**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON THURSDAY 2nd JANUARY, 2020.**

**Public Forum**

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

There was one member of the public present who was given an opportunity to speak and asked what was known in regard to the Community Orchard proposed for the Parklands Farm development. Council advised that it understood the orchard would be accessible by the whole community but would be maintained by a Management Company that would be set up to oversee any non-adopted areas within the development. It was also noted that an officer of Stroud District Council had been in touch asking if the developer had been liaising with the Parish Council over the progression of the orchard but no contact had been made.

**00/01**

**Present**

There were 6 Parish Councillors present including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Peters together with one member of the public.

**01/01**

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was believed to be unwell.

**02/01**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

**03/01**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 4th December, 2019, were approved as a true record subject to two amendments as follow:

* 07/12 – Highways & Byways – Footpaths & Map – 1st line – ‘Counill’ changed to read ‘Council’.
* 07/12 - Highways & Byways – Footpaths & Map – 2nd line – ‘I’ changed to ‘in’.

**04/01**

**Matters Arising**

There was a general discussion concerning the ponding of water close to the North bound A38 bus shelter. Cllr Jones had shared with Council the details of an email exchange he had initiated with the Highways Area Supervisor that had resulted in the suggestion that there was no issue. However, it was decided there clearly was some form of defect, most likely cause by heavy vehicles stopping in the bus stop to visit the businesses opposite. Cllr Peters advised that he would be forwarding a photo to illustrate the problem.

Cllr Paynter reaffirmed that it was very difficult to get to the rear of the bus shelter to carry out repairs and as Cllr Hay was not present his previous offer to cut back the adjoining hedge to improve access was not discussed.

**05/01**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report.

Neighbourhood Warden

No report had been received but it was understood that interviews had taken place and Katie Markwick had been recruited as a new Warden to cover the area. It was expected that she would be in touch to meet with Council following the completion of her training through January into February.

Defibrillator

The three defibrillators installed around the village were confirmed as all being fully operational after the replacement of defective heating pads and this was as reported at the previous meeting. However, following negotiations by Cllr Jones, a refund of the cost of fitting the new pads (electrician’s charges) of £98 had been received together with a small uplift to reflect the cost of receiving an overseas transfer due to Rotaid, the manufacturer, being based overseas.

The next training event would take place on Saturday 23rd January at 10am and would run for approximately 2 hours. Up to 15 people could participate. There was some discussion concerning the merits of maintaining a list of local people who have undergone the training, how to go about it and how to comply with data protection requirements and yet make it a worthwhile document. It was agreed that those attending the training on 23rd January would raise the issue with the trainer for it to be considered further in light of how other organisations might deal with the matter elsewhere.

School Lane Speeds

Cllr Jones had sought to make contact with the Police Cadets in the hope that they might conduct further speed checks in School Lane but he was yet to receive a response. A follow up to Daniel Tiffney, of the County Council, was to be sent to press for a meeting to discuss wider traffic calming/speed reduction measures.

Other Matters

Following the news given by Cllr Davies at the December meeting ,on the matter of VAS mobile units and the funding he had made available (£3,000) from his Growing Communities fund, which combined with £5,000 from the County Council Highways Dept would prove sufficient to obtain and operate the necessary equipment, a meeting of Severn Voice was necessary. This was scheduled for 30th January to take place in Whitminster Village Hall and to be Chaired by Cllr Jones. The agenda would include agreeing a host council to receive and be responsible for the relevant grants and to agree the arrangements and logistics concerning the VAS units. Cllr Jones advised that it may also be that each Council needs to contribute something in the order of £100.00 and it was agreed that this would be acceptable in principle.

**06/01**

**Planning**

Decisions to Note

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

the revised application pertaining to a new football stadium on land East of the M5 motorway junction 13 had been approved. However, the formal consent had not been issued as it was understood the newly elected MP for Stroud, Siobhan Baille, was considering referring the controversial plans to the relevant Secretary of State to be called in for consideration by central government. Council thanked Cllr Paynter for his efforts and impressive representations he had made on behalf of Council on both occasions when the matter was considered before the SDC Development Control Committee.

It was understood that other applications that had been approved included the revised application relating to a new dwelling on land adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage; the extension to the Highfield garden centre and an extension to the 28day occupation limit imposed on the proposed log cabins for land to the rear of the Whitminster Inn.

Applications to Consider

S.19/2545/VAR Grove End Farm (Adjacent), Grove Lane, Whitminster.

Variation of condition 8. (fire hydrant details).

Council was of the opinion that this should be a matter to be determined by the relevant authorities with the necessary knowledge and therefore resolved not to comment.

Other Planning Matters

The used car sales lot on the A38 remained, although the number of cars present had reduced, and the matter was being pursued by the planning enforcement team but there had been no update.

The Local Plan Review consultation continued through until 22nd January.

**07/01**

**Highways & Byways**

Footpaths & Map

An email update had been forwarded from County Councillor Stephen Davies providing a report from the Public Rights of Way Officer on matters she had followed up since her meeting with Council. Unfortunately, it seemed that she had overlooked the points raised, misunderstood what she was being asked to undertake and had made no worthwhile progress on any of the matters. This would be followed up on.

There had been no progress in regard to the updating or reprinting of the Parish Walks map.

Other Matters

Email correspondence was circulated relating to the water that had been standing in School Lane near Highfield House and Council was pleased to note the issue appeared to have been resolved.

A complaint was received relating to the quality of the reinstatement work carried out in Kidnams Walk following cable laying work. There were also issues elsewhere in the village and Cllr Jones agreed to arrange a meeting with the Area Highways Supervisor for him to follow up with the contractor.

Cllr Peters passed comments relating to trees.

**08/01**

**Skate Ramp & Outdoor Gym Equipment**

A number of quotes had been obtained by the working group for alternative ramp configurations. The details were briefly reviewed but a major consideration would be the impact of the oil pipeline passing through the area and a site meeting was being arranged with the managing agents to discuss. The proposals could then be appraised more fully at the next meeting together with budgetary discussions for 2020/2021. Meanwhile, it was noted that Cllr Hay was following up on researching the most appropriate types of gym equipment and quotes were being sought. Finally, on this matter, Cllr Braidford now had use of some suitable equipment to cut out and make good the fencing panels that had come loose and would do this as soon as he had time.

**09/01**

**Accounts**

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

County Signs (Glos) Ltd Plaque for Attwoolls defibrillator £18.00

The Play Inspection Company Ltd Annual inspection £120.00

Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden donation £250.00

PME Services Ltd Glos Installation of replacement heat pads £90.00

Other Financial Matters

It was confirmed that the precept and associated matters would be considered at the February meeting and a short extension of time had been agreed with SDC in this respect.

As noted above, after due consideration it was agreed that a donation of £250.00 would be made towards the cost of operating the Neighbourhood Warden scheme to reflect the fact the cover for the area had been rather lacking in recent years and the Council had been paying more than larger neighbouring parishes.

**10/01**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

CPRE Fieldwork magazine.

CPRE Countryside Voices magazine.

TROW magazine.

NALC update on police powers concerning unauthorised encampments.

Update on Section 137 expenditure correcting an error in previous correspondence from GAPTC – the limit should be £8.32 per elector and not £832.00

GAPTC information and training update.

**11/01**

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

Any relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting but Cllr Jones did inform those present that, leading on from updates he had given previously, a new senior management team was fully in place at Stroud District Council.

**12/01**

**Other Business**

Cllr Jones gave a further reminder concerning the upcoming Severn Voice meeting and Cllr Peters mentioned the Town & Parish Network meeting.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised she had nothing to report for the time being but a meeting of the group was planned for the following week.

**13/01**

**Future Agenda Items**

The 2020/2021 precept, grant funding and annual budget would be considered under financial matters at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 5th February, 2020.