

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER, 2021.

The Chairman for the evening (Vice Chairman Cllr Hay) welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the Chair of Council, Cllr John Jones, was absent from the meeting as he was isolating at home ahead of a medical procedure. However, he had supplied some notes to update on matters he had been progressing and that would be referred to during the meeting.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present for the meeting and hence no issues were raised.

00/09

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Mrs Younger. There were no members of the public in attendance.

01/09

Apologies

Apologies were received from

02/09

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made in regard to known agenda items although Cllr Paynter did wish to record, as per previous meetings, that if discussions progressed regarding the choice of contractors for any replacement skate ramp, then it should be noted that AAA Group is known to him due to the contractor carrying out work to his property but that he had no pecuniary interest to declare.

03/09

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 4th August, 2021, were signed as a true record subject to a correction raised by Cllr Jones in his notes relating to the meeting. His amendment related to 11/08 'Chairman's Items and District Councillor's Report' and he wished it to be known that the planning application to infill the former gravel workings behind the Fromebridge Service Station was in fact referred to the Development Control Committee and was granted consent based on a majority decision. There were no other corrections.

04/09

Matters Arising

It was noted that there was no further news concerning the handrails missing from Lockham Bridge, although Cllr Paynter had raised the matter again with the Public Right of Way Officer.

Cllr Braidford advised Council that the ponderous limb posing a hazard close to the War Memorial had been removed and in regard to his efforts he also offered to spray the areas of welding repairs to be carried out to the basketball mesh area of the playing field games wall once the repairs are completed.

Cllr Douglas commented on trees adjacent to the A38 and Ivy growing amongst them.

05/09

Police & Community Safety Issues

Following on from Cllr Braidford's comments on E-Scooter raised at the August meeting, PSCO Trebble and Neighbourhood Warden Jarvis had been informed of the potentially growing local issue and had agreed to maintain a watching brief.

Under this item the condition of the play areas within both Little Holbury and Kidnams Walk were discussed. Cllr Jones had been in contact with Persimmon Homes, being responsible for both areas. They advised that Safety Inspections had been conducted of both areas and prices were awaited for necessary repairs. Copy correspondence was circulated and Cllr Jones has also sent photos of the hedge around the Little Holbury site. It was also noted that recent fly tipping had been removed from close to the bin at Little Holbury.

There were no recent reports from with the Police or Warden Service and no other issues were raised.

06/09

Planning

Decisions to Note

There were no formally reported decisions to note.

Applications to Consider

S.21/1837/HHOLD

Old Chapel Cottage, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of single storey oak framed garage and Victorian red brick infill.

Council resolved to support this application as it would be of no detriment to the street scene, would not conflict with the design characteristics as identified in the Village Design Statement and would have no impact on neighbouring properties.

S.21/1965/TCA

Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B, Eastington, Gloucestershire. (Whitminster also consulted).
Works to trees in a Conservation Area.

It was resolved that this application be supported to enable the progression of the canal project given the local support and likely economic benefits. However, Council regretted the removal of any trees and requested that compensatory planting be required as a condition if consent is granted.

S.21/1976/HEDGE

Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Hedgerow removal.

Again, it was resolved that this application be supported to enable the progression of the canal project given the local support and likely economic benefits. However, Council regretted the removal of any hedgerow and requested that compensatory planting be required as a condition if consent is granted.

S.21/2010/FUL

Land at Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of 11 dwellings, access works, public open space, landscaping & associated infrastructure.

It was agreed that consideration of this application would be deferred until the October meeting.

2021/0517/EIAS

Land at M5 Junction 13 West of Stonehouse

Request for a formal EIA Scoping Opinion for proposed Eco-Park including football stadium, business park, hotel and care village including care home.

Councillor Jones had sought clarification as to why the opinion was also requested in regard to the football stadium for which consent had already been given but no response had been received.

Council considered receptors highlighted previously and suggested the following should be given due regard when conducting any Environmental Impact Assessment:

- Impact of light pollution on local wildlife and migrating birds, especially due to the proximity with the Severn Estuary RAMSAR site.
- Local flora and fauna including aquatic species within the River Frome.
- Residents, particularly local vulnerable people, who may be impacted by noise pollution out of character with the locality.
- Impact on humans of increased journey times, pollution, congestions and delays in accessing local services, schools and places of work.
- Local Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and the Industrial Heritage Corridor.
- Fluvial consequences.
- Environmental impact of loss of farmland, hedgerows, trees and associated loss of carbon capture.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There were no other planning matters discussed.

07/09

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter informed the meeting that he would follow up matters with the Public Rights of Way Officer during September, as he had agreed with her previously due to the fact that little would be progressed during August. As well as the ongoing matters he would raise again the issue of the Lockham Bridge handrails. On the Lagger, it was thought that it had been recently sprayed out to tackle the overgrown vegetation.

School Lane

A site meeting had been requested with Yakub Mulla to discuss School Lane and various other matters but a date was yet to be proposed.

Other Highway Matters

Cllr Jones had raised a works request for the layby on the A38 Southbound carriageway giving access to May View. It was advised that work had been completed but no one had the opportunity to check.

A works request had also been submitted for the hedge at No. 1 Manor Cottages in School Lane to be inspected. This had been done and no issue found.

It was noted that the potholes recently marked for work around the village had been filled in.

Under this item there was also a discussion on local bus routes and it was agreed that timetables would be obtained to confirm the details of the current services. On an associated point, Cllr Paynter reported that the fixings to the North bound Bus Shelter broken Perspex needed to be cut off with an angle grinder prior to the new sheet being fitted and Cllr Braidford advised he may be able to assist.

08/09

Skate Ramp

It was agreed by all that the skate ramp was in a hazardous state and that it should be removed as soon as possible based on the fact that further repair would not be economic and any form of fencing would not adequately deter children. Revised prices were awaited for the removal work only and authority was given for this work to progress between meetings at the best price available. Meanwhile grant submissions had been made and the results could be expected during October.

It was agreed that the school should be made aware the ramp would be out of bounds until removed.

09/09

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

There were no accounts submitted for payment although an invoice for verge cutting was anticipated as well as further invoices for grass cutting at the playing field and elsewhere. An instalment payment of the precept would be likely to arrive before the end of the month.

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Other Financial Matters

The last reported balance at the bank was confirmed as £29,482.98 being unchanged but with cheques awaiting presentation.

Audit papers were agreed for signature by the Chairman.

10/09

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

CPRE Magazine – Rural Voice.

CPRE local information magazine.

Clerks 7 Councils Direct magazine.

Other correspondence had been circulated electronically between meetings.

11/09

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Most relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting by way of the notes that Cllr Jones had supplied. However, further notes were read out relating to District Council matters such as the work ongoing reviewing street names, monuments, exhibits and the like in the context of their historical connotations.

12/09

Other Business

Parish Noticeboards

Further quotes were awaited for replacement notice boards.

13/09

Future Agenda Items

Parish Council email addresses for Councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:34 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 6th October, 2021.