**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER AT 7:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH, 2016.**

**Public Forum**

15 Minutes were allocated for public questions and comments at the start of the meeting. No issues were raised.

**00/03**

**Present**

Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Douglas, Hughes, Paynter and Peters. One member of the public was present. For part of the meeting Stuart Beard, newly appointed Neighbourhood Warden covering the area, Dominic Whitmarsh-Everiss, Senior Neighbourhood Warden and Mike Hammond, SDC Officer overseeing the Warden Scheme, were in attendance.

**01/03**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay and Cllr Mrs Gilmore. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Gilmore had not been on holiday the previous month but had been assisting with hospital transport but was on holiday for the March meeting.

**02/03**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Jones and Douglas both declared an interest in regard to Agenda Item 8. (iii) both being members of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee.

**03/03**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 3rd February were approved and signed as a true record subject to a minor typographical error within 05/02. Cllr Peters raised a question concerning the SALA referred to within 07/02 and Cllr Jones gave an explanation and it was noted that the full meaning of the acronym was set out previously.

**04/03**

**Matters Arising**

Community Payback

Cllr Jones advised that he had followed matters up with the Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company after hearing nothing following an initial contact. It had transpired that the Gloucestershire Project Officer, Lisa Walker, had moved on but a new officer had been in touch confirming that the projects proposed, being redecoration at the Village Hall and re-pointing of the paving around the War Memorial, would both be suitable and that Councillor Jones could expect to hear further shortly.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

Various brochures had been received detailing offers put forward by Wicksteed and other companies and these were circulated. Cllr Peters referred to various funding possibilities that may exist for taking forward this proposed project and Cllr Paynter confirmed that possible grant aid would be looked into.

Javelin Park Incinerator

Cllr Paynter reported on the recent meeting hosted by the intended developer and operator, Urbaser Balfour Beatty, primarily discussing plans for use of the funding being supplied to the community group formed of nearby parishes. It was noted that the funding would be supplied following completion on site but as it had been agreed that initial funds would be used for pollution monitoring /detection equipment this would prevent any initial readings from being taken before completion of the facility. Ways to tackle this issue were being considered as well as a request to start planting trees to screen the site as early as possible. A sub-group was being created to help with easier communication in the future.

Chartered Parishes Meeting

Cllr Jones confirmed that he would be attending the forthcoming meeting to represent the Parish Council.

**05/03**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Neighbourhood Warden

Stuart Beard, Neighbourhood Warden newly appointed to cover the Whitminster area, introduced himself. He had been to visit Cllr Jones earlier in the week. He explained his role and also the buddy system being introduced to provide sickness cover etc in which case Carlos Novoth would be likely to cover the Whitminster area. Various local issues were discussed and the wardens confirmed that in due course they would be looking for projects to do as a team a past example being the refurbishment of the bus shelters that they previously carried out.

Emergency Plan Review

Cllr Peters confirmed he was pursuing matters concerning the proposed review but had not had time to do so recently.

Other Matters

No crime statistics had been received for the previous month but Cllr Jones reported that he was aware there had been a further break-in in Paynes Meadow. Cllr Peters raised the ongoing problem of parking in The Close and in particular vehicles parked on pavements. It was agreed that mention would be made in the SPAN magazine report.

**06/03**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.16/0240/FUL Land Off Bristol Road, Whitminster, GLos.

Residential development with altered access and associated works.

Council had supported a previous application that the current application had been submitted subsequent to and similarly supported the current application on the basis that it would provide a number of smaller sized properties within the village. However, there was a query raised regarding the size of the properties proposed with the application form referring to 2no. 2 bed and 1no. 3 bed but the drawings illustrating 3no. 3 bed properties. Clarification was to be sought.

S.16/0220/HHOLD Wharf Cottage, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Rear extension to form orangery.

Council supported this application as it appeared to be in keeping with the property and had no visual impact in respect of neighbouring properties or views from elsewhere.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Douglas observed that the bollards had been re-installed at the entrance to Schoolfield Close.

**07/03**

**Highways & Byways**

A38

Cllr Jones had duplicated and distributed copies of the road closure notice that had been issued in respect of repairs planned for the A38.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones also gave an update on his efforts to press for the completion of the pavement works being carried out in The Close that had turned into a fiasco with the contractors initially on site but not carrying out any work and then leaving for several days with the works only part completed. It was hoped that the job would be satisfactorily completed in the near future and an explanation had been given by the County Council Highways Dept that the staff had not been available to complete the work as they had been called upon to deal with gritting operations.

Cllr Paynter advised that he would do a walk around of the footpaths in the near future but had not done so recently as it had been wet. He also highlighted the fact that various items of debris had been placed at the side of the path, adjacent to a property, that leads from Kidnams Walk into the adjoining field. Cllr Jones agreed to investigate and liaise with the Neighbourhood Warden but the Clerk would be asked to write to the Gloucester Housing Association, believed to be the owner of the adjoining property, if necessary.

Cllr Douglas commented on the suckers around the trees in Vaisey Field. Cllr Jones stated that pruning had taken placed in the area, carried out by the District Council, but obviously this had been missed.

**08/03**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

Clerk’s Expenses £132.12

Quotes – Noticeboard

Cllr Jones had obtained a quote from a local tradesman for a replacement notice board at the Playing Field entrance in the sum of £665 plus the cost of glazing. It was agreed to proceed on that basis and Cllr Paynter agreed to assist in obtaining Perspex glazing if needed.

The Clerk confirmed that he had accepted the quotation put forward by Sports Ground Maintenance and Supplies, as previously agreed, for grass cutting services and sought confirmation of the number of cuts of the Playing Field and this was agreed at 24.

Section 106 Funds

Mrs Honor Jones, Honourary Secretary of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee, provided an update on the grant funding being sourced to assist with the redevelopment of the Playing Field Pavilion as well as the additional play equipment being provided at the site. She went on to outline opportunities that may exist for funding towards the outdoor gym equipment being proposed. The Clerk reported on the enquiries he had made with SDC concerning the allocation of funding arising from the development of Parklands Farm on the completion of the scheme. This had been earmarked entirely towards the Pavilion Project and although there was an opportunity for it to be utilised for other purposes it was likely to require the developer’s approval. Cllr Paynter contested this was not what had been agreed by Council and the Clerk confirmed that it appeared the decision had been based on representations made by Cllr and Mrs Jones rather than Council’s formal reply. Cllr Paynter suggested that the Pavilion does not benefit the majority of residents but Mrs Jones was invited to comment and added the names of various village organisations that had expressed interest in using an enhanced facility on the site. Cllr Douglas commented that the current building was an eyesore. After some discussion a vote was taken and it was agreed to continue with the funding being earmarked for this purpose subject to a request that should any funds be surplus to the project then they should be used for additional facilities for general use. The Clerk had been supplied with a copy of the recreation project list for the Parish and this was circulated as further small scale development may well give rise to additional funding opportunities. It was noted that everyone was working with the same aim being to improve the facilities within the village as a whole.

Other Financial Matters

An email in thanks was received from the Stroud Valleys Project in return for Council considering but declining its request for funding.

Cllr Jones had circulated a paper prepared for the District Council meeting of 25th February on the setting of the Council Tax for the coming financial year.

An email was received from Sandra Cowley (Strategic Head – Finance & Business Service) of Stroud District Council explaining how the changes to Council Tax rates and percentage increases would be displayed on Council Tax bills soon to be issued.

A recent bank statement confirmed the balance at the bank as at 12th January 2016 as being £9,113.59 .

Cllr Peters advised that he was looking at a specification for a potential future skate ramp replacement and it was clear that the cost would certainly not be less than £25,000 .

**09/03**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

The Trow magazine.

Severn Voice – Agenda for meeting of 18th March and minutes of meeting of 19th October last.

Agenda for meeting of CLG/CFG Incinerator meeting that took place at Standish Village Hall on 17th February.

Register of Electors.

TCS Supplies – product information.

Various other items of correspondence had been circulated by email between meetings.

**10/03**

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

Cllr Jones clarified comments he had previously made and confirmed that garden waste collection in the village would be on the opposite week to normal recycling collections.

He informed Council that he had been approached by a representative of Frampton-on-Severn Youth Football asking if Council would subscribe to a planning application for a new indoor facility in Frampton-on-Severn. Council declined.

It was noted that the Queen’s 90th Birthday was fast approaching and a sample of a commemorative medal had been received. Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of the medal for children at the school if it was something the Head Teacher agreed to. This would proceed between meetings if necessary.

Finally, Cllr Jones had recently inspected the skate ramp and had found that some of the recently fitted boarding was already lifting. He had emailed the contractor to arrange for it to be put right and was looking into the purchase of paint in order to complete the refurbishment.

**11/03**

**Other Business**

Website

It was suggested to defer this matter to a meeting when the webmaster would be in attendance, this being Cllr Hay.

Gloucestershire Tackles Stigma (Mental Health Matters)

Cllr Peters suggested a speaker from the organisation to address the Annual Parish Meeting. This was agreed subject to a maximum of 20 minutes at the start of the meeting. Cllr Peters agreed to make contact with the organisation and seek to make arrangements.

**12/03**

**Future Agenda Items**

It was agreed that the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting would be set at the April meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:28pm.

**CHAIRMAN – 6th April, 2016.**