

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER, 2020.

Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed everyone joining the on-line meeting. There were two members of the public participating but there were no public forum issues raised. However, it was suggested that there may be matters under discussion that they may wish to comment on during the meeting and Cllr Jones advised that he would pause the meeting and allow an opportunity to comment if and when appropriate.

00/11

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors participating including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore and Paynter.

01/11

Apologies

There were no apologies for absence from members but District and County Councillor Stephen Davies had apologised for not being able to participate and had submitted a written report.

02/11

Declarations of Interest

None were raised relating to known agenda items.

03/11

Minutes

The Minutes of the October meeting were agreed as a true record and would be signed at the next in person meeting. A draft had been circulated before the meeting and in response to comments by Cllr Jones this has been changed to include reference to the members of Moreton Valence Parish Council that had attended prior to the start of the formal meeting to discuss matters relating to a proposed solar farm spanning both parishes.

04/11

Police & Community Safety Issues

There were no formal matters to consider. It was noted that there had been reports of a sheep rustling incident elsewhere in the District and also on Facebook comments had been made concerning a suspicious character in the vicinity of the Playing Field.

05/11

Planning

Decisions to Note

It was noted that consent had been granted for the following application previously considered:

S.20/1838/HHOLD 3 Rickyard Way, Whitminster, Glos.

Replace conservatory with single storey rear extension.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.20/2282/TPO 10 Upton's Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Tress Preservation Order – Sycamore – Proposed work to shorten two branches and remove two branches.

Council resolved to defer to the greater professional knowledge of the District Council's Tree Officer in determining this application and would wish to see any protected trees managed in the best way for their future preservation.

For some reason consultations requests had been received in regard to this application.

S.20/2224/TPO 11 Upton's Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Tree Preservation Order – Ash -dismantle to ground level due to ash dieback; Fell dead elm; reduce sycamore to boundary line.

Council resolved to defer to the greater professional knowledge of the District Council's Tree Officer in determining this application and would wish to see any protected trees managed in the best way for their future preservation.

S.20/2202/FUL Highfield Garden World, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of a temporary log cabin for sales & display purposes only (retrospective).

Council supported this application as it has had no impact on the landscape nor given rise to any loss of amenity while assisting the expansion of local business and employer.

S.20/2329/CPE The Chalet, Whitminster Inn, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Certificate of Lawful Use/Development – Removal of existing residential (Rate paying for the last 15 years) 2/3 bed mobile home staff accommodation & construction of a 2 bed residential staff accommodation dwelling.

Council resolved not to comment on the Certificate of Lawful Use/Development as that would be a matter of fact for the Local Planning Authority to determine. However, it was confusing as to how this could be combined with an application for a new dwelling as surely that would be the matter for a new planning application and separate consideration. It was agreed that a letter should be sent querying the matter,

S.20/1256/FUL Land at M5 Junction 12 West of Stonehouse, Eastington, Glos.

Full planning application for change of use of land and Dutch barn from agricultural to D2 to allow for two football training pitches with associated access, parking, landscaping and other ancillary works.

Council noted that additional information and proposals had been supplied in some areas but was of the view that this did not address nor overcome its wider concerns relating to this proposal and as such asked that it be refused with the previous comments submitted still standing.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

The Draft Local Plan Additional Housing Options consultation was open and running, as discussed previously, with comments invited until 16th December. Leaflets had been received and distributed with additional commentary, as agreed, while the possibility of retaining professional support to prepare and submit Council's response was being investigated. It was noted that the details and portal through which to comment were very difficult to find on-line.

Prior to the start of the meeting a discussion was had with Jonathan Orton and Tom Sheppard, observed by their colleague Sasha, concerning the proposed development of land off Upton's Garden, adjacent to Whitminster House and the Playing Field, by Newland Homes. Council shared some concerns about the future management of, access to and ownership of undeveloped land as well as the mix of house types. In conclusion it was felt that given the ongoing Local plan process to take forward such a scheme, with the support of Council, would be premature.

Consideration was also given to the proposed solar farm and it was agreed that Council would be open to negotiating matters pertaining to community benefit if and when a planning application is submitted.

A communication had been received from a Stroud District Council officer and the Chair of the Development Control Committee providing a guidance note covering telecommunications mast developments.

06/11

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter updated Council on footpath issues to confirm that he had still heard nothing further from the County Council Public Rights of Way Officer following the meeting held with her and subsequent follow up.

On general footpath matters, Cllr Paynter also confirmed he was monitoring other footpaths, especially those across crops that have not been previously sprayed out. Meanwhile, Cllr Douglas informed Council that the tree in The Lager, that he had reported on before, had a length of rope tied around it to keep it out of the way and was now known to be part of the property of Mr Timms.

School Lane

Following the site meeting that had taken place with Daniel Tiffney, County Council Highways Area Manager, as reported on previously email correspondence had been received from him confirming:

1. School Lane - Signage to be replaced and road markings refreshed in vicinity of school to progress shortly and funded by the County Cllr Stephen Davies' Local Highway Budget. Longer term – consider engineering works but would require additional funding.
2. Hyde Lane – Not identified for capital funded resurfacing works but added to list to be considered for patch repairs and meanwhile will be surveyed for safety defects. No work likely within the near future.

3. Schoolfield Close ditch – Possibility it could be assumed to be highway ditch but being investigated further.

However, in regard to School Lane and engineering works, Mr Tiffney agreed that he would ask his colleagues to investigate and advise what could be permissible, as there would be no point in raising funds for road works that would not meet necessary standards. This seemed to have been overlooked and would be pursued. That said it would be with Harriett Osburn as the next item of correspondence advised that Mr Tiffney has moved on and she had taken on the role.

It had also since been confirmed that the Schoolfield Close ditch had since been determined not to be a highway asset.

Other Matters

Concern was raised relating to builders vans parking in the vicinity of the School Lane roundabout. Cllr Jones agreed to mention this to the Neighbourhood Warden if she was in touch, although it was noted that the work in question was close to completion.

07/11

Skate Ramp & Outdoor Gym Equipment

Nothing more had been received in regard to proposals for the skate ramp, either design updates or revised pricing. This was to be followed up one further time but it appeared that the company in question could well have been mothballed during the pandemic.

Installation of the outdoor gym equipment was underway and partially completed with the bases and matting installed for all items of equipment but delivery of some parts remains outstanding and was expected later in November.

08/11

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

There were invoices submitted to reimburse the Chairman for printing costs and consumables in the sum of £88.40 and a cheque would be drawn after the meeting.

Other Financial Matters

Whilst there had been no bank statement received as there had been no recent transactions, it was noted that a cheque would be due to clear in the sum of £50.00 to the Poppy Appeal.

A request had been made for the full audit papers to be supplied for completion and details would be circulated between meetings if necessary.

It was agreed that members should give consideration to potential items of expenditure to be put forward for discussion in December prior to the drafting of a budget for the 2021/2022 financial year.

09/11

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Agenda for the meeting of Severn Voice due to be hosted by Arlingham Parish Council on Thursday 19th November.

Invitation from Siobhan Baillie MP to participate in a Cycling Forum to be held on-line on 17th November to consider how cycling and other sustainable forms of transport can be improved across the District & County.

Update from NALC concerning Remembrance Sunday and ideas for marking the day where regular activities cannot take place because of Covid-19.

All other correspondence had been received and circulated by email.

10/11

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Most relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting but Cllr Jones gave a brief report on the activities of the District Council and also voiced concerns that had been passed on regarding the operation and level of service provided by the Doctors' Surgery at Frampton-on-Severn, covering Whitminster, following the retirement of Dr Buckley and reaffirmed it was intended that the issue be discussed at the upcoming meeting of Severn Voice. In addition Cllr Jones noted that there had been no vehicles abandoned in Whitminster thus far in 2020 and that work was ongoing in regard to the Costwold Canal reopening as money became available. It was noted that the work to the A38 roundabout was nearing completion and also work was starting on the railway bridge works at Stonehouse.

County Cllr Davies' written report set out the County Council's 5 point Covid-19 action plan that was announced before the lockdown was applied and includes:

- Reinforcing national advice
- Increased enforcement
- Positive care welfare checks
- Suspension of all care home visits
- Community Protection Officers
- Work with shielded groups

The County Council was also promoting contact details for any family to get in touch that might be requiring help with child hunger.

On schools, a bid was pending with the Department for Education for a new secondary school at Whaddon and this had highlighted the need for a site South of Gloucester.

In regard to highways issues, a ticket had been raised to authorise the line painting refreshing works in School Lane as well as the replacement of signs and discussions were ongoing with Gigaclear concerning reinstatement works.

11/11

Other Business

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised that following the meeting of the group that had taken place by Zoom there was nothing further to report.

Other Issues

It was noted that there had been no interest raised in regard to the Casual Vacancy and hence it would likely carry forward to the deferred elections planned for 2021

Cllr Jones advised that he would be progressing some form of Remembrance Day commemoration that is acceptable within the rules of lockdown.

11/11

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 2nd December, 2020.