**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 2nd JANUARY, 2019.**

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors and the member of the public in attendance at the meeting. He wished all a happy New Year.

There was one member of the public present who was given an opportunity to speak but wished to raise no issues.

**00/01**

**Present**

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

There was 1 member of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

PCSO Trebble attended for part of the meeting.

**01/01**

**Apologies**

An apology had been received and accepted from Cllr Paynter who was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

**02/01**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of the items notified on the agenda.

**03/01**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 5th December, 2018, were approved subject to the following amendments:

* 04/12 – Parking in The Close – Second line – ‘issued’ changed to read ‘issue’.
* 05/12 – Other Matters – Second paragraph, fourth line – ‘is’ changed to read ‘if’.
* 06/12 – Decisions to Noted – Fourth line – ‘though’ changed to read ‘thought’.

**04/01**

**Matters Arising**

Welding Work (Playing Field) – Cllr Braidford confirmed that he had volunteered to help with repairs to the equipment and fencing if he is able to do so and would take a look at what is required in the near future.

Notice Boards – Cllr Hay confirmed that he would be take a look at the work required as the weather improves. He also advised that he would source and obtain all materials necessary.

Foliage Overgrowing Pavement – Paynes Meadow – Cllr Mrs Gilmore had not wanted to approach the householder concerned prior to Christmas but would do so now the New Year had arrived.

**05/01**

**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 and it was understood the Warden was on holiday.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had received an email from PCSO Trebble asking to be advised of Council’s meeting dates for the coming year. These were to be provided.

Cllr Peters highlighted to Council a number of recent Community Alerts, sent from the Gloucestershire Constabulary service, concerning vans seen in the area and registered to addresses in the West Midlands. Residents were encouraged to report any suspicious activity to help build intelligence.

Cllr Hay had reported an incident of fly tipping in Grove Lane and had provided a copy of an email sent to the Neighbourhood Warden. The rubbish immediately in front of the gateway concerned had been removed but he had been advised to contact Amey regarding the traffic cones and signs and it was noted that some further rubbish had since been tipped in the vicinity.

It was noted that two children’s car seats discarded in a hedgerow near to the Church had not been removed.

A notice had been received from the Gloucestershire Constabulary Communications Manager asking if Council would promote the Community Alert scheme locally and in any parish magazine of newsletter if appropriet.

This agenda item was revisited later in the meeting, at 8:10pm when PCSO Trebble joined the meeting. He provided some statistics that compared 34 crimes in Whitminster during the 2017 calendar year with 39 in 2018. He suggested this increase was not of significance or something that should cause concern. It was noted that many crimes were shop lifting incidents recorded at the Attwoolls camping retail business. There had been 168 crimes across the whole area that he covers and Friday afternoons between 3-6pm saw the most crimes in the area. PCSO Trebble answered a number of general questions before leaving the meeting.

**06/01**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.18/1678/FUL (REVISED)

Land adjacent to No. 24 The Close, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of one single storey dwelling with associated vehicle parking and landscaping.

Council considered that the revised proposal addressed the concerns previously raised by the Parish Council and local residents. The type of property, design and materials were more appropriate for the locality, in accordance with the Village Design Statement and did not constitute an over-development of the site. Council therefore resolved to support the application.

Stroud District Local Plan Review

The consultation documents previously circulated were considered and a general discussion had concerning sites proposed for the village, the village settlement boundary and associated matters. Alternative approaches to provide the housing allocations needed were discussed, including utilising sites in the North of the District, to make use of capacity at M5 Junctions 11, 11a & 12. This was generally supported. However, it was felt that some development in the village is likely to be inevitable and a pro-active approach should be taken to guide this to the most appropriate locations. To this end it was agreed that an appropriate letter should be sent to the District Council, in response to the consultation, advising that Whitminster may consider a small increase in numbers over a period of time but following the development of sites already consented and after an opportunity has been given for such new development to consolidate into the village. It was felt that possibly up to 30 additional houses could be accommodated in dispersed locations that the Parish Council would wish to consider and advise on further in due course.

Other Planning Matters

In the light of a copy of a letter from Stagecoach in support of the pending application to create a new stadium on land East of Junction 13 of the M5 motorway, Council resolved it would be appropriate for it to reaffirm its objections to this application in accordance with the views previously expressed and discussed.

Cllr Jones discussed the notes he had circulated previously relating to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. He understood that nothing could be progressed in time to have any impact on the current Local Plan Review but suggested that consideration should be given to preparing a plan in 2020 if it was felt that this was something that Council wished to do.

A reminder was issued concerning the Planning Conference being held at the Stroud Subscription Rooms on 8th January. Cllr Jones hoped to attend in the afternoon if he was able to do so following a medical appointment and the details were to be circulated again in the hope that other Councillors may also be able to attend.

Cllr Jones also advised Council of an approach he had received from a Planning Consultant wishing to engage in early stage pre-application consultation concerning a potential site within he village. It was agreed that efforts would be made by Cllr Jones to agree a meeting date and time.

**07/01**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Nothing further to report as Cllr Paynter was not present at the meeting. There was also nothing further to report on general footpath matters although it was noted that the footpath adjacent to Whitminster Court remained obstructed. Details were to be obtained from Cllr Paynter concerning the original report that was submitted relating to this so that the matter could be pursued and the County Council Public Rights of Way department pressed to take action.

Other Matters

With Christmas and the New Year falling between meetings there had been no response from the various correspondents that had been written to concerning other highway matters, including the Housing Association responsible for Henry Withers Place.

Various field hedges were identified as being overgrown onto the road in locations close to Highfield House and Hurst Lodge.

**08/01**

**Skate Ramp**

There was nothing more to report for the time being but Cllr Hay advised he was ready and waiting to assist in fitting the new end panels once they had been cut to size by Cllr Paynter.

**09/01**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

None.

Budget & Precept for Financial Year 2019/2020

A budget for the coming financial year had been prepared and circulated indicating that the intended addition to reserves would not be as high as had been planned for at the end of the current financial year. This was due to additional expenditure on the paved area around the War Memorial and other small projects that had been progressed during 2018/2019. However, significant progress had been made since it was agreed to develop a reserve to contribute towards the replacement of the skate ramp. After careful consideration it was agreed that the budget be adopted and the precept for 2019/2020 be set at £17,000:00 being unchanged from 2018/2019.

Donations

A donation had bene made to the Poppy Appeal and it was agreed that further donations be made to the Longfield Hospice and also the area Air Ambulance.

Council resolved not to support the Stroud Valleys Project in response to a recent request for financial assistance, given Councils need to build reserves.

Other Financial Matters

Completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/2018 was authorised on the basis of a Certificate of Exemption being sought following the review of the Annual return and appropriate publication.

Consideration was given to the time it might take to save funds for the replacement of the skate ramp, the calls on funding that crop up year on year and the lack of any other fundraising initiatives. It was noted that the cost of the equipment and installation would be likely to continue increasing beyond the speed at which funds could be amassed and with this in mind it was suggested that thought should be given, once again, to funding the project through a Public Works Loan Board loan that could then have ring fenced funds allocated each year service. It was agreed that information should be obtained as to the process to follow and likely annual costs and term.

**10/01**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

ThE News from Stroud District Council.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

**11/01**

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

The Chairman had not items to raise that had not been discussed already during the meeting or circulated prior. An update from the County Councillor had also been previously provided.

**12/01**

**Other Business**

Schoolfield Close Ditch – Nothing further to report but it remained the case that it was hoped this would be tackled using the County Council Lengthsman Scheme.

Parking in The Close – Nothing further to report not covered elsewhere during the meeting.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Nothing further to report.

Parish Records – Cllr Peters was presented with the Minute Book that had been located in order for him to conduct the research he wished to undertake. He volunteered to subsequently lodge the Minutes with the County Archives office.

**13/01**

**Future Agenda Items**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 6th February, 2019.