

MINUTES OF THE 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 two members of the public present.

00/08

Public Forum

There were no issues raised by the members of the public present.

01/08

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 two members of the public in attendance for the duration of the meeting.

02/08

Apologies

There were apologies received.

03/08

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.

04/08

Minutes

The Minutes of the July meeting were signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:
'Annual' was removed from the title.

02/07 – Apologies – changed to read that there were 'no' apologies received.

10/07 – Solar Farm – fourth line – 'bakes' changed to read 'baker and also 'Trena' changed to read 'Trina'.

05/08

Matters Arising

Cllr Paynter confirmed receipt of and circulated the commemorative plaque purchased 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 Cllr Jones would look to arrange an updated series of Council and Councillor photographs to be taken at the next meeting if possible.

The Clerk advised that the replacement notice board for The Close was now accessible and, along with possibly one extra unit, could be collected during September. It was hoped that Cllrs Hay and Paynter may be able to assist with installation.

Email addresses for Councillors would be circulated with log on details and passwords, to be changed, either at or before the next meeting.

A response had been received from the Dog Warden advising that best efforts would be made to install stencils and posters in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Warden, Simon Moulding, but a list of problem areas was asked for and duly compiled.

06/08

Police & Community Safety Issues

There had been no recent reports from the Warden Service or PCSO. However, it was noted that Simon Moulding had been recently appointed as the permanent Neighbourhood Warden for the area replacing Simon Jarvis.

With regard to the Community Safety Partnership mobile/temporary CCTV camera that had been installed at the Playing Field, there had still not been any feedback arising but then it was noted that there were no further problems experienced.

Cllr Mrs Younger had received and installed the new pads on the defibrillators located around the village and the necessary new registration had been completed. She had been liaising with a contact based locally who had suggested servicing would be required and this was to be looked into.

It was noted that a sign promoting Frampton Feast that had been obstructing sightlines at the A38 crossroads had been removed.

Under this item Cllr Jones raised the matter of Quiet Lanes. Although Council had been informed that the initiative was under review nothing had yet moved forward but it was understood that a consultation would get underway in the Autumn.

Correspondence had been circulated concerning litter problems at the canal. This had been cleared up by members of the restoration trust and a bin was proposed. There was concern over whether waste would actually be put in it by those that litter, given the age groups, and who would empty it. Although no request was made, Council resolved that it would not contribute financially.

Details were circulated relating to creating or upgrading Community Emergency Plans and a series of workshops were on offer. It was agreed that this would be considered as an agenda item in the Autumn.

07/08

Highways & Byways

Speed Limits

Following the details previously explained by County Councillor Davies, an application had been submitted for a vehicle activated speed sign through the Community Speedwatch Fund. Cllr Davies had advised that this was being recommended for approval. A further request for wheelie bin signage could be submitted later.

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 to press for action under the Council's obligations set out within S.130 of the Highways Act. This was to be adopted as the way to proceed.

Other Highways Matters

There had been action since the last meeting and subsequent correspondence relating to the A38 pavements as far as the parish boundary to the North near Barracks Cottage. However, the area cleared had been left in an uneven state. This and the ongoing saga of the temporary barriers at Packthorne Corner would be raised at a planned meeting with Yakub Mullah of the County Council. The issues of overgrown hedges and the condition of Hyde Lane would also be raised.

Following on from Cllr Jones speaking with the Police Inspector based in Stroud on the matter of the Grove Lane left turn only works and after he had been told it would be raised with the Traffic Inspector to try and arrange a police presence it did not seem that any action had taken place.

A Special Event Notice had been received concerning a road closure and diversion for Frampton Country Fair and a request had been made that appropriate signage be put in place to discourage the use of Hyde Lane.

08/08

Planning

Decisions to Note

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

Tree Preservation Order – Fell Sycamore tree.

Approved.

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

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

Approved.

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

Erection of single storey extension to rear.

Refused due to the scale.

It was also noted that an application relating to landscaping and lighting at Highfield Garden World had been approved, although no notice had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.22/1256/TPO 54 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gos.

Works to Lime tree.

Council resolved to defer to the District Council Officer's greater knowledge of the matter but expressed disappointment that after protection being given to the trees in the development there appears to be a continual string of applications to remove or reduce trees heights.

S.22/1752/HHOLD 12 Holbury Crescent, Whitminster, Gos.

Erection of ground and first floor rear extension.

Council found the 'as existing' plans confusing in regard to the rear alignment of the property and its neighbour. However, with no strong opinions nor issues raised by neighbours, Council resolved to pass no comment on the application.

S.21/2010/FUL Land at Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gos.

Erection of 11 dwellings.

Although revised plans had been submitted relating to drainage and attenuation this did not seem to address the concerns of the District Water engineer nor Severn Trent. Council's concerns remained, particularly in regard to the application being advanced ahead of the completion of the Local Plan Review and with the site being outside of the settlement boundary. As a result, Council reaffirmed its objection.

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 and both would follow up.

Large scale planning applications outside of the parish but affecting Severn Voice parishes were discussed in general.

09/08

Skate Ramp

Cllr Hay was thanked for his superb work in seeking opinions on the skate ramp replacement and it was noted that the overwhelming volume of response was in support.

The PWLB funding was being progressed and a site meeting with Exolum and the intended supplier was being arranged. Meanwhile, additional potential sources of funding such as GPFA and the Build Back Better fund were being pursued.

10/08

Solar Farm

After the initial 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 had advised that Trena Davies was picking up relevant work in the constituency office but Council's correspondence had not reached her. The Clerk had telephone and requested a call or Zoom with the MP or the case officer who could take this forward but this had not happened ahead of Ms Davies departing on extended leave for 3 weeks. The matter was to be followed up. Nothing further had been received from JBM Solar.

11/08

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

T W Hawkins & Sons	Grass Cutting	£1,445.88
ERFA	Reimbursement of defibrillator pad costs	£393.10
Cllr Paynter	Plaque	£43.95

A cheque was also drawn in anticipation of a bill to be expected from Mr D J Davies for verge cutting.

Audit

Notice was received of an option to opt out of the central external audit arrangement. However, it was also noted that the provider was being retendered and Council resolved to remain with the collective approach.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood at £43,086.50 with a number of cheques to be presented.

A reclaim of VAT application had been submitted.

12/08

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

The Playing Field electronic newsletter.

GRCC Community Approach update.

Email correspondence sent on behalf of the Nupend and Nastend Horse Riders relating to the proposed 26 mile Bishops Cleeve to Stroud Cycle Path seeking support from Council for this to be developed in a way to also include horse riders. Council supported the request but felt it may best be addressed through developing quiet lanes as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Email communication from Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council relating to attempts to find a way to discuss matters of local concern with CART.

Town and Parish Council Newtwork meeting notes.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow magazine.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/08

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 that a new leader of the Council had been appointed; a new monitoring officer had been appointed and allowances had been increased in line with remuneration panel recommendations.

There was no County Council report.

14/08

Other Business

Cllr Jones gave an update on the meeting he had, along with Cllr Davies, with Severn Trent at the end of July to discuss foul drainage.

15/08

Future Agenda Items

None.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7th September, 2022.