

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the five members of the public present at the start of the meeting. A number left as the meeting progressed.

00/07

Public Forum

There were a number of issues raised by the members of the public present as detailed below:

- A local resident from Nupend advised the Council that support was being sought to provide help so horse riders can be considered when planning connecting routes along the canal towpath and in connection with other traffic measures. It was likely that contact would be made from Eastington Parish Council asking that the Parish Council lends its support.
- A parish resident expressed her disappointment that planning consent had been granted for the solar farm as well as her concern that the promoting company was not being generous in regard to the proposed community benefit.
- Concern was raised relating to the accessibility of the Butt Lane footpath.

01/07

Present

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

02/07

Apologies

There were apologies received.

03/07

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items that required formal notification. However, Cllr Mrs Younger did inform Council that she was related to the applicant in regard to a planning application concerning Willowside.

New Members' Interest Forms had been received and passed on for most Councillors although it was to be checked that Cllr Braidford's was in fact an updated version.

04/07

Minutes

The Minutes of the June meeting were signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

00/06 – Public Forum – A38 Hedgerow – opening line – 'Tt' changed to read 'It'.

03/06 – Declarations of Interest – second line – 'bene' changed to 'been' and 'form' changed to 'from'.

14/06 – Other Business – Royal Jubilee – first line – 'can' changed to read 'gave'.

05/07

Matters Arising

Cllr Paynter raise the matter of the commemorative plaque proposed for the new bench that had been sited at the junction of School Lane and The Close to commemorate the Royal Jubilee. It was agreed that he should go ahead and place an order as per the example that he had circulated at a cost of £43:95.

06/07

Highways & Byways

Speed Limits

Following the details explained by County Councillor Davies at the previous meeting, the application process was open to seek funding for community based speed measures. It was therefore decided that Council would submit an application for a vehicle activated speed sign. In addition an application would be made for local speed awareness signage.

Footpaths

Cllr Paynter gave an update on matters. Unfortunately, he had been informed that little further action was likely in regard to the blocked footpath at Whitminster Court due to current policies. However, there was one potential way to initiate action by the County Council and that was being explored. In regard to other paths, it looked that all crops had been sprayed out where issues had arisen and there were no new matters to report. It remained the case that he was awaiting training for the path clearance that he had volunteered to undertake.

Other Highways Matters

There had been no action since the last meeting relating to the A38 pavements nor the temporary barriers at Packthorne Corner. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged with Yakub Muller of the Highways Department to discuss these matters along with what options there might be to seek a weight limit to be applied to Hyde Lane.

Cllr Jones advised that he had spoken with the Police Inspector based in Stroud on the matter of the Grove Lane left turn only works and he had been told it would be raised with the Traffic Inspector to try and arrange a police presence. Cllr Jones also advised that he had been informed that a consultation on Quiet Lanes, as discussed previously with County Councillor Davies, would get underway soon.

Cllr Douglas raised a complaint he had received relating to two vehicles that had been speeding in Paynes Meadow but it was understood the two vehicles in question were now being driven much more slowly. He also commented on the hedge at Schoolfield Close bordering School Lane and it was agreed that this should be raised with Cottesway Housing Association.

Finally, under this item, the condition of the kissing gate leading into Mr Attwoolls' land was discussed and it was understood that he would be happy for it to be removed and this was to be followed up.

07/07

Police & Community Safety Issues

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

With regard to the Community Safety Partnership mobile/temporary CCTV camera installed at the Playing Field any feedback was still awaited but there had been no recent incidents.

It was understood that there had been no further incidents of cherry knocking within the village.

Dog fouling was discussed and considered to be a growing problem once again. Nothing had been heard back from the dog warden relating to signage, pavement stencils of other measures so a request for assistance was to be raised again.

After registering the three defibrillators located around the village on the new system, Cllr Mrs Younger had placed an order for new pads and an invoice was awaited that would be paid between meetings. Also under this item, the Jubilee bench and commemorative mugs were discussed.

The item concluded with Cllr Hay enquiring if any responses had been received from developers relating to the developer owned play areas within the village. Cllr Jones agreed to take another look at the sites and follow up as necessary.

08/07

Planning

Decisions to Note

There were no decisions to note as all outstanding applications remained pending a determination.

Applications to Consider

S.22/1348/FUL 1 Manor Farm House, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Full planning permission sought for erection of a three bedroom dwelling with ancillary site improvements.

After due consideration Council resolved to oppose this application due to the proposed development being out of keeping with the host property in terms of design as well as ongoing concerns relating to parking, highways matters and the scale of the new dwelling in its context as back land development.

S.22/1275 Willowside, School Lane, Whitminster, Glos.

Erection of single storey extension to rear.

Council considered this application and supported it due to the proposal being of an appropriate scale and being of no detrimental impact to any neighbouring property nor the street scene.

S.22/1057/TPO 1 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Glos.

Tree Preservation Order – Fell Sycamore tree.

Council resolved to defer to the judgement of the District Council's Tree Officer but requested that if felled then a replacement tree should be planted and maintained.

S.22/1392/AFPA Land North East of Stroudwater Canal, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Glos.

Prior Approval – Agricultural/Forestry. Erection of a field shelter.

Although not a formal planning application, Council had no objection to raise in regard to this proposal.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There was nothing further to report in regard to Local Plan matters other than that the delayed Inspection in Public was likely to commence in the Autumn.

On planning enforcement issues, despite the expansion of the Enforcement Team at SDC and a previous flurry of emails neither Cllr Jones nor the Clerk had heard anything more.

09/07

Skate Ramp

A revised drawing had finally been received and was circulated. It was felt that a slightly altered orientation would work better with the pavilion proposals; access around the ramp and also increase the separation from the pipeline. A revised version was being sought while loan paperwork progressed.

10/07

Solar Farm

After an initial conversation with Siobhan Baille MP there had been no follow up but it transpired that she had given birth and was on maternity leave. Councillor Jones advised that Trena Davies was picking up relevant work in the constituency office and hence details would be forwarded. There had been no revised response from JBM Solar after the departure of Adam Withers nor from Michael Bakes who was supposedly picking up the matter. This was to be pursued.

11/07

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment between meetings:

ROC Projects	Foundation for Jubilee bench	£535:00
KAD Rope Access Solutions	Tree cutting	£1,689:00

Audit

The Annual Return was presented to Council, duly approved and signed by the Chairman and Proper Officer.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood unchanged at £46,418.74 with a number of cheques to be presented. Outstanding audit fee from previous years had been reconciled and previously paid, as advised. A new Government Gateway account had finally resulted in access to create HMRC codes for revised salary payments and that was in hand.

12/07

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow magazine.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Meeting notes of Stroud District Council Working Together Town and Parish Council meeting.

Stonehouse Walking Festival promotional material.

Updated contact details relating to the oil pipeline crossing the playing field had been received.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/07

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 provided a brief summary informing Council the District Council's Leader had resigned from the Labour Party and it was understood that 3 further members were likely to and thus there remained a question as to the future of the coalition administration.

There was no County Council update received as it was understood Cllr Davies was away on holiday.

14/07

Other Business

None.

14/05

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:28pm.