

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY, 2021.

Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed everyone joining the on-line meeting and wished all a Happy New Year. There were three members of the public participating, excluding Sarah Younger who became a Councillor shortly into the meeting. Comments were made relating to what appeared to be site survey and investigation work ongoing on the land put forward for development to the East of the A38. It was noted that Council had submitted objections to sites offered for consultation through the Local Plan review. One member of the public remained to answer any questions that might arise relating to a planning application he had submitted but others left the virtual meeting as the agenda progressed.

00/01

Present

There were 4 Parish Councillors participating at the start of the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Douglas and Paynter. This increased to 5 after agenda item 4. When the then Cllr Sarah Younger was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Mrs Gilmore joined the meeting at 8:52pm, following her participation in an incinerator group meeting, meaning there were 6 Councillors participating by the time the meeting closed.

01/02

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Braidford who was unavailable due a need to provide childcare arising from Covid-19 related matters. As referred to above, Cllr Mrs Gilmore had informed the meeting that she would participate from a later time as she was representing Council at another meeting that conflicted for the first part.

02/01

Declarations of Interest

None were raised relating to known agenda items but Cllr Jones suggested that Cllr Hay may wish to declare an interest in regard to a planning application to be considered relating to 52 Uptons Garden. However, Cllr Hay advised that he had been contacted by the Parishioner as a Councillor to discuss the proposed application and he had no interest of any kind the site nor connection to the applicant, thus it was not considered that there was any interest to declare.

03/01

Minutes

The Minutes of the December, 2020, 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 no amendments made but Cllr Douglas raised in person a spelling mistake as detailed below:

- 06/12 Highways & Byways - School Lane - 'whit' should read 'white'.

04/01

Parish Council Vacancy

Leading on from interest noted at the last meeting, Sarah Younger was invited to confirm if she remained interested in joining Council and, if so, to give a brief summary of why. She outlined her view that it is good to take an active part in the community in which you live, that she had lived in the village for 8 years and that she would wish to be involved in considering the various planning related challenges that the village is facing. Council unanimously agreed that she should be appointed and she then proceeded to take an active part in the meeting thereafter. Appropriate forms concerning the Declaration of Members Interests and Acceptance of Office forms would be provided once sourced.

05/01

Police & Community Safety Issues

There were no formal matters to consider and no reports received from the Police or Neighbourhood Warden. Cllr Jones advised that to comply with Covid-19 requirements the recently installed gym equipment at the Playing Field had been taped of. He also noted that the village shop had remained open but was operating reduced hours.

06/01

Planning

Decisions to Note

No formal notifications had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.20/2685/COU 52 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Change of use of land from orchard to residential.

Council considered this application in some detail given the fact that it related to land that it had thought to be designated as an orchard providing public open space as part of the Parklands Farm development. Some matters discussed did not relate wholly to planning considerations but nonetheless Council was concerned as to the precedent that could be set in regard to its own position on 'development' in respect of other open spaces. In conclusion, Council resolved not to object to the change of use in principle but in responding to also raise a query with the Local Planning Authority as to the status of the land as linked to the consent granted for the Parklands Farm development and the conditions attached thereto.

S.20/2380/FUL The Chalet, Whitminster Inn, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Construction of single storey 2 bedroom chalet.

Council was concerned at the fact that the narrative supporting this application referred to the proposed dwelling being for staff for adjoining commercial premises but there was no proposed linkage put forward in the detail of the planning consent sought nor was there any evidence provided that staff would be required on site. Queries were also raised in regard to the accuracy of the layout plans and proposed/existing access arrangements. Moreover, Council was considered at what appeared to be a standalone residential development outside of the settlement boundary and on this basis it was agreed that an objection be raised while also raising points seeking clarity on the exact nature of the application.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

Copies of the Council's planning and highway submissions in response to the Local Plan Review and sites within the Parish that had been put forward, had been circulated electronically and discussed. Consideration would be given to further submission in regard to land off of Hyde Lane.

07/01

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter updated Council on footpath issues and confirmed that he had still heard nothing further from the County Council Public Rights of Way Officer.

It was noted that replacement railings had been installed at Lockham Bridge.

School Lane

It was reported that the planned white lining works that were underway at the time of the last meeting had been completed. The Area Highways Manager, Harriett Osburn, was to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council either virtually or in person as appropriate.

Other Matters

A response was still awaited from the project manager for Gigaclear who had been tasked with the remaining reinstatement of the areas where the company had been laying cable within the village.

Cllr Jones agreed to raise the matter of overgrown hedges in Hyde Lane with the local Highways Supervisor and try to arrange a site meeting if at all possible.

08/01

Skate Ramp

Once again, nothing more had been received in regard to proposals for the skate ramp despite a reply from the company's representative apologising and promising a detailed response. She had been contacted ahead of the meeting asking for proposals for the meeting but nothing had been forthcoming. It was agreed that alternative suppliers would be sought and the matter considered again at the next meeting in conjunction with the setting of the precept for the coming new financial year.

09/01

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

There were no accounts presented for payment at the meeting but it was noted that payment would be due in respect of certain accounts between meetings and cheques would be circulated as necessary and reported at the February meeting.

Other Financial Matters

Whilst there had been no bank statement received as there had been no recent transactions, the Chairman had obtained a balance confirmed as being £27,377:07 unchanged from the previous meeting.

Financial matters concerning the gym equipment costs were discussed, including the contribution pledged by the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee and a request for reimbursement would be submitted.

The setting of the precept for the financial year 2021/2022 would be considered at the February meeting.

10/01

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

CPRE magazines.

Cotswold Canals Trust update.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

All other correspondence had been received and circulated by email.

11/01

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 including the ongoing response to Covid-19 and the fact that most staff continue to work remotely.

12/01

Other Business

Javelin Park Community Liaison Group Update – Cllr Mrs Gilmore advised that there was nothing to report of relevance arising from the meeting she had attended earlier.

Other Issues

None.

13/01

Future Agenda Items

Precept 2021/2022.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

CHAIRMAN - Thursday 11th February, 2021.