

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020.**

## **Public Forum**

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

One member of the public commented that it was good to see details of Parish Council matters being publicised through Facebook. Cllr Hay was thanked for his efforts in this regard.

Although not comments from the public, Cllr Douglas questioned the period of notice needed for a meeting of the Parish Council to be called and Cllr Peters raised a comment concerning the publication of private addresses.

## **00/02**

### **Present**

There were 7 Parish Councillors present including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Peters together with three members of the public.

## **01/02**

### **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

## **02/02**

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

## **03/02**

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020, were approved as a true record subject to two amendments as follow:

- 05/01 – Police & Community Safety Issues – Defibrillator – 6<sup>th</sup> line – ‘23<sup>rd</sup>’ changed to ‘25<sup>th</sup>’.
- 05/01 – Police & Community Safety Issues – Defibrillator – 10<sup>th</sup> line – ‘23<sup>rd</sup>’ changed to ‘25<sup>th</sup>’.

## **04/02**

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Paynter raised a concern relating to information recently posted on Facebook by Cllr Peters stating that a ‘new council’ was needed. This had created the impression that the Council had in some way fallen apart or Councillors had resigned rather than alluding to the potential forthcoming election. Cllr Hay was asked to clarify matters and circulate information relating to the election in due course.

**05/02**

## **Police & Community Safety Issues**

### Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report.

### Neighbourhood Warden

The newly appointed Neighbourhood Warden, Katie Markwick, had been in touch and it had been agreed that she would attend the April meeting to meet with Council at 7:30pm. Her email address was confirmed as [katie.markwick@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:katie.markwick@stroud.gov.uk) and the Neighbourhood Warden News update was circulated. Cllr Jones advised that he would be taking a tour of the village with the Warden during the following week.

### Defibrillator

Further information was received from the British Heart Foundation on training and signage. Cllr Jones reported that the cover had removed from the unit at the Playing Field Pavilion on two occasions during one night. Cllr Hay was asked to refer to the incidents on Facebook and remind villagers that the equipment had been purchased through public donations. Unfortunately, the location of the equipment is not covered by the existing CCTV system.

A recent training session had been well attended.

### 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 and he was pleased to confirm that he had received a response advising that they would be very happy to help and would visit on a Wednesday evening to be agreed.

### Other Matters

A circular was received providing advice concerning Wuhan Novel Coronavirus for those that had recently travelled to China.

Cllr Peters had attended a Neighbourhood Watch event and informed Council that PCSOs should shortly be in touch with Neighbourhood Watch members. He also advised that he was aware of a new recruit to the scheme in the locality. Cllr Peters also commented on an issue involving waste food being dumped in the village and he said he would raise the matter with the New Neighbourhood Warden.

On the matter of VAS mobile units and the funding that had been made available (£3,000) from Cllr Davies' 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 had taken place. This was Chaired by Cllr Jones. The Minutes had since been received and circulated and included information on the system and its operational requirements. It had been agreed that Hardwicke Parish Council would carry out the financial administration. Other issues discussed at the meeting included verge cutting for 2020 and a 1.7% uplift had been agreed. The contractor had raised concerns relating to the condition of the verges in the area following the recent cable laying works. It was noted that the next meeting would take place in March at Arlingham Village Hall and the newly elected Stroud MP, Siobhan Baillie would be invited to attend.

Finally, concerns were raised regarding the volume of traffic emerging from Grove Lane and turning right across the A38 or continuing over into School Lane. Cllr Braidford supplied a photo depicting a queue of traffic waiting to head across the junction and it was agreed that this should be sent to Insp Blake at Stroud Police Station requesting that action be taken.

## **06/02**

### **Planning**

#### Decisions to Note

It was noted that work at the Parklands Farm site was now permitted from 7:30am each morning on Monday to Friday inclusive.

#### Applications to Consider

S.20/0141/LBC Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Refurbishment of existing farmhouse and outbuilding. Two new single storey rear extensions & demolition of single outbuilding.

Council resolved to support the application believing that the proposed work would bring the house back into use as a family home in a sympathetic way without any detriment arising to neighbouring properties of the street scene. Replacement fenestration and rainwater goods were considered to be in keeping but Council deferred to the requirements of the Conservation Officer in regard to whether the proposed extensions and other works were considered to be in scale and in keeping.

S.20/0140/HHOLD Parklands Farm, School Lane, Whitminster.

Erection of two single storey rear extensions & demolition of single outbuilding.

Council resolved to support this application for reasons allied to its comments concerning S20/0141/LBC above.

S.19/2740/VAR Grove End Farm (Adjacent), Grove Lane, Whitminster.

Variation of condition 4 (works to the A38).

Council was of the opinion that this should not be permitted as there was already a notable problem with drivers ignoring the left turn only order as demonstrated by a photo circulated by Cllr Braidford. It was therefore agreed that Council would object and requested that the highway works be completed prior to the commencement of any development.

#### Other Planning Matters

It was understood that the vehicles offered for the off of the A38 had been removed.

Concern was raised regarding bonfires being lit at Whitminster Court and also structures recently constructed there. It was agreed that these matters would be raised with the relevant enforcement teams.

## **07/02**

### **Highways & Byways**

#### Footpaths & Map

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

#### Other Matters

Notification had been received of a road closure relating to Grove Lane at its junction with the A38 for the period 10<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> June to permit works associated with the adjoining new development at Grove End Farm.

Confirmation was received from Mr Roger Godwin that he and his team had taken over responsibility for Winter Snow Plough Operations in the Severn Voice area and the Clerk had passed to him the relevant paperwork recently received from Gloucestershire County Council.

Email correspondence that Cllr Jones had circulated was reviewed concerning the damage to the grassed area in The Close opposite numbers 18, 20 & 22 caused by vehicles mounting the pavement. As there was no safety issue nothing would be done although Cllr Jones had made a further request for the mud deposited to be cleared off the road. It was hoped that the matter would be looked at in the new financial year to see if the situation could be improved long term.

The area holding water on the A38 close to the bus shelter was discussed further.

It was noted that the work to the A38 roundabout for the re-opening of the canal was progressing well and there had been no issues.

It was noted that the damaged bollard at the entrance to Schoolfield Close had not been replaced. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the relevant Housing Association.

Cllr Paynter raised the issue of bad fog affecting the M5 motorway since the commencement of operations at the incinerator site.

Finally, on this item, a number of overgrown hedgerows were discussed and follow-up agreed.

## **08/02**

### **Skate Ramp & Outdoor Gym Equipment**

A number of quotes had been obtained by the working group for alternative ramp configurations as well as the removal of the existing equipment and base.

Cllr Jones reported on a recent meeting held with the agents who manage the oil pipeline in the vicinity and the implications arising. As a result it was agreed that further design amendments would be sought along with a final best price for the purchase and installation of a new concrete ramp and accompanying bench seat. Once received funding options could then be pursued with the Public Works Loan Board with a view to progressing the project to installation later in the year.

Meanwhile, on the matter of the proposed gym equipment, further quotes were awaited and Cllr Hay was asked to collate opinions on the type of equipment that would be likely to be best used.

## **09/02**

### **Accounts**

#### **2020/2021 Budget**

Expenditure for the year to date and anticipated through to the financial year end was considered and the details circulated on spreadsheets. Budgeted expenditure for 2020/2021 was agreed at £13,350 assuming election costs of £1,500 and this would

leave a surplus to supplement reserves for the purchase of the proposed new skate ramp or to pay the finance costs of a loan to facilitate this.

#### 2020/2021 Precept

It was agreed that the precept would remain unchanged at £17,000 for the coming year.

#### Other Financial Matters

It was confirmed that an order had been placed with The Play Inspection Company to proceed with an inspection of the skate ramp and play equipment in November of the coming financial year at a cost of £102.50 plus VAT.

A request was received from the Stroud Valley Canal Company for a donation towards the cost of purchasing a mud hopper machine. This was declined and it was noted that although Council had signed up to support the canal project it did not intend to help with financial support.

It was agreed that a donation of £100:00 be made to the Guideposts Trust to help fund the Connect group that runs in the village hall for the coming year. This provides support to carers and those with long term health issues. It was also noted that a new computer course would be running from 6<sup>th</sup> February.

## **10/02**

### **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Notice of Chartered Parishes Group meeting planned for March, believed to be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> but wrong day apparently announced.

Request from Gloucestershire Heritage Hub for help with the cost of purchasing a manuscript relating to the area that was being sold by auction. As the auction date had passed this was not considered any further.

Notice from the District Council of its intent to pass a new Street Trading Resolution.

Guidance for Clerks concerning the forthcoming local elections. It was noted that the publication of the Notice of Election would be from 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Details of the Local Transport Review Consultation events.

Details from GAPTC concerning the proposed next steps in developing the Stroud District 'Working Together' Protocol together with a table of proposed District and Parish/Town Council commitments.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Notification was received of the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire 2018 – 2031 – Inspector's Report.

Request from Buzz Busby for feedback on the Whitminster Newsletter following the completion of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Council's view was discussed earlier in the meeting and it was agreed that the preference would be to continue in a hard copy format either of a similar size or larger if necessary. It was considered if advertising might facilitate and expanded form but it was noted that the cost of going from a single sheet folded to a version requiring more professional printing and stapling were significant. The Parish Council indicated that it might be prepared to consider paying a charge to facilitate the continued distribution free of charge throughout the village given that the newsletter provides a valuable means of circulating Parish Council information to members of the community that do not have access to the internet to view the Parish Council website.

**11/02**

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

Most relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting but Cllr Jones did inform those present that he planned to take a tour around the village with the Area Highways Supervisor later in the month; that sandbags were available in the village if needed and he gave a further update on issues arising from the recent meeting of Severn Voice.

**12/02**

**Other Business**

Cllr Jones recalled a written report had been supplied by email from District & County Councillor Stephen Davies together with his apology for being unable to attend the meeting as he was committed to attending the meeting of Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council. It was agreed that the update would be circulated.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised she had nothing to report for the time being as she had arrived a little late for the last meeting and had been unable to gain access to the site. The next meeting was scheduled for March and in the meantime she was happy to arrange a tour around the site for the Parish Council of an evening.

**13/02**

**Future Agenda Items**

Parish Election.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:06 pm.

**CHAIRMAN** – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.