

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the three members of the public present.

Public Forum

There were no issues raised by the three members of the public present.

Presentation by Glenn Dooley & Aimee-Louise Martin of Cotswold Canals concerning the 'Missing Mile' planning application to be submitted shortly

Contrary to the Agenda, this presentation was given prior to the start of the formal meeting. It set out the approach proposed to link up the existing sections of canal utilising the River Frome to pass under the M5 motorway. An interesting discussion was had that provided some background that would assist in considering the relevant planning application that would soon be submitted. The majority of the presentation was not contentious other than in regard to a proposed marina just off the A38 roundabout that would have a number of moorings, a cafe/shop and vehicular access. The Canal representatives were adamant that the moorings would not be residential but could not specify how this would be enforced. Council was concerned at this aspect of the proposal and it was noted that it had been attached to the proposed application at the request of the landowner and was not part of the Canal Trust's proposed work. It was noted that this would most likely receive further comment when the application is submitted.

The formal Parish Council meeting then commenced at 8:10pm.

00/12

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Mrs Younger. There were three members of the public in attendance and County Councillor Stephen Davies attended for part of the meeting as well as PCSO Mike Trebble.

01/12

Apologies

There was one apology received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was travelling back from a work meeting and didn't expect to return to Whitminster in time to join the meeting.

02/12

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jones declared a potential conflict of interest in regard to Agenda Item 31.(ii) whereby the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee would be seeking financial support from the Parish Council to assist with works to trees located at the Playing Field. The potential conflict arose due to the fact that Cllr Jones sits as Chairman of that Committee but it was agreed that it was not a personal nor a pecuniary interest and therefore that he should be permitted to participate in the discussion.

03/12

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 3rd November, 2021, were signed as a true record without amendment.

04/12

Matters Arising

It had been noted that in regard to the highway barriers stored at the junction of School Lane with Hyde Lane for future planned work within the village, the height of the stacks, that had previously obstructed views at the junction, was reduced straight away following complaints.

Cllr Jones updated the Council on the meeting he had with Severn Trent, along with Cllr Stephen Davies, to discuss the impact of additional housing, in both Frampton-on-Severn and Whitminster, on the local drainage system. He had been advised that the existing system was capable of dealing with the development as proposed in the current Local Plan Review, although local knowledge would cast doubt on that assertion.

Cllr Jones confirmed to the meeting that he had reported the matter of the hole left by the removal of a tree stump at the corner of The Close turning into Vaisey Field and where a pear tree had been removed. It had since been filled in by the District Council's contractor.

The Minutes of the meeting of Severn Voice held on 2nd November had been circulated and a letter by email received from the Chairman of Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council, sent to all Severn Voice member councils, passing comments on the interactions being had with the Canal and Rivers Trust as well as matters concerning school buses.

05/12

Police & Community Safety Issues

There had been no recent reports from the Police or Warden Service and no issues had been raised but PCSO Trebble attended the meeting and gave an update on crime figures. He advised that for the period July to November during 2020 there had been 15 crimes recorded within the Parish compared with 18 for the corresponding period during 2021. This was, obviously, an increase but it compared with a period when Covid lockdowns were in force and generally still remained a very low crime rate. There were no growing crime trends noted and there had been no serious crimes during the recent period on which he was reporting.

There were no other Police or Community Safety issues discussed other than the recent occurrence when a tree blew down across the entrance to The Close/Henry Withers Place. This had been cleared away swiftly by local volunteers equipped with a chainsaw and a vote of thanks was recorded. Cllr Jones had reported his concern over the condition of the trees that remained, to the District Council, as well as the need for the arisings to be cleared away and it was understood an inspection would take place.

06/12

Planning

Decisions to Note

No formal notifications had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.21/2291/FUL Fish Pass, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Glos

Construction of a fish pass (Revised Plans 24/11/21)

Council could not identify any notable difference from the plans previously considered and supported and hence resolved to support the revised application.

S.21/2639/LBC Parklands Farmhouse, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Alterations to a Listed Building. Resubmission of S.21/0118/LBC

Again, Council struggled to identify the changes from the previous application that it supported. Council remained keen to see work done to the property to bring it back into use and supported the application.

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

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

Cllr Jones had also anticipated an application relating to the bridge to the side of Walk Bridge but this had not been submitted and the applications appeared to be muddled over the names of the various bridges and the parishes to which they should relate. It was agreed that clarification should be sought and the relevant applications considered at the next meeting.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

Council had received formal Notice of Publication of the Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan. Details were circulated and representations could be submitted up to and including 7th January, 2022.

There were no other planning matters discussed.

Responses were awaited on enforcement matters.

07/12

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter informed the meeting that he had nothing further to report for the time being.

School Lane

A site meeting with Yakub Mulla had taken place on 11th November primarily to discuss School Lane and some other matters. Cllr Jones had circulated a summary of the discussions and the main points noted are as follows:

- New warning signs and white lining had been installed along with the refreshing of other road markings.
- School Lane – Before any traffic calming measures could be costed, irrespective of who might pay for the work, a need for such measures would have to be proven through accident statistics and a speed survey. The cost of the survey would have to be met by the Parish Council. This contradicted the agreement that had been reached during a previous site meeting with Mr Tiffney. However, it was noted that a 20mph speed limit could very well be adopted outside of all county schools in the near future and so it was agreed that the matter should be left until after April, 2022. Drainage issues were to be explored and the plastic barriers being stored in School Lane investigated.
- The Lagger – In hand with the GCC PROW team.
- Hyde Lane – The matter of the deposited debris would be followed up. Nothing in the budget for works other than pothole filling but would look to include in a future programme.
- Schoolfield Close Ditch – A matter to be referred to SDC Water Resources Engineer.
- Packthorne Corner – Road Safety Team will inspect broken cover.
- Extension of 30mph Zone Towards Frampton – Only likely if further houses built beyond Schoolfield Close.
- A38 Flooding Near Barracks Cottage – Likely to be rat hole blockage and will monitor.
- A38 Pavement – A letter would be sent to those properties with overhanging branches and efforts made to clear back the weed growth from the pavement heading North but work would be far from certain due to budget constraints.
- Erosion To Edge of Grassed Area In The Close – Mr Mulla would see what funds might be available to repair or widen but efforts would be best directed toward SDC with it being their amenity land.

It was also proposed that when the Highway Safety Teams inspect issues raised within the village if they could advise when they intend to do so then if available a Parish Councillor would attend to ensure the correct area and issue is being inspected.

Other Highway Matters

An email was received seeking support for a 20mph limit to be applied across all residential streets in the County.

Notification of tree works on the M5 running until 28th January, 2022.

Notification of footbridge works on the M5 resulting in an overnight closure between J13 and J14 on 3rd December.

Notification of the closure of Whitminster Lane, Frampton, from 7th to 9th February, 2022, for a new water connection.

Cancellation of a planned closure of the A38 crossroads previously advised for 8th December.

Notification of an emergency road closure of the A38 central cut-through at Attwoolls for 21 days from 8th November.

08/12

Skate Ramp

As reported previously, after it was agreed by all that the skate ramp was in a hazardous state and that it should be removed this work was undertaken in September and the site has been left clear. Grant applications had been submitted and thus far £2,000 had been awarded by the Urbaser Environmental Ltd Community Fund.

Following an email of 2nd September seeking references and supporting information, no formal response had been received from AAA Group but a conversation had been had by telephone with their Jason Green. He advised he had not responded because he was unable to supply any direct references and could not offer any guarantee over and above his word that he would be put any defects right. He said he had not picked up on the other pricing, painting and deposit queries because, in essence, he was doing us 'a favour' by looking at the job and didn't want to invest further time and effort into it unless he could be guaranteed the work or would be paid for his time. It was agreed that attention should turn to the other potential suppliers and that this should be move on in the New Year with a view to starting work on site in the Spring of 2022.

09/12

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

D J Davies	Verge Cutting	£211.61
------------	---------------	---------

Other Financial Matters

Audit papers had been submitted and a request for further information and reconciliations had been received and addressed.

Now that the invoice for the second instalment of the verge cutting had been received a recharge could be put in-hand to the County Council.

It was agreed that consideration of potential projects would be discussed at the next meeting, if any member had a project to propose, along with the budget and precept discussions once the draft tax base figures had been provided.

The last bank statement received showed a balance in October of £38,210.98 although cheques were still outstanding to be presented.

10/12

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

An invitation to put forward nominees to join the Stroud District 2030 Community Engagement Board – this did not generate any enthusiasm.

An invitation to join the working group being set up to explore the 'Working Together' protocol with the District Council – a request was to be made for details on the time commitment likely.

The TROW Magazine.

Highways and County Council updates.

CPRE magazines.

The above had been circulated along with other electronic correspondence between meetings.

11/12

Chairman's Items, District Councillor's Report & County Councillor's Report

Most relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting but Cllr Jones gave a brief update on the District Council matters before going on to report on the Remembrance Sunday commemoration that had been attended by 15-20 people.

County Councillor Davies' report was received. He confirmed that the County Council had met its target of achieving 185% replacement of trees lost through as dieback. The County Council had received over £50m arising from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement with £12.8m going to support sustainable and active travel and some money would be used to improve the towpath on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. It was noted that Stroud District Council had failed to submit a bid for this funding. On schools, a subject Cllr Davies had been working on, it had been agreed by the Department for Education that a new secondary school is required and sites would be considered with temporary provision put in place for a significant impact on numbers in 2023. Finally, the County Council was encouraging a greener Christmas through advocating a reduction in food waste, avoiding the purchase of unwanted gifts and the use of reusable trees and the sensible disposal of real ones.

12/12

Other Business

Royal Jubilee

It was agreed that consideration would be given to an appropriate way to commemorate the Jubilee and costs would be looked into for a commemorative coin or similar item to be presented to primary school age children living within the village.

Playing Field Trees

A letter had been received from Mrs Honor Jones, on behalf of the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee concerning trees of concern located on and around the Playing Field. Mrs Jones was seeking a financial contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of work that was considered essential. After some discussion and a degree of disagreement, a majority decision was reached being that the Parish Council should pay for the works identified within sections 3 & 4 of the KAD Rope Access Solutions report and quote in the total sum of £1,400:00 plus VAT. It was agreed that the Management Committee should instruct the work but that the invoice should be directed to the Parish Council.

Village Projects

None were put forward and it was agreed that the matter could be considered at the January, 2022, meeting.

Website and Electronic Communications

With Cllr Hay absent it was decided that this would be discussed again at a future meeting.

13/12

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:30 pm.

CHAIRMAN - Wednesday 5th January, 2022.