**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors and the members of the public in attendance as well as District & County Councillor Stephen Davies.

There were 8 members of the public present who were given an opportunity to speak. The following issue was raised:

* Stroud District Council Garages, The Close – A planning application had been submitted for residential development on the site and several members of the public present voiced their objections. Comments included potential for loss of light and privacy in respect of adjoining properties and the proposal being too dense a development and out of character with the locality. A view was given that bungalows, similar to a recent nearby development in Paynes Meadow, would be more appropriate. However, comments were also made that given parking issues in the vicinity it would be preferred to the area to remain as car parking provision.
* Belvedere, Bristol Road – The applicants in respect of a proposal to create a children’s day nursery at the above property outline their plans. They advised that other commercial uses on the site, including a touring caravan site, would cease if they were fortunate enough to obtain permission. It was noted that the application would be considered later during the meeting.

**00/09**

**Present**

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

There were 8 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting together with District & County Councillor Stephen Davies. Neighbourhood Warden Carol Novoth attended for the start of the meeting until Police & Community Safety Matters were discussed.

**01/09**

**Apologies**

An apology had been received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Gilmore who was recovering from a planned operation.

**02/09**

**Declarations of Interest**

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

**03/09**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th July, 2018, were approved without amendment. Similarly, the Minutes of the supplementary meeting, held on 12th July, 2018, to discuss planning matters were also agreed after being read out to the meeting.

**04/09**

**Matters Arising**

Bus Shelter Bench Seats – The bench seats for the A38 bus shelters had been installed and so far were well received. This therefore concluded this particular project.

Dog waste/Litter Bin – It was confirmed that the new bin to be situated near to the weir had been received and a local builder had been commissioned to install it very shortly.

Growing Our Communities Fund – Cllr Jones confirmed that he had submitted an application, as agreed, to this fund to seek support for outdoor gym equipment on the Playing Field. Cllr Davies had considered the application and agreed to support the project. The amount awarded was £2,000 and Cllr Jones advised that he was seeking additional sources of funding to take the project forward and would soon be submitting a grant application to Awards for All.

**05/09**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

The Council had not received any direct notifications but Cllr Jones confirmed that consent had been given in respect of applications concerning the plot adjacent to the former Police House in School Lane and an application in Little Holbury.

Applications to Consider

Application No. S.18/1678/FUL

Location: Land Adjacent No.24, The Close, Whitminster, Glos.

Description: Erection of a two-storey residential apartment block comprising of 4no. apartments with associated vehicle parking and landscaping.

Council resolved to object to this application for the following reasons:

• The design of the proposed development pays no regard to the Whitminster Village Design Statement, as adopted by Stroud District Council as supplementary planning guidance. This is both in terms of the style of the development and the proposed materials.

• The type of dwellings proposed is out of keeping with the locality that is made up of, predominantly, bungalows. An adjacent application on a plot at No 1 Paynes Meadow failed to succeed with the inclusion of 2 storey development but was approved for the siting of 2 bungalows that have been developed and fit into the street scene very well. Two single storey dwellings would be more suited to the site and would address local need.

• The proposed car parking provision is inadequate. Although one-bedroom properties are proposed they are unlikely to attract single occupiers. As Whitminster has limited public transport (that is about to be restricted further making its use for travelling to work very difficult) reliance will be placed on the private car. Therefore at least two spaces should be provided for each dwelling as well as adequate visitor car parking.

• There is already an issue with on street car parking in The Close that restricts access to Paynes Meadow and Vaisy Field. This has been drawn to the attention of the Police, County Council and District Council and remains an ongoing issue. Increased vehicular movements combined with the loss of a valuable off-road car parking area will exacerbate his problem and give rise to issues over highways safety.

• The proposed development is overbearing in nature and would give rise, variably, to loss of light and privacy to surrounding properties including 2,4, 1a & 1b Paynes Meadow together with 22 & 24 The Close.

In addition, views were express that there would, at the very least, be a perceived conflict of interest

in this application being determined by officers within the Council given the fact that the Local

Planning Authority and applicant were one and the same. As a result it was agreed that a request

should be made for the application to be determined by the Development Control Committee. Cllrs

Jones and Davies concurred and agreed to also make such a request.

Application No. S.18/1583/P3MT

Location: Belvedere, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Description: Change of use of art studio (B1) to early years nursery and part of licensed campsite to be used for an outside play area for nursery.

Council resolved to support this application but requested that full consideration be given to the

matter by the Highways Authority in respect of road safety and that an extended reduced speed limite

be considered.

Application No. S.18/1680/HHOLD

Location: The Old Post Office, Hyde Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Description: Conversion of attic.

Council resolved to support this application and otherwise had no comments to make.

Application No. S.18/1860/HHOLD

Location: 50 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Description: Erection of garden room.

Council resolved to support this application and otherwise had no comments to make.

Other Planning Matters

It was understood that the Reserved Matters application concerning the Parklands Farm site was yet to be determined as some minor amendments to the design were being addressed in light of comments and feedback from English Heritage and others.

A copy of correspondence sent to Stroud District Council on behalf of the Landlady of The Forge public house concerning the outstanding application for Grove End Farm was circulated.

**06/09**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report for the time being.

Neighbourhood Warden

Neighbourhood Warden Carol Novoth, newly appointed to cover the area including Whitminster, attended the meeting to give an introduction and hear of local issues of concern. She outline the way in which the Warden service would be operating going forwards and circulated her contact information.

Other Matters

Cllr Jones drew to Council’s attention the vandalism that had recently been carried out to the War Memorial. It was noted that the incident was being investigated. Cllr Jones had circulated photographs of the damage by email prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the stone urn that had been damaged would be disposed of to prevent it from being used to cause further damage.

Details were circulated of the Police Open Day taking place on 15th September.

It was noted hat PCSO Mike Trebble was currently on holiday.

**07/09**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths Map

Nothing further to report.

Verge Cutting

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that a second cut had been carried out and the respective invoice had been settled between meetings.

Other Matters

Nothing more had been heard by Cllr Paynter from the County Council Public Rights of Way Officer concerning the blocked footpath adjacent to Whitminster Court nor any other matters.

The outcome was awaited from further investigations into the ownership of the roadside hedge adjacent to Schoolfield Close.

It was noted that the kissing gate near to Walk Bridge had become overgrown with brambles and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mrs Teasdale asking her to address the matter.

**08/09**

**Skate Ramp**

Cllrs Paynter Hay updated Council on their progress. They had replaced the screws that had not found purchase in the frame and were working on the replacement of rivets. It was hoped that the work could proceed to the stage of painting before the onset of winter.

**09/09**

**World War One Commemoration**

Vandalism of the War Memorial was reported under Police & Community Safety Issues above. The paperwork concerning the original quote for the refurbishment work was reviewed and it was noted that the re-lettering was included. Cllr Douglas confirmed that this was yet to be done. Council was pleased to note that the overall commemoration project, including the display board as viewed at the meeting and overseen by Cllr Peters, would be completed for 11th November.

**10/09**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

D J Davies Grass Cutting £203.09

Cheque book stubs for other cheques drawn between meetings and reported previously were countersigned as necessary.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank as per the last statement dated 31st August was £13,653.16

It was noted that a new firm of auditors had been appointed and they had encountered issues with the electronic issue of paperwork,

Jones reported that he had heard from T. W. Hawkins and Sons and had accepted their quote for the coming grass cutting season subject to a nominal increase.

**11/09**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

The Trow magazine.

CPRE Newsletters.

There were no other hard copy items of correspondence that had not been circulated.

**12/09**

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

Cllr jones reported that a new CEO for Stroud District Council had been appointed and she would be starting in November. He also advised the proposals to apply charges in a number of car parks throughout the District had been dropped and Stroud Subscription Rooms had been transferred to Stroud Town Council for £1.

**13/09**

**Future Agenda Items**

No Specific items were proposed.

**14/09**

**Other Business**

Schoolfield Close Ditch – Nothing further to report as noted above.

Parish Records – Cllr Peters confirmed the details of the Minutes he wished to review and would liaise with the Clerk between meetings if necessary.

Litter – Nothing further to note.

Parking In The Close – Cllr Peters wished to expand on the comments he made at the last meeting and advised he would sent to the Clerk a number of queries that he would wish to see investigated.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 3rd October, 2018.