Club.

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 24th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall was confirmed as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and it was confirmed that Council would wish for Mrs Vernon to give a brief talk on planning matters from a CPRE perspective should she confirm availability.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 2nd May, 2018.