

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER, 2021.

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

Public Forum

There were no issues raised by the two members of the public present but Mrs Honor Jones did draw to the attention of those present a poster promoting the upcoming Christmas Fayre. She also advised that 14th November would be Remembrance Sunday and that the wreath laying would take place at 11am followed by a gathering at the Village Hall.

A number of matters had been raised by a resident with Cllr Braidford and he passed on comments concerning the forthcoming Royal Jubilee, the proposed development adjacent to Schoolfield Close, drainage ditches bordering the A38, tree branches and the newly installed fencing around the Forge public house.

00/11

Present

There were 7 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Mrs Younger. There were two members of the public in attendance.

01/11

Apologies

There were no apologies.

02/11

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made in regard to known agenda items.

03/11

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 6th October, 2021, were signed as a true record with the following amendments:

- 04/10 – Matters Arising – 3rd line – ‘pay’ changed to ‘play’.
- 06/10 – Planning – Applications to Consider – 3rd line – ‘conversation’ changed to ‘conservation’.
- 06/10 – Planning – Applications to Consider – 21st line – ‘eb’ changed to ‘be’.

04/11

Matters Arising

It had been noted that Cllr Mrs Younger was dealing with the administration of the defibrillators positioned around the village and it was confirmed that the registration had been completed with Circuit. Cllr Jones had previously circulated copies of email traffic with the former developers of Little Holbury and Kidnams Walk concerning the play areas and provided an update. However, it was noted that no work had been carried out in either location. Cllr Jones also advised that he would be meeting with Severn Trent, along with Cllr Stephen Davies, the following Tuesday to discuss the

impact of additional housing, in both Frampton-on-Severn and Whitminster, on the local drainage system.

05/11

Police & Community Safety Issues

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that there were at least two dead or dying Ash trees located at the Playing Field that were due to be inspected the following day. He suggested that perhaps they could be replaced with Oaks that he believed may be available through a scheme being organised by Henry Elwes or other offerings to celebrate the upcoming Royal Jubilee.

Under this item the meeting of Severn Voice that had taken place the previous day was raised and it was understood the payment the Council receives for verge cutting would be increasing by 3.1% for the new season.

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

06/11

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.21/2265/TCA

Brookside, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Trees in a Conversation Area – T1 Willow – Fell in decline. T2 Sycamore – reduce by 3-4m. T3 Spruce – Fell. T4 Silver Poplar – Reduce by 4-5m.

Permission granted.

It was also understood that consent had been granted for the Old Chapel garage on the A38 but no formal notification had been received.

Decisions on the proposed fish pass, Packthorne Farm and the proposed 100 houses off School Lane were all still awaited.

Applications to Consider

None.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

A letter was received from Pegasus Group as part of a pre-application consultation for up to 45 dwellings on land off of School Lane and adjacent to Schoolfield Close. Council had identified this location for up to 30 houses in the Local Plan consultation and reaffirmed its view that this should be the maximum number and that no development should be considered outside the scope of the formal Local Plan process, this being the stance adopted concerning land at Upton's Garden. On this application Cllr Jones informed the meeting that he had been contacted by the proposed developer seeking clarification on Council's stance and he had responded that it was fully explained in Council's letter of objection. Whilst Council supports the principle of development it should be in a considered fashion taking into account the wider context and implications through the Local Plan process.

A date had been set for the examination in public of the Local Plan review being 25th October 2022 and more details would follow.

There were no other planning matters discussed.

07/11

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter informed the meeting that he had managed to make contact with the Public Rights of Way Officer. She admitted that she had forgotten to progress the matter concerning the obstructed right of way at Whitminster Court but would take this up. She agreed that work was needed to The Lager but would not have funding prior to the new financial year in April 2022. It was also noted that to avoid the matter reoccurring the offending tree would need to be removed. It was thought

there may be some money in Cllr Davies' local highways budget to assist with works. Cllr Paynter also advised that his strimming course was in the process of being organised.

School Lane

A site meeting with Yakub Mulla was being offered on either 11th or 12th November to discuss School Lane and various other matters. A date was agreed, being Thursday 11th April at 2pm and Cllrs Jones, Paynter and Douglas would be in attendance. Meanwhile, the list of matters to be raised was to be reviewed and updated.

Other Highway Matters

The large number of plastic barriers stored at the junction of School Lane and Hyde Lane was discussed. This obstructed visibility and would damage the ground that had only recently been reinstated. It had been reported to Highways as a hazard and effort were being made to get it removed. It was understood the barriers were to be used in a local project but there was no clarity on this. There was some discussion as to whether low level planting or maybe even a tree in the location would deter this in future but, of course, visibility would still be an issue as would ownership of the land, being a matter Council had looked into before.

Problems arising from the building site in Hyde Lane and mud on the road as well as fuel spillages had been reported and would be taken up again at the meeting with Mr Mulla.

Cllr Douglas commented on the flooding that had been seen on the A38 close to Barracks Cottage during recent heavy rain.

Under this item the invitation to the tree planting adjacent to the canal within the newly remodelled A38 roundabout and the walk of the 'Missing Mile' was raised and it was good to note that Council was being represented.

Finally, it was noted that the former Council garage site in The Close had recently sold at auction for a price believed to be £142,000.

08/11

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 had been left clear. Grant applications had been submitted and the outcomes awaited after which a loan application could be finalised. It was hoped that an order for work to commence could be progressed early in the New Year. There had been no comments raised with Council since the removal of the former ramp.

09/11

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Haden-Browne Plastics	Perspex for Bus Shelter	£120.00
Poppy Appeal	Donation	£50.00
Parish Council Websites	Annual hosting	£130.00

Other Financial Matters

Audit papers had been submitted but no acknowledgement received and the Chairman and Financial Officer would pursue the matter.

The invoice for the second instalment of the verge cutting was yet to be received.

It was agreed that consideration of potential projects would be discussed at the next meeting in order to consider the budget and precept earlier in the New Year once precept and tax base figures had been provided.

10/11

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

The TROW Magazine.

Highways and County Council updates.

CPRE magazines.

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

An email had been received on the day of the meeting from Mr & Mrs Henessy seeking Council's comments and potential support on their proposal to annex part of the public open space adjoining their property to their garden. Council's view was that whilst from an aesthetic standpoint and as a stand alone matter this would have little impact, the removal of designated open space within a development, of whatever size, would set a precedent that could be followed elsewhere to the detriment of the wider community. It was also noted that objections had been raised. Council resolved that it would not be appropriate to offer any comments nor support other than to provide any factual responses of relevance.

11/11

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Most relevant matters were covered elsewhere during the meeting but Cllr Jones gave a brief update on the District Council including council committees and the need to swap Councillors around to maintain political balance; the Remuneration Panel; the shared arrangement for the Monitoring Officer; Financial Plan to 2025 etc.

Cllr Jones also reminded those present regarding Remembrance Sunday.

12/11

Other Business

There was some discussion as to whether the website would benefit from updating or replacing and it was agreed that this would be under review.

13/11

Future Agenda Items

Potential Village Projects.

Royal Jubilee.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 1st December, 2021.