

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON MONDAY 4TH MAY, 2020.

Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors and one member of the public in attendance on the Zoom enabled meeting.

The one member of the public commented that the village should be prepared to 'push forward a planning fight' concerning any proposed development on land to the East of the A48 and North of Grove Lane. It was suggested that a 'protest group' should be formed. Cllr Jones advised that many people were concerned about the proposals but at present only a scoping request had been made in order to identify environmental receptors to be considered in a wider appraisal. The site had been identified late in the Local Plan Review process and if to be actively considered in that context then further consultation would be necessary and comments could then be made. The member of the public also advised that he thought work undertaken to a gateway in Hyde Lane was 'suspicious'.

00/05

Present

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

01/05

Apologies

There were no apologies.

02/05

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jones and Douglas declared an interest in regard to an item to be discussed under 'Covid 19 Matters' relating to the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee finances. It was also noted that Cllr Mrs Gilmore acts as the Parish Council representative on that committee.

03/05

Election & Vacancy

Following the resignation of Mr Peters there remained 6 sitting Parish Councillors. The impact of Covid 19 was that the term of office of those remaining would be extended for one year to May 2021 with any potential elections postponed. It was understood that terms thereafter would be foreshortened to revert to the usual election cycle. It was noted that the procedure necessary to fill the vacancy would be investigated with GAPTC and the Electoral Service Department of Stroud District Council.

04/05

Police & Community Safety Issues

Covid 19 Matters

Under the consideration of the impact of Coronavirus/Covid 19 a letter was considered that was received from the Secretary of the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee. This set out, together with an accompanying financial statement, the situation the Committee was in with all fee paying activities cancelled but outgoings still ongoing together with the anticipated costs necessary to set up and open up when eventually allowed to do so. In particular the Committee had engaged a gardening company to maintain the grassed area adjacent to the Village Hall and this as a notable ongoing cost. As a result, the Committee was asking Council to consider providing an interest free loan or grant to help keep the charity running or, alternatively, possibly cover the cost of the gardening contract through to the end of the year. After deliberation Council felt it would not be an appropriate use of its funds to support grass cutting and it was proposed that the matter be considered again in July in light of the state of the lockdown then, the new normal and the wider economic impact. It was also suggested that funds earmarked for the proposed new Playing Field gym equipment could be directed elsewhere if necessary.

Emergency Plan

There was nothing further to report.

Neighbourhood Warden

The newly appointed Neighbourhood Warden, Katie Markwick, had been due to attend the April meeting to meet with Council. It was agreed that a new invitation would be issued after normal or near normal meetings could resume.

Defibrillator

It was confirmed that the 3 no. defibrillators located around the village were insured together with the building and contents insurance policies of the owners/operators of the buildings to which they are affixed.

School Lane Speeds

Nothing further to report.

Other Matters

None.

05/05

Planning

Decisions to Note

None.

Applications to Consider

S.20/0725/FUL Halsey Cottage, Hyde Lane, Whitminster.

Demolition of existing dwelling and detached garage and erection of replacement dwelling with associated works.

Council resolved to support the application but commented that it would be an opportunity to improve the street scene and that regard should be had to the Village Design Statement. In particular the use of timber cladding and dark materials was not favoured.

S.20/0785/HHOLD 28 Upton's Garden, Whitminster.

Carport conversion.

Council objected to this application. It was noted that the application was confusing referring to conversion to a garage when the utility room fittings clearly show it would not be capable of being used for that purpose. This would lead to the removal of the parking amenity and the repositioning of a pillar appeared to be in such a location that the remaining carport area would not be of sufficient size to house a standard vehicle. Therefore, the proposal would remove 2 off-road car parking spaces without the provision of adequate alternatives.

S.20/0678/FUL Land to the rear of Gardeners Cottage, School Lane, Whitminster.

Residential development for 2 dwellings.

Council objected to this application that was seen by Council as an addendum to the Parklands Farm development. Issues related to the impact on the vista towards the Listed Building close by, along with its setting, as well as the overdevelopment of the site and character of the dwellings proposed. Whilst objecting Council noted that it would support use of the land but would prefer to see two bungalows or a single dwelling of a more appropriate design and scale.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

2020/0234/EIAS Land at Grove Lane, Whitminster.

Request for Scoping Opinion.

Council considered that any development of the site on the scale proposed would have a substantial, significant impact on a range of human and wider environmental receptors that should receive full consideration in any Scoping Opinion. A number of specific issues were identified to be drafted into a full response for approval and submission following the meeting.

Cllr Jones reaffirmed that for the site to be considered as part of the Local Plan Review consultation would be necessary and the ability to do so was limited at present.

A number of other planning issues were discussed concerning matters on which decisions were awaited.

06/05

Highways & Byways

Footpaths & Map

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

Cllr Paynter updated Council on a number of local footpath issues but it was noted that little progress was likely to be made during the ongoing pandemic.

Other Matters

It was noted that a road closure Order had been sought for the closure of Grove Lane to facilitate works to its junction with the A38 in connection with the Grove End Farm redevelopment. Cllr Jones had requested that local farms, businesses and residents be made fully aware of when the work would start.

07/05

Skate Ramp & Outdoor Gym Equipment

It was agreed that this item be discussed further at a subsequent meeting.

08/05

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

None.

Other Financial Matters

Cllr Jones confirmed the balance at the bank as being £29,659:00.

It was noted that the annual audit had been postponed.

09/05

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

CPRE Newsletters and magazines.

The Playing Field Spring news sheet.

10/05

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Any relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting and Cllr Jones had nothing more to add.

County and District Councillor Steven Davies had circulated a written report and provided an update on matters such as plans to open the County recycling centres, the support given by the County Council through out the County and also the fact that the number of meetings was beginning to increase using web based conferencing facilities.

11/05

Other Business

None.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised she had nothing to report for the time being as the meeting planned for March had not taken place.

12/05

Future Agenda Items

Village Hall finances would be considered at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 8th July, 2020.