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

**Public Forum**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

There were two members of the public present who were given an opportunity to speak and raised the following issues:

Mr Roxborough, a recent new resident of Paynes Meadow, commented on the pollution likely to be produced from vehicles using the A38 and the benefit that can arise from hedges in screening and absorbing pollutants. He asked the Parish Council if consideration could be given to planting a hedge running on past numbers 22/24 Paynes Meadow where the hedge between the bungalows and the A38 ends. Council was supportive of the idea but pointed out that it did not own the land and hence the resident was signposted towards the County & District Councils to seek permission for any local initiative.

Mrs Jones highlighted further damage and disrepair to the skate ramp at the playing field and encourage Council to reach a decision and make progress on the matter of a replacement.

**00/07**

**Present**

There were 5 Councillors present including Cllrs Hay (Vice-Chairman) who chaired the meeting, Braidford, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Peters. District & County Councillor Stephen Davies was also present for the duration of the meeting while Neighbourhood Warden Carol Novoth attended for the item on Police & Community Safety Issues.

There were 2 members of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

**01/07**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jones who was attending the meeting of Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council in his capacity as District Councillor for the area and Cllr Douglas who was away on holiday.

**02/07**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

As mentioned at the last meeting, it was noted that the District Council had requested updated Register of Members’ Interests forms be completed and the pro-forma was circulated for completion by those present

**03/07**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 5th June, 2019, were approved with one amendment to 07/06 – Highways & Byways where the fifth line of the first paragraph was changed to read ‘Boddington’ rather than ‘Barrington’.

**04/07**

**Matters Arising**

Trees on District Council amenity land in The Close

Cllrs Jones and Peters had met with Rozelle Jachowicz, of the District Council, on this matter following previous correspondence. It was agreed that a new tree would be planted on the amenity land close to where Cllr Peters lives in The Close. She had also agreed to fill the holes left by the stakes from the previous tree but this had not been done and so Cllr Jones had arranged for them to be filled using topsoil left over from other work at the Playing Field. The residents near to No. 5 The Close would be receiving correspondence advising them that the land in that area remains in the ownership of the District Council following recent damage to the tree located there and the use of the land for storing items. It was hoped that the Blackberry bush growing near to the telephone box would be removed later in the year and finally it was agreed that Ms Jachowicz would liaise with the County Council Highways Department and form a view on the area of land adjacent to the garage where car repairs appear to be undertaken.

**06/07**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report.

Neighbourhood Warden

Neighbourhood Warden Carol Novoth was in attendance following her holiday. She explained that the majority of her time was now being taken up responding to elderly or vulnerable residents using the Care Line alter system managed by the District Council. She said that there were around 10 people using the service in the locality. She further explained that she covers 13 parishes, including Stonehouse and Hardwicke where her time was mainly focused due to the issues that arise in those areas. She reviewed the work she had done concerning elderly people crossing the A38 and advised that the bus company, dropping people off, had been very helpful. She said she would look into litter collection along the A38, would provide equipment to Cllr Peters if he wanted to arranged a litter pick in other areas of the village and concluded by setting out her efforts concerning fly tipping and fly posting.

Defibrillator

It was reported that grant funding had been secured from the British Heart Foundation worth around £670 plus VAT providing the unit, to be supplied by them, is located in a public setting and in an unlocked cabinet. Funding for the remaining £600 for the equipment plus the cost of the cabinet was needed. County Councillor Davies suggested an application be made to the County Council Growing Our Communities Fund and that may result in a £200 contribution. Cllr Hay proposed an on-line Go Fund Me page for local fundraising and meanwhile it was agreed that further information would be obtained on how long the aware is available form and what the other costs might be.

Other Matters

Cllr Peters informed the meeting that he was aware of 3 burglaries in Frampton-on-Severn that had come to his attention through the alert system.

It was noted that the police had been paying attention to speeding in the area.

Notes on the recent Parish Cluster Group meeting were circulated.

**07/07**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

Cllr Paynter reported on his attendance at the planning meeting to discuss the propose new stadium on land East of the motorway. He said it was clear that it would not bring any benefit to local communities and all were pleased that it had been refused. Cllr Paynter was thanks for his contribution in attending the meeting and speaking for Council. Cllr Jones had circulated an email chain highlighting inaccuracies in the reporting of the matter by the Stroud News & Journal such as suggesting he was a member of the Development Control Committee which is not the case.

Applications to Consider

S.19/0315/REM Grove End Farm, Grove Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Reserved Matters – Construction of new commercial building.

This application had been considered to some extent at the last meeting when Cllr Jones had circulated details. However, a formal request for comments had now been received and Council reaffirmed its view that the revised plans and reduced height of some of the buildings was an improvement but there remained concern over the proposed materials and colour of the proposed cladding.

Stroud District Local Plan Review

Nothing further to report.

Other Planning Matters

None.

**08/07**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Nothing further to report by Cllr Paynter for the time being as he planned to review the routes following the conclusion of matters concerning the proposed re-routing of footpaths to allow for the canal restoration works. No response had been received from the County Council Public Rights of Way team concerning other footpath issues. Cllr Davies was involved in the meeting at this point and agreed to pursue the various issues with the Rights of Way Officer and report back.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones had been in touch with the Area Highways Supervisor concerning damage to the pavement outside 9 Paynes Meadow and a response was awaited.

Council had, again, been invited to subscribe to and join the Stroud District Road Safety Group but there was no inclination shown to do so.

Cllr Davies agreed to follow up with the Highways Department on the condition of School Lane and also the verge cutting funds that were overdue.

**09/07**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Hay & Paynter outlined their plans regarding proposed further repair work.

Under this item it was noted that an application for grant funding had been submitted by Cllr Jones to the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Community Fund (for funding for the proposed gym equipment) and details were also circulated relating to the procedure to obtain Public Works Loan Board Funds. Quotes were awaited from supplier of concrete equipment.

**10/07**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

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

David J Davies Verge Cutting £207.35

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was reported as being £22,050,41 as at 9th May, 2019.

**11/07**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Consultation papers on Street Trading Policy.

SDC LGA Corporate Peer Challenge findings.

An update on the proposed new County Council library vehicle.

Update on the work of the Canal Project Team.

Chartered Town and Parish Council meeting notes.

A discussion paper on care home provision.

**12/07**

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

Under this item Cllr Davies gave a comprehensive report on District & County Council matters. At the County Council the highway maintenance contract had transferred from Amey to Ringway and some staff had moved back in-house. A recent report of Children’s Services concluded that they were improving but there was still work to do. At the District Council work was ongoing to strengthen the management team and work was progressing with the canal project but there had been a setback as a landowner East of the motorway had withdrawn cooperation following the refusal of a recent planning application.

**13/07**

**Other Business**

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore had nothing more to report.

Community Orchard – Cllr Peters drew this to Council’s attention.

**14/05**

**Future Agenda Items**

Canal Restoration

Community Orchard

Finally, it was noted that unless pressing issues arose there would not be a meeting in August.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 4th September, 2019.