**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL, 2019.**

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors as well as the members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

There were six members of the public present who were given an opportunity to speak. Comments were raised as summarised below:

* Planning application concerning land at 39 Paynes Meadow – nearby residents voiced their concerns over a potential loss of privacy due to overlooking; the strain on local infrastructure arising from a further dwelling; the impact on on-road car parking in the vicinity; the proposed infill being out of character with the estate of similar properties at similar spacings; the disregard of the established building line and the juxtaposition with the adjacent property. Cllr Douglas also asked to comment, as a member of the public, and stated that he believed the photos that had been submitted were taken when the adjoining bungalow was first purchased and not recently.
* A general discussion was had concerning parking issues in The Close and the impact on vehicles seeking to drive through to Paynes Meadow.
* Comment was made that lorries are increasingly using Grove Lane to access building sites and a pick up recently emerged from Grove Lane being followed by a Police car and the officers failed to take any action when the ‘left turn only’ order was ignored.
* It was suggested that in the past a notable volume of asbestos might have been buried on the Parklands Farm site currently under development.
* Council was thanked for installing the new litter bin near the weir, although it was noted that people still discarded bags of dog mess after picking it up and failed to put it in the bin.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman informed those present of the recent sad death of former Parish Councillor Mike Pockett who had served the Council for many years including in the position of Vice-Chairman following in the footsteps of his father Robert. All present stood in silence in memory of Mr Pockett. It was noted that the funeral would take place the following Friday and Cllr & Mrs Jones would represent Council and the Management Committee.

**00/04**

**Present**

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

There were 6 members of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

**01/04**

**Apologies**

An apology was received and accepted from Cllr Braidford who arrived late joining the meeting at 7:54pm following a school meeting. An apology was also received from District & County Councillor Stephen Davies who was attending the meeting of another Parish Council.

**02/04**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Jones and Douglas declared a persoaln interest due to the fact that they both reside in Paynes Meadow close to the development site that would be considered under planning matters. It was considered that this would not be prejudicial and that they could participate in the discussion later during the meeting but Cllr Jones would step aside as Chair.

**03/04**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 6th March, 2019, were approved subject to the following amendment:

* 11/03 – Chairman’s Items – Sixth line & tenth lines – ‘bene’ changed to ‘been’.
* 11/03 – Chairman’s Items – Penultimate line – ‘reminded’ changed to ‘reminded’.

**04/04**

**Matters Arising**

Welding Work (Playing Field) – This matter was returned to following the arrival of Cllr Braidford who was not present at the start of the meeting. He confirmed that the welding repairs were in-hand and would be completed shortly.

Foliage Overgrowing Pavement – Paynes Meadow – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised that she had not had an opportunity to speak with the resident who she had volunteered to contact but had seen work done at the property and would investigate and arrange to see the homeowner soon if still appropriate to do so.

Trees to rear of The Close – Copy correspondence with the District Council Officer responsible for amenity land had been circulated and a full response was awaited on the matters of the replacement tree, unauthorised work and the area where the tree supports had been removed.

Hedge at 1 Upton’s Garden – This hedge was still overgrown and it was understood that the property may have changed hands. Cllr Jones agreed to take up the matter with the area highways supervisor if the problem remained come the time of his hoped-for village tour.

**05/04**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report for the time being.

Neighbourhood Warden

There was no report or correspondence received from the Neighbourhood Warden. It was understood that the resident she had recently taken action to assist, concerning their hazardous route diagonally crossing the A38 from the bus stop, had reverted to their previous actions and there had been recent near misses involving another resident crossing the road when using a zimmer frame. An update had been received on the reorganisation of the warden service and recruiting, along with a request for payment that would be considered under Accounts.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters advised that a member of the village Neighbourhood Watch Group had resigned but he couldn’t advise who that was.

A response was awaited in regard to the first aid courses that had been offered by the County Council.

**06/04**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

Although formal notification had not been received by Council as yet, Cllr Jones was able to advise that the Reserved Matters application concerning Parklands Farm had been determined. In addition, consent (agricultural) for the new barn at Grove End Farm had been granted and the application for tree works at Upton’s Garden determined.

Applications to Consider

S.19/0487/OUT Land at 39 Paynes Meadow, Whitminster, Glos.

Outline application for one single storey dwelling.

Cllr Hay took the chair for this matter. Council resolved to object on a number of bases but including the following key matters:

* Loss of daylight and overbearing impact on 39 Paynes Meadow.
* Overbearing impact on 37 Paynes Meadow.
* Not in line with established building line.
* Not in accordance with existing street scene and of cramped appearance.
* Lack of detail in drawings supplied and no consultation with the Parish Council.

Council received notification of an appeal (S.19/004APPREF) concerning Belvedere, Bristol Road, Whitminster and change of use to an early years nursery. Council had no further comments to make.

Stroud District Local Plan Review

Nothing further to report.

Other Planning Matters

Concern was raised relating to activities taking place at the rear of the orchard behind the Whitminster Inn and also concerning a structure being built behind Whitminster Court. It was agreed the issues should be raised with Enforcement but Cllr Jones advised it was likely that a response would not be prompt.

Details were received relating to neighbourhood planning and grant funding opportunities.

Council was asked to out forward a name for the Parklands Farm development and Parklands Orchard was settled on.

**07/04**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Nothing further to report by Cllr Paynter as it had been agreed that any reprint would await the outcome of changes to the routes brought about by the canal restoration.

Other Matters

Cllr Hay raised an issue concerning wire obstructing footpath No 7 to the rear of Packthorne Farm

The Stroud District Road Safety Group had circulated information on the proposed Rural Multi-site Traffic Regulation Order. This included a reduction in the speed limit on parts of Grove Lane that Council had previous advocated.

A County Council Highways Briefing Note was circulated.

Councillor John Shaw, of Arlingham Parish Council, had provided details relating to the rules governing Vehicle Activated Sign Use.

Cllr Jones agreed to raise issues relating to the condition of Hyde Lane when conducting his tour of the village with the highways area supervisor.

It was hoped that work to the Schoolfield Close ditch and also the footpath in Paynes Meadow would be progressed with the help of the Lengthsman scheme or local highways budget as and when appropriate.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the garage off The Close was due to be marketed soon and he believed the garages were to be demolished.

Cllr Peters raised specific questions relating to bye-laws and vehicles parking on amenity grass as well the garage off The Close adjacent to Henry Withers Place. It was agreed that these specific issues be raised with the relevant SDC Officer.

**08/04**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Hay & Paynter confirmed they hoped to make progress with further repairs to the ramp over Easter. Comments made at the last meeting were repeated and it was agreed that some further support from the residents of the village should be sought to take the project forward. As a result, it was agreed the matter would be the main focus of discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting and Cllr Hay would promote this fact via Facebook and the village website.

Cllr Jones would investigate further proposals and quotes and those interested would possibly arrange a site visit to see equipment, gym and skate ramp kit, installed elsewhere. Cllrs Jones and Paynter would also liaise over a site meeting.

**09/04**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques issued between meetings:

Stroud District Council Warden Donation £300.00

Village Hall Man Com APM fee £20.00

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was reported as being £13,584.91 but would reduce due to cheques yet to be presented.

**10/04**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Draft Minutes from GlosSES meeting.

Details of activities at the Whitminster Community Orchard – further details had been requested.

Armed Forces Covenant information.

**11/04**

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

The Chairman gave an overview of the recent meeting of Severn Voice that included the Environment Agency flood alert system, rural buses and potential matched funding from the County Council for speed signs. On District Council matters he confirmed the new CEO had settled in well and the recent peer review had been a success. On the Neighbourhood Wardens he advised that the vacant posts would soon be filled and the previous level of service would be restored.

**12/04**

**Other Business**

Annual Parish Meeting - This was confirmed as Wednesday 1st and the Agenda was agreed.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore reported that the commissioning was ongoing.

**13/04**

**Future Agenda Items**

Election of Officers to be carried out at the May meeting.

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

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 1st May, 2019.