

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER, 2019.**

### **Public Forum**

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

There were 5 members of the public present who were given an opportunity to speak.

Comment was made requesting clarification on what criteria the parish council used to reject the Ecotricity football stadium application. It was confirmed by the Parish Council that it was rejected on the basis of traffic grounds on match days, lack of benefit to the village and it was also discussed that there would be an impact on William Morris House. The application was also contrary to the Stroud District Council Local Plan, with insufficient benefit as a whole forthcoming to warrant such a departure from it.

An update was requested on speed checks on School Lane, Parish Council confirmed that this was awaiting police conducting speed checks

**00/11**

### **Present**

There were 7 Parish Councillors present including Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Hay, Mrs Gilmore, Braidford, Douglas, Paynter and Peters.

There were 5 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting reducing to 2 by the end of the meeting.

**01/11**

### **Apologies**

An apology was received from the Clerk who was unwell.

**02/11**

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

**03/10**

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019, were approved as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- 04/10 – ‘surrounding the Village Hall wad due’ to read ‘surrounding the Village Hall was due’.
- 06/10 – ‘had bene approved’ to read ‘had been approved’
- 10/10 – ‘Stroud District Council. T’ to read ‘Stroud District Council.’
- 10/10 – ‘Village Hall car park.a’ to read ‘Village Hall car park.’
- 12/10 – the wording ‘A Contract’ was disputed by Chairman Jones and resolved that it should be reworded to ‘A Partnership Agreement’.

**04/11**

### **Matters Arising**

The damaged panel in the bus shelter Northbound on the A 38 was discussed. It was noted that the overgrown hedge to the rear of the bus shelter would make repairs difficult and Chairman Jones agreed to send Councillor Paynter contact details for the Village Hall contractor so that they could discuss necessary works.

Chairman Jones highlighted an issue with the defibrillators. Two of the defibrillator cabinets installed – both the one installed on the playing field and the defibrillator installed at Attwoolls - have their lights flashing, which could lead to the heating pad not working properly. It was agreed that Chairman Jones would contact the electrician who installed these defibrillators to inspect and carry out any required remediation.

It was proposed that participants in defibrillator training should have their names published on the Parish Council website if they agreed, so that the village would know who could be requested to assist as needed. It was agreed that this would only take place after participants had given their permission and it was proposed that this would best be obtained by asking future participants if they were willing to have their name published on the website. Councillor Peters also advised that there is a first responder in the village and he would approach them to see if they would also agree to have their name listed on the Parish Council website. Chairman Jones noted that the defibrillator locations are now registered with the SW ambulance service.

It was proposed by Chairman Jones that the defibrillator installed at Attwoolls should have a sign installed stating that this was funded by village donation. Cost for this sign would be met by the donations raised for the defibrillators. This was agreed by Council.

**05/11**

### **Police & Community Safety Issues**

#### **Defibrillator**

It was confirmed by Chairman Jones that insurance cover for the defibrillator installed at the Village Hall and at the Pavilion would be met by Village Hall and Playing Field building cover and that insurance cover for the defibrillator installed at Attwoolls would be provided by Attwoolls building cover. It was confirmed that the first defibrillator training session had taken place successfully.

#### **School Lane Speeds**

It was confirmed that there had been no further communication from police regarding the planned speed checks on School Lane.

The multi-site traffic regulation order consultation document was discussed. It was reported by Chairman Jones that feedback from Stroud District Road Safety Group, (SDRSG) had been received stating that it was unlikely that any funding would be provided to deploy proposed Traffic Regulation Orders within this document as County Highways funding was prioritised to be spent on areas which were already generating injury and fatal accidents.

Councillor Douglas raised an issue regarding an obscured sign on School Lane at the Sandfurlong bend. The 'sharp bend ahead' sign is hidden by the hedge. It was agreed that Chairman Jones would raise this matter with the Highways Supervisor.

Councillor Paynter raised the issue of road safety improvements in the village. He highlighted that Council had previously discussed the possibility of requesting County Highways to propose safety improvements to the village and but this had never been progressed. It was agreed that Council should write to Dan Tiffany and his manager Martyn Midgley and request that they draw up some proposals, such as "build outs", which Council could review and then Parish Council could consider funding implications at a later date.

Councillor Peters raised an issue with a sunken pavement on the A38 immediately outside the northbound bus shelter. It was discussed and agreed that this was likely due to articulated lorries parking outside the bus shelter to access the convenience store on the southbound carriageway. It was agreed that Chairman Jones would raise this with Yakub Mulla of the County Council.

**06/11**

**Planning**

**Decisions to Note**

The application to build a bungalow at the rear of 39 Paynes Meadow had been refused.

**Applications to Consider**

**Yew Tree Cottage**

The revised planning application includes changes to enlarge the rear room and raised the ridgeline at the rear of the proposed property. Council agreed to object on grounds of loss of light. It was also noted that a comment should be made on the Parish Council response that if this is approved then the proposed retaining wall mentioned in the application should be substantial.

**Land at M5 Jct 13. - 5000 capacity football stadium**

It was resolved by Council that Council would object on the same basis as per previous objections. Council also agreed that the objection should include mention of the excessive car parking charges which could result in significant on street parking in the surrounding areas.

**Car lot on A38**

Chairman Jones confirmed that this had been raised with Stroud District Council Enforcement Officers who are already investigating.

**Grove End Farm**

Chairman Jones noted that the recent discharge of conditions application had incorrectly stated the permitted hours of construction. Chairman Jones confirmed that he had raised this with planning officers who instructed the developers to resubmit the application with the correct hours of construction.

**Mill Barn temporary structure**

Councillor Douglas raised a question regarding the new wooden building at Mill Barn. It was discussed whether this was considered permitted development. Chairman Jones noted that it was his opinion that this was considered permitted development and a temporary structure.

**Parklands Orchard Development**

Councillor Peters noted that the existing railings to the front of Gardeners Cottage were still waiting to be replaced with a wall.

**07/11**

**Highways & Byways**

**Footpaths & Map**

Councillor Paynter reported that the Public Rights of Way Officer did not attend a planned on-site meeting at Whitminster Court. The Public Rights of Way Officer later contacted him via email to apologise. The meeting was briefly adjourned so that this Rights of Way issue could be discussed with the member of public in attendance who owns the property. This discussion was not minuted.

Councillor Paynter reported that he was having some difficulty in obtaining the Ordnance Survey software required to update the footpaths map but that it was in hand.

Chairman Jones reported that there was a problem with water running onto School Lane outside Highfield House. He reported that the contracts officer at County Highways was liaising with

Complete Utilities to resolve this, and the results would be communicated to Mr Clewes, who originally raised the issue.

Councillor Paynter confirmed that both he and Chairman Jones attended the Frampton Cycle Plan consultation meeting. Various options to improve cycle way and cycle path provision within Frampton were discussed. Of particular interest was the proposal to extend a cycle path on Whitminster Lane from Walk Bridge down to its junction with the Perry Way. It was agreed by Council that this would be good, however it was also noted that it would be difficult to provide given the physical constraints on either side of the Lane. Councillor Peters expressed his desire for a safe cycle path which could link Whitminster to Frampton without having to use School Lane.

Councillor Braidford reported that there is currently heavy traffic on the northbound a38 carriageway in peak morning hours. This is causing severe congestion for the School Lane traffic trying to leave Whitminster. It was noted that due to proposed developments within and near the village that traffic issues were unlikely to improve.

**08/11**

#### **Skate Ramp**

Chairman Jones reported that 3 responses had been received for proposed replacements. It was agreed that Chairman Jones would arrange a further meeting of the skate ramp Working Group to review the responses.

Councillor Paynter reported on the on-site safety inspection which was carried out for the Playing Field equipment and skate ramp. He reported that the Playing Field equipment had some minor issues which are already noted and due to be resolved by Councillor Braidford. The inspection of the skate ramp was more problematic. Fresh damage to the running surface at eastern end of the skate ramp was observed, and this would have caused the Inspection to fail. It was noted that this was likely malicious damage caused by throwing a concrete slab on to the skate ramp. It was agreed with the Inspector that Councillors Paynter and Hay would have the opportunity to remediate this damage before the Inspector completes the inspection and finalises the report. Councillors Hay and Paynter agreed that they would make further repairs on the weekend commencing 17th November and then contact the Inspector afterwards.

#### **Gym equipment**

Chairman Jones queried whether a response concerning the UBB grant for gym equipment had been received yet. Discussions concluded that the matter would be revisited at the next meeting if no correspondence came to light in the interim.

Chairman Jones highlighted that there is potential grant funding of up to £2000 available via GPFA which would require membership fees of £50 before we could apply. Council agreed to spend £50 on GPFA membership, with potentially applying for a grant towards the Skate Ramp replacement project later on.

**09/11**

#### **Accounts**

##### **Accounts for Payment**

There were no details available for accounts to pay however it was noted by Chairman Jones that £102 is due to be paid for the electrical installation of the defibrillator at Attwoolls.

It was agreed by council that the regular £50 donation should be made to the Poppy Appeal.

Councillor Hay confirmed that the annual £130 invoice had been received for the Parish Council web hosting.

Chairman Jones confirmed that the current Parish Council Bank balance is £23,624.06

Council discussed that it would be good to have a spreadsheet available to track cash flow throughout the financial year and see if we are on target. It was highlighted that this had previously been requested and should be actioned.

**10/11**

**Correspondence**

No correspondence was available to be discussed.

**11/11**

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

There were no items raised in Chairman's Items as all items having already been covered elsewhere within the meeting.

Chairman Jones provided an update on District Councillor's report and noted that three of the four Strategic Directors for the Council are now in place. They and their remaining 4th member are due to take up their roles in 2020.

**12/11**

**Other Business**

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

Canal Project – The proposed Partnership Agreement to express support in the Canal Project was again discussed. Chairman Jones agreed with the clarification response from Stroud District Council which explained that the liabilities within the contract were unlikely to be progressed Against Whitminster parish council as the parish council was not a main signatory. Councillor Hay noted that the contract as worded would still give rise to Council and personal liability for Councillors. Council voted by majority to sign the agreement and support the Canal Partnership.

**13/11**

**Future Agenda Items**

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.**