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

**Public Forum**

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

There were nine members of the public present who were given an opportunity to speak.

Comment was made concerning the condition of the pavements running alongside the A38 and the fact the verge had been cut only once. It was agreed that the matter would be raised in a letter to the Local Highways Supervisor.

A question was asked in regard to the outcome of the speed monitoring the Police had proposed undertaking in School Lane. Cllr Jones had been in touch with PCSO Trebble who had originally reported a delay due to staffing issues. Since then he had been off sick and now is on leave so it is understood the matter will not progress until November.

**00/10**

**Present**

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

There were 9 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting reducing to 1 by the end of the meeting.

**01/10**

**Apologies**

An apology had been received an accepted from Cllr Mrs Gilmore at the end of the last meeting. Cllr Braidford joined the meeting at 7:38pm and apologised for arriving late.

**02/10**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

Further template Register of Member’s Interest forms were passed to Cllrs Hay, Peters and Douglas to complete and pass back or send to the Monitoring Officer of Stroud District Council as preferred. Cllr Jones had brought his completed form to the meeting.

**03/10**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th September, 2019, were approved as a true record subject to the following amendments:

* 05/09 Police & Community Safety Issues – Defibrillator – 1st line – ‘suggest’ changed to read ‘suggestion’.
* 06/09 Planning – Applications to Consider – 9th line – ‘Witminster’ changed to read ‘Whitminster’.
* 12/09 Other Business – Community Orchard – 1st line – although the Minutes correctly recorded the discussion and wording agreed during the meeting that Chairman had since been alerted to the correct spelling of Pockett as being with a double ‘t’ rather than as written and hence this was amended for clarity.
* Although not technically forming part of the meeting it has become custom to including with the Minutes a brief summary of the Public Forum discussion that takes place ahead of the formal meeting. An amendment was made to these notes correcting the reference to ‘S.21 funding’ to ‘S.106 funding’.

**04/10**

**Matters Arising**

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to Anna Tarbet advising her of Council’s preferred name for the Community Orchard, adjacent to Occupation Bridge, as being Pockett’s Orchard. The correct spelling of ‘Pockett’ had been confirmed.

It was noted that Simon Moulding had been named as the Neighbourhood Warden covering the area on a temporary basis until a new Warden could be recruited and trained. This was following a member of staff leaving the team.

Cllr Paynter advised that he would be unable to repair the A38 North bound bus shelter without work being done to cut back the hedge to the rear as access is needed to the back to secure the centre panel. Cllr Jones stated that the hedge surrounding the Village Hall wad due to be cut shortly and he would arrange for it to be cut back to the rear of the bus shelter as much as possible.

**05/10**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report.

Neighbourhood Warden

There was nothing to report other than the change in Warden covering the area as referred to in Matters Arising above. However, Cllr Jones did comment on the fact that the Wardens are moving to utilise electric/hybrid vehicles with the first two recently delivered.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator part funded by the British Heart Foundation had been installed and was seen by all arriving for the meeting on the wall outside the Village Hall entrance. The training pack had also been received. Grant aid in the sum of £200 from each of the Gloucestershire County Council ‘Growing our Communities Fund’ and the Pinching Trust had been received. A further unit had been ordered to be located at Attwoolls for a cost of £1,609:02 and meanwhile, Cllr Jones had investigated maintenance with South West Ambulance Service and they advised they would only assist with maintaining equipment that had bene sourced through them.

Other Matters

It was hoped that PCSO Trebble would be able to take forward speed checks in School Lane later in the Autumn.

It was noted that a further accident had occurred on the A38 the Monday just gone.

Some discussion was had concerning the Stroud District Road Safety Group, the potential use of ANPR equipment and speed awareness interactive signs. It was agreed that Council would keep participation with the group under review and consider the outcome of reports anticipated shortly.

**06/10**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

Although notification had not been received by Council as yet, Cllr Jones was able to advise that the

the application concerning 12 Kidnams Walk had bene approved but there were no decisions on the other pending applications.

Applications to Consider

None.

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones reaffirmed that he had met with Mark Russell of Stroud District Council to discuss areas of land proposed for development within the village through to 2040. It had been suggested that a maximum of 40 additional dwellings be allowed in addition to those already consented. There was some concern voiced as to how such a restriction would be fixed as the local plan develops but Cllr Jones assured Council that the discussion he had would be formally recorded and would not be open to upward revision. The areas identified were to the rear of Schoolfield Close and Upton’s Garden.

Discussions took place concerning the access into the Parklands Farm development and it was noted that a fence was to be removed and changes made outside Gardeners Cottage.

**07/10**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths & Map

Nothing further to report by Cllr Paynter for the time being on the Parish Walks Guide. However, on other footpath matters a comprehensive meeting had taken place with the Public Rights of Way Officer prior to the meeting at 7pm. This had been an opportunity for her to receive details, first hand, of the many matters Council had been reporting for a number of months. Concerning the footpath adjacent to Whitminster Court, she had been informed by the householder that they would re-open the route and a site meeting was planned for Friday. Other issues discussed included the use of electric fences; bulls in fields (beef breeds are acceptable but not dairy); cyclical cutting and certain paths that were not passable. The Officer agreed to follow up on all matters and report back in due course. In the meantime, Cllr Paynter agreed to circulate to all a comprehensive list of the footpath issues of which he was aware.

Other Matters

Notices were received concerning various road closures and temporary speed limits including to the A38 & A419 for works associated with the canal restoration; Stroud Half Marathon on 27th October; School Lane for resurfacing works and Wheatenhurst Bridge for repairs. Details were to be circulated and shared in the Parish Newsletter where appropriate.

**08/10**

**Skate Ramp**

The Working Group had met and site visits were being arranged with Bendcrete, Fearless and Rhino Ramps with proposals and quotations to follow. On an allied matter, it was understood that that proposed new gym equipment had been shortlisted as a contender for grant aid from the Energy From Waste Community Fund.

**09/10**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

PME Services Gloucester Ltd Defibrillator electrical installation (Village Hall site) £102.00

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was reported as being £25,001:33 when confirmed earlier that day.

The precept second instalment had been received in the sum of £8,500:00 and in addition a £200:00 cheque (from Mr Paul Cobb) along with £160:02 in cash had been banked by the Chairman as contributions towards further defibrillators within the Parish. This was in addition to £1,449:00 in cash and cheques banked previously include £300 from the Pinching Trust, all being subject to review on the receipt of the next monthly statement.

**10/10**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Information on a Brexit Briefing being organised by Stroud District Council. T

Agenda for the meeting of Severn Voice taking place on 10th October along with the Minutes of the last meeting.

Details of proposed changes to the Mobile Post Office Service changing to Thursday, from Tuesday, each week and being present between 15:45 and 16:45 hrs in the Village Hall car park.a

The Trow magazine.

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

**11/10**

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

The Chairman asked Cllr Hay if he had an update to give regarding work to refurbish the village notice boards and he confirmed he had purchased the necessary materials. The Chairman then went on to advise that in regard to District Council matters the next full meeting of Council would take place on 17th October. He also reported that a new management team was being assembled by the recently appointed Chief Executive and this included the appointment of three Strategic Directors. Applications were being sought from within and outside the Council. On the resubmitted application for a football stadium on land East of junction 13 of the M5, it was understood that it was unlikely to be considered before Christmas at the earliest. Finally, Cllr Jones told the meeting that he had been working with Cllr Stephen Davies to confirm agreed routes of access and egress for construction traffic involved in building the new solar farm proposed for Longney. Traffic should not be using School Lane.

**12/10**

**Other Business**

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

Canal Project – Cllrs Peters and Jones commented on the progress of grant funding and planned works concerning the A38 roundabout. A contract was reviewed that would commit the Council as a partner to the project and it was agreed that in its form as drafted it committed Council to liabilities it was not prepared to accept specifically in regard to indemnities. Cllr Jones agreed to seek clarification as to why Whitminster PC in particular had been added as a party to the agreement and if a revised version could be circulated for consideration.

Community Orchard – There was nothing further to add beyond the discussion on the clarification of the name had under Matters Arising.

**13/10**

**Future Agenda Items**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

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