

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY, 2022.

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

Public Forum

Mr Bob Clues of The Old Nurseries raised various issues concerning rights of way and watercourses close to his property. These matters related mainly to potential safety issues and flooding. Cllr Paynter agreed to arrange a site meeting to consider further and report back to Council.

Mrs Coleman spoke of her concerns regarding the planning application submitted relating to land adjacent to Prestwick Terrace and which would be considered under planning matters during the meeting.

00/02

Present

There were 5 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Mrs Younger. There were three members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting then reducing to two for the majority of the meeting. County and District Councillor Stephen Davies was present for part of the meeting.

01/02

Apologies

There were two apologies received and accepted, one being from Cllr Hay and the other from Cllr Braidford.

02/02

Declarations of Interest

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

03/02

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 5th January, 2022, were signed as a true record without amendment.

04/02

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not due to be discussed as details agenda items.

However, under this item some discussion was had as to a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and this was proposed for 28th April, 2022. There was also discussion relating to a new fence erected running parallel to a footpath crossing land behind Little Holbury and understood to belong to Boddington Estates. It was agreed that enquiries would be made to see if the purpose could be determined.

05/02

Police & Community Safety Issues

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

Cllr Jones had circulated correspondence relating to antisocial behaviour on the playing field between meetings. This was discussed and it was hoped that a surveillance camera could be installed to monitor and address the issue.

06/02

Planning

Decisions to Note

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

Trees in a conservation area – Local Authority raised no objection.

Applications to Consider

S.22/0024/OUT Land to the South of Prestwick Terrace, Whitminster, Glos

Outline planning application for a residential development of up to 3 no. dwellings.

Council resolved to oppose this application due to it falling outside of the settlement boundary, the density of the proposed development, the change in the street scene as the linear development trails out on leaving the village, the impact on the users of the lay-by from which access would be taken and other general highways safety concerns.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There was nothing further to report in regard to Local Plan matters.

No response had been received in regard to the questions raised on consultations issues arising from the Missing Mile planning application.

Responses were still awaited on enforcement issues but Councillor Jones had also raised concerns as a District Councillor. Acknowledgement had been received and whilst staff had left the Enforcement Team it was understood that resources were being committed to enable the team to investigate matters such as those the Council had reported.

An update had been provided by Adam Withers concerning the proposed solar farm. This included changes, following consultation, in regard to the Construction Plan, Public Rights of Way and Landscaping proposed to mitigate the visual impact. It was unclear as to the timescale under which the application would move forward and consideration would be given to a further consultation meeting although the benefits were not clear. It was understood that Cllr Jones would progress some further discussion on potential community benefit although Council's clear position remained in opposition to the proposed scheme.

Correspondence had been received seeking agenda items for the next meeting of Severn Voice planned for 24th March at 7pm in Slimbridge Village Hall. It was agreed that Council should propose a speaker from Stroud District Council to discuss the request for a joined up approach to consider planning applications for solar farms within the Severn Vae.

Finally, comments were made at the visual appearance of what had formerly been Halsey Cottage. The design and finish was considered unsightly and out of keeping with the locality and the Village Design Statement but appeared to be in accordance with the consent granted.

07/02

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Jones had previously 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. Cllr Davies confirmed that this was the case.

Cllr Paynter gave an update on matters he was progressing with the Public Rights of Way Officer. It was noted that surfacing works were planned for The Lager and agreement had been reached with a neighbouring householder for a shrub to be removed at the Kidnams Walk end. There had been much discussion concerning footpaths, potential obstructions and hazards and also watercourse issues during Public Comments at the start of the meeting and Cllr Paynter confirmed he would follow those matters up as appropriate.

Cllr Paynter also confirmed he was taking forward the offer of the course he had taken up in order to volunteer to trim the footpaths within the Parish and carry out maintenance.

Under this item there was also some further discussion relating to the fence adjoining the footpath as raised under other matters and commented on to Cllr Douglas by Mr Geoff Wilkes.

Other Highway Matters

Notice was received of a temporary closure of Castle Lane from 21st to 25th March, 2022.

Notice was received of a temporary closure of Grove Lane potentially from 21st February to 21st March, 2022.

It was noted that the County Council Highways Dept had accepted responsibility for the tree in the area of the War Memorial and would address the issues relating to them.

08/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

BHIB Insurance	Insurance Renewal	£560:00
Play Inspection Company	Annual Inspection Report	£83:40
GPFA	Annual Membership	£50.00

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood at £36,320:05 being unchanged from the previous meeting.

A budget was considered proposing income of £17,775 and expenditure matching that sum for the 2022/2023 financial year giving rise to a contribution to reserves of £4,900 being towards the skate ramp project. This was approved but in setting the precept for the financial year it was noted that the Band D tax base had increased due to new properties being completed within the village. This enabled the precept to be increased marginally without any increase per dwelling. This was considered prudent to build in allowance for rising costs due to the inflation experienced of late and the precept was set at £18,200 being an increase from £17,775 applicable for the past financial year. All were in agreement.

09/02

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Information on TT Kidz table tennis.

Invitation to participate in LGA Corporate Peer Challenge review.

Information on the Boundary Commission Review.

Notification of Exolum Pipeline System survey.

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

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

10/02

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

There were no items raised by Cllr Jones that hadn't been covered elsewhere other than to publicly thank Mr Stokes of Schoolfield Close who had kindly carried out welding work at the playing field to address the long running problem.

Cllr Davies reported on County Council matters including the budget agreed of £519m increased by £37m from the previous year. This was in part due to Central Government support. Funding for social care, roads and children's services had all benefited and the popular local budget schemes operated by County Councillors would be able to continue.

11/02

Other Business

Royal Jubilee

Costings were to be obtained for mugs and a potential Jubilee bench. Meanwhile, Cllr Jones would look into the potential number of children living within the village of school age and the number attending the village school

Skate Ramp

Dates would be considered for a further site meeting to get the project underway during the Spring.

Village Projects

Cllr Paynter confirmed he 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. However, he felt that the proposed solar farm could have a major impact on those walks and hence it was best to await the outcome of the planning application that was pending prior to considering further as the walks guide may well require updating.

12/02

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:46pm.

CHAIRMAN - Wednesday 2nd March, 2022.