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

**Public Forum**

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

There were 1 member of the public present who was given an opportunity to speak. The following issue was raised:

* School Lane – Comments were made concerning a building site close to the mini-roundabout in School Lane. The road had recently been almost blocked by builders’ vans working at the site and it was considered quite dangerous. Cllr Peters stated that he would call the police using the 101 non-emergency number if he saw the situation again. Cllr Jones advised that unfortunately there was no requirement for off road parking to be provided ahead of commencing development in respect to single house sites.

**00/03**

**Present**

There were 6 Councillors present including Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Paynter and Peters.

There was one member of the public attending.

**01/03**

**Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Gilmore had given her apologies in advance at the last meeting. She was away on holiday.

Cllr Peters apologised to Council for failing to attend the meeting called by Moreton Valence Parish Council to discuss matters relating to the Police Commissioner’s fund and speed reduction measures.

**02/03**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**03/03**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 7th February, 2018, were approved without amendments.

**04/03**

**Matters Arising**

Parking – Following on from the last meeting when Council noted its satisfaction concerning the improvements to the Holbury Crescent roundabout, Cllr Hay had received comments from the School Head Teacher. She had been passed complaints from residents objecting to the newly created parking spaces being used by parents dropping off or collecting children from the School. Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had looked into the matter and had been told, for the time being, there was no reason why the spaces could not be used by anyone. He pointed out that the parents only used them for a brief period of time and surely anyone could understand that this is a safer option than alternatives. If further investigations suggested that the spaces would be otherwise allocated then he would advise. It was agreed that the matter of the commercial vehicle parking in the vicinity should be explored with VOSA or the appropriate organisation.

**05/03**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report for the time being.

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

Various Neighbourhood Watch/Your Community Alerts had been received by a number of Councillors over the past month but none had come through to the Parish Council account. It was understood that this was down to an issue concerning settings.

There was a general discussion concerning the recent snow. The snow plough had not been called out but the weather had caused the village school to shut for a few days.

On the matter of the Mobile Post Office, it seemed that all notifications of the service had been sent to Cllr Jones as nothing had been received by the Parish Council directly. However, he had responded to the consultation papers on behalf of Council and was hopeful the Village Hall Car Park would be used as a location.

**06/03**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.18/0330/HHOLD Hillview House, Bristol Road, Whitminster.

Two storey extension. Single storey entrance porch and double garage.

Council resolved to support the application as it was felt the scale of the proposed development was appropriate for the site. However, comments were made that it was felt the ‘tower’ type entrance porch/lobby was out of keeping and the proposals would be more appealing if the windows were balanced on both sides of the entrance and the finished property gave the appearance of possibly two cottages joined together.

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

Tree works.

Council reviewed the proposed work and considered it to be only necessary maintenance and therefore gave it its support.

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

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

Council supported this application relating to the expansion of a local business and employer.

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

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

Council’s view was that the tree existed before the ‘plot’ and given its importance should not be felled simply because a dwelling has been built in an inappropriate location adjacent to it. Therefore, Council objected to the proposal.

Other Planning Matters

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

Cllr Douglas informed the meeting that he was aware that an occupier of one of the garages in the block off of The Close, opposite Vaisey Field, had been asked to hand back their key to the District Council. Cllr Jones stated that no decisions had yet been taken in respect to the site.

It was noted that the barn at Hurst Lodge, being the subject of recent discussions, was being painted.

Cllr Jones reported that the Enforcement Officer that Council had previously contacted concerning matters in the Parish had left or was leaving Stroud District Council and a different contact was proposed.

**07/03**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he would be working on the matter shortly, having received a new computer.

Verge Cutting

Cllr Jones gave a further update on this matter which is considered to be confidential for matter of commercial sensitivity. However, in summary it was considered that the cost of undertaking the work would be covered by the payment offered by Gloucestershire County Council and it would be worthwhile to proceed and participate in the scheme due to the benefit of enhanced quality and a potential additional cut.

Other Matters

The speed awareness signs designed by children from the village school were to be erected the following day.

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he was in touch with the Public Rights of Way Officer in connection with the obstructed footpaths discussed at the previous meeting. Other matters he was asked to bring up included the footpath leading from Kidnams Walk and the bridge over the canal and the missing handrail which, if repaired, was missing again.

Under this item Cllr Douglas raised the matter of the ditch between the carriageway and Schoolfield Close. Ownership and thus responsibility was refuted by the relevant Housing Association and it was suggested that a Land Registry search be carried out to look into this.

Other matters discussed included an Alsatian dog let loose in the village and the cutting of a hedge bounding the A38.

Correspondence was received from Mr Tiffney of Gloucestershire County Council Highways explaining various highway matters and problems between the M5 and Stonehouse.

Notice was received of a road closure from 28th April to 13th May for work to Sellars Bridge at Hardwicke. It was noted that Sandfield Bridge would also be closed for a period to facilitate works.

Cllr Jones had circulated a response he had received from David Wilson of Amey explaining why a fixed speed limit along the whole length of Grove Lane would not be adopted.

**08/03**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Paynter and Hay advised that they had been sourcing materials to commence repairs. Cllr Paynter had identified suitable screw fixings that would cost £45 + VAT for 400 and take approximately 3 weeks to be delivered. It was agreed that he should proceed and place an order.

**09/03**

**World War One Commemoration**

Cllr Peter and Douglas reported that they had been to meet the designer of the proposed interpretation board who would have an initial proposal for consideration within 4 to 6 weeks.

The quotes received to date for work to the War Memorial were reviewed. It was agreed that a further quote should be obtained for the paving works and Greenfield were to be approached to update the proposal they had given previously. It was agreed that the work should be provisionally planned to ensure completion in time for Armistice day.

**10/03**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Fields In Trust £50.00 Annual membership charge.

GAPTC £221.99 Annual membership charge.

DHF Products Limited £147.96 Speed awareness signs.

Cllr John Jones £48.98 Ink and office supplies – Chairman’s Expenses.

Other Financial Matters

No bank statement had been received.

**11/03**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Email providing details of new SDC Youth Work Staff.

SDC E News edition for February.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

**12/03**

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

The Chairman reminded those present of the forthcoming meeting of Severn Voice taking place on 21st March. He also pointed out that it would be Whitminster’s turn to host the meeting on a date to be agreed during October.

A report was received from District and County Councillor Stephen Davies and circulated accordingly.

**13/03**

**Future Agenda Items**

The Chairman stated that it was hoped a representative of Newland Homes, proposed developer of the Parklands Farm site would be attending prior to the next meeting and hence it would be necessary to convene at 6:30pm, although the Parish Council meeting would not start until 7:30pm as usual. Cllr Peters asked for Schoolfield Close, Parish Records and Litter to be agenda items for discussion at the April meeting.

**14/03**

**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 and information of footpaths and village walks from Cllr Paynter, who said he would now be able to provide this.

Thursday 24th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall was confirmed as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. Contact had been made with Mrs Prue Vernon, Chair of the local branch of CPRE, in regard to her attending as a guest speaker. She suggested that David Lowin of SDC Planning Dept may be a better candidate to discuss relevant planning matters in the locality but she would be happy to speak about planning applications generally and revisions to the Local Plan if Council wished her to. It was agreed that she should be asked to do just that.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 4th April, 2018.