

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL, 2022.

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

Public Forum

There was a brief discussion during the public forum relating to the recent planning decision by the District Council to give consent for a solar farm within the village but it was noted the matter would be raised under planning during the meeting.

00/04

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Paynter and Mrs Younger. There were four members of the public in attendance.

01/04

Apologies

There was an apology received and accepted from Cllr Hay who was absent due to a work commitment.

02/04

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Douglas advised the meeting that he had once worked with the occupant of 1 Manor Farm House, being the subject of a planning application to be considered during the meeting. However, it was not felt that this was any form of interest that needed to be taken into consideration.

It was recorded that Cllrs Jones, Douglas and Mrs Gilmore were all members of the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee, being an organisation that could benefit from the provision of solar panels or other contributions arising from the propose solar farm.

03/04

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 2nd March, 2022, were signed as a true record following three minor spelling amendments.

04/04

Matters Arising

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

05/04

Police & Community Safety Issues

There had been no recent reports from the Police or Warden Service and no update on the proposed deployment of the mobile/temporary CCTV camera. However, the problems that had been developing seemed to have subsided other than a recent incident of cherry knocking in Paynes Meadow. The child involved had apologised and the matter was being followed up through the County Council.

06/04

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.20/1590/FUL

Stonepitts Bridge, Whitminster, Glos.

Whitminster Footpath 21

Full planning consent for removal of existing concrete fixed accommodation bridge and the installation of a new deck and new operating controls.

This application had been approved by the District Council.

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the application for 3 new dwellings adjacent to Prestwick Terrace had been refused, although Council was yet to receive any formal notification.

Applications to Consider

S.22/0545/FUL

Land at 1 Manor Farm House, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire

Erection of 4 bedroom dwelling.

After due deliberation Council resolved to OPPOSE the application for the following reasons:

- Insufficient parking provision is offered for the host property and this proposed new 4 bedroom dwelling which could possibly give rise to 4 or more vehicles needing space to park within the boundary.
- Inadequate turning space provided to allow vehicles to exit from and return to the highway in forward gear.
- Potential for an increased risk to pedestrians and road users by increasing the number of vehicular movements in close proximity to the existing junction.
- Concerns relating to overlooking of adjacent existing properties.
- Overdevelopment of the proposed site.
- The size of dwelling is inappropriate in scale and not addressing the relevant local housing need.

However, it was noted that Council may be minded to support development upon the site if of a more appropriate scale and with car parking and highway issues addressed.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There was nothing further to report in regard to Local Plan matter other than to reaffirm that, for the time being, the candidate site between the A38 and M5 was not in the Draft Local Plan. Nevertheless, that did not mean that an application would not be forthcoming and Council was warned of a possible planning application in the later Summer.

Although an investigation into the planning enforcement matters within the village, as raised by the Parish Council and Cllr Jones, had been promised, nothing had been heard by later afternoon on the day of the meeting. This would be followed up.

On the matter of the solar farm application, those that had attended the meeting of the Development Control Committee were thanked for their efforts. All were disappointed at the outcome, being the grant of consent. It was felt that little time had been given over to considering the application; the points made were not weighed up fully and no thought was given as to whether Whitminster was the right site or if there were alternative worthy of consideration. It was decided that thought would be given as to potential means for challenging the decision and Cllr Paynter agreed to follow up on this.

Cllr Jones reported on discussions he had had with Adam Withers of JBM Solar on potential community contributions and these had been focused on green energy measures for the village hall or playing field pavilion. The amount proposed was considered derisory. It was agreed that discussions should progress with JBM but looking at wider community benefits and expanded to include other Councillors who were willing to become involved.

07/04

Highways & Byways

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter gave an update on matters he was progressing with the Public Rights of Way Officer and others. It was noted that there were a number of footpaths crossing fields that needed to be sprayed out and a bridge crossing a drainage ditch on the boundary with Moreton Valence was in need of repair.

Other Highway Matters

Notice was received again of a temporary closure of Church Lane, Moreton Valence, on 6th May for works to be undertaken on behalf of Gigaclear.

Nothing had been heard in regard to the barriers left around an inspection chamber on Packthorne Corner and this was to be followed up with Yakub Mullah.

With diesel costs increasing it was agreed that an uplifted rate should be paid for verge cutting within the Parish and a schedule of new charges acceptable from David Davies was being produced through Severn Voice. Meanwhile, County Councillor Davies was to be asked to follow up matters concerning the footpath to the A38 North bound carriageway opposite the Whitminster Inn.

08/04

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

None.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood at £35,335:65 being unchanged as at the date of the meeting. However, the first precept payment for the first 6 months of 2022/2023 was expected shortly.

It was reaffirmed that the Clerks salary that would be payable shortly by PAYE should be reviewed in line with NALC recommendations.

09/04

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow magazine.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

10/04

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 in respect of Parish Council matters. In regard to the District Council he provide a summary covering the District Council's plans for receiving Ukrainian refugees and the review of taxi services. A reminder was given that the next meeting of Severn Voice would be on 21st April in Slimbridge at 7pm and it was hoped the proliferation of solar panels in the Severn Vale would be discussed with input from a District Council Officer.

11/04

Other Business

Skate Ramp

Cllrs Jones, Douglas, Paynter and the Clerk reported on a meeting that they had had with Ten Skateramps. This had concluded that a satisfactory ramp could be installed to accommodate the

demands of the nearby oil pipeline. A revised price had been received by drawings were awaited. It was resolved that the Clerk should pursue an application for the necessary Public Works Loan Board funding and that, initially, this should be for the full cost of the project to as to allow funds to be available for any potential planning submissions – this could then be revised at a later date as necessary when funds are needed to be drawn down.

Royal Jubilee

Costings had been obtained for mugs to commemorate the Royal Jubilee of £2.55 each for an order of more than 144 units. It was agreed that Council would proceed and offer a commemorative to all children up to 11 years of age at the village primary school as well as to those within that age group and living in the village but attending school elsewhere. Cllrs Jones had liaised with the Clerk and 150 mugs had been ordered.

Costings had been obtained for a steel bench in the sum of £1,250 plus £400 delivery or £620 for Teak with delivery included. Alternatives were to be considered including what might be available at Highfield Garden Centre.

12/04

Future Agenda Items

Under this item it was noted that the proposed date for the Annual Parish Meeting would clash with a District Council meeting. Therefore, it was agreed to reschedule the Annual Parish Meeting to 6:30pm on the night of the May Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:26pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4th MAY, 2022.