

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL, WHITMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020.**

**Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors and six members of the public in attendance together with District & County Councillor Stephen Davies.

The members of the public present raised various comments on the proposed development of land off School Lane and adjacent to Schoolfield Close. Proposals on land to the East of the A38 and North of Grove Lane, discussed at a previous meeting, were also raised. There was a general feeling of opposition to such largescale development within the village as well as concerns over the lack of any wide consultation. Cllrs Jones and Davies set out the current situation with the Stroud District Local Plan and the timescales that might apply. It was made clear that, at this stage, input into scoping opinions for environmental considerations was all that was under review. The sites had not been included in the Local Plan as yet and no planning applications had been submitted.

**00/09**

**Present**

There were 5 Parish Councillors present including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Gilmore, Douglas and Paynter together with six members of the public and County & District Councillor Stephen Davies for part of the meeting.

**01/09**

**Apologies**

An apology was received and accepted from Cllr Braidford.

**02/09**

**Declarations of Interest**

None. Further Declaration of Members Interests forms were received back.

**03/09**

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the May & June meetings, that had been presented but not signed at previous virtual meetings, were signed as a true record without amendment.

**04/09**

**Police & Community Safety Issues**

Councillor Jones advised that at a recent Environment Committee meeting the matter of Dog Restriction Orders was under review with the intention that they be extended by a further 3 years. There had been no report from the Neighbourhood Warden and no crime figures had been received from PCSO Trebble.

**05/09**

**Planning**

**Decisions to Note**

It was noted that the planning application relating to the development of a new dwelling at 39 Paynes Meadow had been refused.

Extension works proposed for 2 Vaisey Field had been approved.

No formal notification had been received of either of the above decisions and no other determinations were known of.

#### Applications to Consider

S.20/1590/FUL Stonepits Bridge, Whitminster Footpath 21, Whitminster, Glos.

Removal of existing concrete fixed accommodation bridge and the installation of a new deck and operating controls.

Council resolved to support this application but did not feel the design was in keeping with the locality and requested that appropriate landscaping screening be included as a condition of the scheme.

S.20/1669/HHOLD 20 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

New single storey pitched roof extension to rear of the property.

Council objected to this application due to concerns that it would create a four-bedroom house with only a single car parking space in a location where parking is already limited and problematic.

2020/0457/EIAS Screening opinion to determine whether there is a requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment to accompany a planning application for up to 100 residential dwellings, associated infrastructure, landscaping and access. Vehicular access would be provided from School Lane to land off School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Council raised a number of receptors that it felt warranted consideration in the form of an Environmental Impact Assessment in the following areas:

Heritage & Landscape

Wildlife

Human Factors – including school capacity; drainage; public transport; highways and carbon neutral objectives.

These factors were to be expanded in an appropriate representation.

#### Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

Cllr Jones advised that he had nothing to add on the Local Plan beyond his comments made during the Public Forum part of the meeting.

It was understood there would be no further challenge to the Outline Consent for the proposed new football stadium East of M5 and a reserved matters application was pending.

Various potential planning enforcement matters were discussed and would be pursued.

## **06/09**

### **Highways & Byways**

#### Footpaths

Cllr Paynter advised Council that he had heard nothing more from the Public Rights of Way Officer and would follow up before the next meeting. On the matter of footpaths needing to be sprayed out across agricultural land, a watching brief would be maintained.

#### School Lane

Council was informed that the damaged bollard at the entrance to Schoolfield Close had been replaced.

Meanwhile, a meeting had been arranged for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September with Daniel Tiffney, of the County Council Highways Department, to discuss traffic calming measures and other issues around the village.

#### Other Matters

The street sign at the entrance to The Close adjacent to Henry Withers Place and No. 3 The Close was still obscured by Brambles and it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Warden be asked to pursue the matter. It was understood that there were issues with the street lights close to 2 Vaisey Field and Cllr Jones agreed to look into this.

Council was pleased to be informed that payments of £498.71 £509.68 and £521.40 had been received as funding from the County Council for verge cutting works over the past 3 years.

Pre-application consultation documents had been received by Cllr Jones relating to the proposed development on land off School Lane and also a renewable energy scheme on land bridging Whitminster and Moreton Valence. It was agreed that Council would respond advising that it had no

comments to make at this stage given neither proposal had been subject to consultation through the Local Plan Review and both were outside of defined settlement boundaries. However, Cllr Jones was to seek to arrange a meeting with Moreton Valence PC to discuss further.

## **07/09**

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

It was confirmed that an order had been placed for the gym equipment and a deposit paid for manufacture to commence. It was hoped installation would take place during October.

## **08/09**

### **Accounts**

#### **Accounts for Payment**

T W Hawkins	Grass cutting	£787.14
Fresh Air Fitness/Other expenses	Outdoor gym part payment/Zoom & expenses	£5830.99

#### **Other Financial Matters**

According to the most recent statement issued 1<sup>st</sup> September, the balance at the bank was £25,759.05

## **09/09**

### **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Updates to the Electoral Register were received.

GAPTC update.

All other correspondence had been circulated by email.

## **10/09**

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

Any relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting and Cllr Jones had nothing more to add. Cllr Stephen Davies reported on the reopening of the County's schools in September and he was confident that this would proceed. He also advised that there were plans being development for a new secondary school to serve the area. On District matters he informed Council that a further update on how the Local Plan process would proceed was awaited following expected guidance from Central Government. However, he understood that if any new sites were to be included, such as those proposed for Whitminster, then appropriate consultation would be undertaken. He also believed that due to the fact that any White Paper on planning changes would be at least 30 months away from being issues then the ongoing Local Plan issues must be concluded. The final matter he touched on was the revisiting the possibility of a unitary authority for the county except for on this occasion local politicians were pressing for the county to be divided in two and debate was ongoing as to the sense of this.

## **11/09**

### **Other Business**

It was noted that a gift of gardening vouchers had been given to Nick Peters following his retirement from Council and a note of thanks and appreciation had been received and circulated.

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised she had nothing to report as no meetings had taken place but a meeting had been scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Parish Council Vacancy**

No nominations had been received.

#### **Standing Orders**

A draft version was circulated by Cllr Jones for consideration at the next meeting.

**12/09**

**Future Agenda Items**

To discuss Standing Orders.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.**