

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th JANUARY, 2022.

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

Public Forum

There were no concerns raised by the two members of the public present, although Mr Peters commented that he hoped Council would feel able to support the planning application to be considered relating to the Stroudwater Canal. However, this led on to a general discussion relating to the 'missing mile' application and general concerns about the planned moorings/marina and the possibility of this being used predominantly by residential boat owners giving rise to the attendant problems currently experienced by other Parish Councils bounding the Gloucester & Sharpness canal.

Discussion led on to noting a proposal made by Cllr Paynter, via Cllr Hay, that consideration be given to installing way markers/signs to promote the village walks as identified within the Village Walks Guide. It was noted thought this could well be a future village project. Finally, it was noted that a bench had appeared, to replace one that was previously damaged, on the verge at the junction of School Lane and Hyde Lane. Also, a proposal had been received suggesting a bench could perhaps be sited at the entrance to The Close/Henry Withers Place where two trees had until recently stood. It was agreed that this could be considered further at a future meeting but there were concerns that it could become an unofficial and unsuitable youth gathering point.

00/01

Present

There were 5 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Hay (Vice-Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore and Mrs Younger. There were two members of the public in attendance.

01/01

Apologies

There were two apologies received and accepted, one being from Cllr Paynter who was isolating while awaiting the results of a Covid test and the other being the Chairman, Cllr Jones, who was feeling unwell. Therefore, Cllr Hay, Vice-Chairman, was chairing the meeting. Some notes and comments had been provided by Cllr Jones.

02/01

Declarations of Interest

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

03/01

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 1st December, 2021, were signed as a true record with one amendment. Within 11/12 on the fifth line 'as' was changed to read 'ash'.

04/01

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than to note that the fallen tree at the junction of The Close/Henry Withers Place, as referred to above, had been removed and the adjacent tree felled and taken away by contractors acting for the District Council. It was understood that the trees had only last been inspected for soundness during the month prior.

05/01

Police & Community Safety Issues

There had been no recent reports from the Police or Warden Service.

Email correspondence had been circulated by Cllr Jones relating to a large number of empty beer and cider bottles that had been left on the playing field and found by a volunteer litter picker. This had been reported to the Neighbourhood Warden and PCSO Trebble as it was concerning and possibly an indication of potential antisocial behaviour to come. Cllr Jones had commented between meetings that he had been disappointed by the Police response and the matter would be monitored. A member of the public present commented on a recent incident of vehicle tyre slashing.

Email correspondence had also been circulated relating to noise nuisance emanating from the Whitminster Hotel and all were encouraged to report incidents to the Environmental Health and Licensing Departments at Stroud District Council.

06/01

Planning

Decisions to Note

No formal notifications had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.21/2791/FUL Fish Pass, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Glos

Construction of a fish pass and associated engineering works.

Council could not identify any concerns relating to this application and would wish to encourage the environmental benefits that would arise. Therefore, it resolved to support the application

S.21/2986/TCA The Weir Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Works to trees in a Conservation Area.

As the works related to shaping and reduction only and not removal, Council resolved to pass no comments and to leave the matter to be determined at the discretion of the District Council's Tree Officer.

S.19/0291/FUL Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B, Eastington, Glos.

Reinstatement of the 'Missing Mile' section of the Stroudwater Navigation and development of associated infrastructure including locks, mooring basins, car parking, café/pub and leisure facilities building with combined office and residence for basin manager.

Council resolved to oppose the application due to concerns arising from the proposed mooring and pub/leisure facilities. However, it was noted that the work to reinstate the canal was supported in principle. Issues raised included the lack of any suitable proposals relating to a safe means of access and egress for vehicles using the site, such as a protected central reserve; an inadequate number of car parking spaces given the number of covers proposed for the café/pub; an inadequate number of car parking spaces for the proposed moorings especially if it is correct that the boats will be used as day boats only and will therefore have to be accessed by car; concerns over sustainability given the proposed location is not served by any accessible public transport; an unacceptable impact on the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area; a failure to demonstrate a justifiable need for a resident manager; intrusion into the countryside through development outside of the village settlement boundary and notable concerns over the measures proposed to enforce the non-residential use of moorings and the impact on the local community and amenities if an extra burden is applied in an unplanned fashion.

Council also considered the bridge application reference S.20/1590/FUL but noted its previous comments had been registered against the application and hence chose not to make any further observations.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

It was noted that the major site proposed for development between the A38 and M5 motorway had not been included for development within the Local Plan review but that could yet be challenged during the forthcoming inspection in public.

It was understood that there was a proposal to convert an existing garage at 48 Paynes Meadow into usable residential space and it was resolved that this should be investigated.

Responses were still awaited on enforcement matters.

07/01

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Jones' notes informed the meeting that he had been advised by County Councillor Stephen Davies that work was planned to tidy up the pavements to the A38 North of the crossroads. At this point it was noted that there was no report received from Cllr Davies as he was currently suffering from Covid.

Other Highway Matters

Matters discussed included mud deposited along Hyde Lane and 30mph signs requiring attention on School Lane.

08/01

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

T W Hawkins & Sons S.G.M.S	Grass cutting	£424:40
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Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank, as confirmed earlier in the day, stood at £36,320:05 .

It was agreed that all other financial matters, such as the setting of the precept and budget discussions, would be considered at the February meeting when it was hoped that a full complement of Councillors would be in attendance.

09/01

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Letter from Mrs Honor Jones, Secretary - Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee, advising details of firms requested to quote for tree works at the playing field, as previously requested.

GAPTC advice confirming only face to face Parish Council meetings were lawful.

GCC survey on proposed 20mph speed limit zones.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

10/01

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

There were no items raised.

11/01

Other Business

Royal Jubilee

There was some comment the proposal to purchase and distribute commemorate mugs for the Jubilee was a good idea but it was noted that there was plenty of time remaining to place an order or consider alternatives and hence it was agreed to consider the matter further, along with the budget, at the February meeting.

Skate Ramp

Council had been passed a copy of a document titled Guidelines: Arts Council England Let's Create Jubilee Fund. It had been suggested that this could be a source of funding for the new Skate Ramp. However, it was noted that statutory organisations cannot apply and it is to support arts focused events culminating in June 2022. Therefore, it was not of relevance.

Village Projects

As referred to above, Cllr Hay advised that he had spoken with Cllr Paynter who was keen to propose a project to install wooden footpath fingerposts to promote those walks around the village set out within the Village Walks Guide. In addition, a proposal had been received from Mr Steve Spencer, who apologised for being unable to attend the meeting, proposing that a bench be sited at the entrance to The Close/Henry Withers Place where the two trees had been recently removed. It was agreed that this would be considered further at the February meeting.

12/01

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:34pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 2nd February, 2022.