

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

As the Chairman and Vice Chairman were both absent from the meeting the Councillors present were invited to nominate a Chair to conduct the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Paynter should assume this role. Cllr Paynter then started by welcoming everyone to the meeting including the two members of the public present.

00/11

Public Forum

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

01/11

Present

There were 5 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Paynter (Acting Chair), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore & Mrs Younger. There were two members of the public in attendance for the duration of the meeting.

02/11

Apologies

There were apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Jones and Hay. Cllr Jones had been taken ill the following night and had returned from hospital that afternoon. He was resting at home but had sent notes and a District Council report to the meeting. Cllr Hay was isolating due to a member of his household having contracted Covid.

03/11

Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Mrs Gilmore and Douglas declared an interest in any matter relating to the Village Hall due to their involvement with the Whitminster Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee. Cllr Douglas as a full member of that Committee and Cllr Mrs Gilmore as the Parish Council's representative. These declarations, of a non-personal interest, were made when they became aware that under the agenda item of Accounts a paper had been submitted that requested financial assistance for work to the Village Hall.

04/11

Minutes

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

01/10 Present – First line – '4' changed to '5'.

05/10 Matters Arising - Fourth line - 'Cly' changed to read 'Cllr'.

13/10 County Council Report -Eleventh line - 'than' changed to read 'that'.

05/11

Matters Arising

Cllr Paynter was reminded that at the last meeting, for which he was absent, he was nominated as Watercourse Warden for the Parish and he agreed to this role.

It was noted that the book of condolence that had been opened following the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II and had been available in the Village Hall for villagers to sign, was brought to the Parish Council meeting for Cllrs to view and would be archived.

Cllr Mrs Younger agreed to now arrange delivery of the two trees from Highfield Garden World and Cllr Braidford advised that he would undertake the planting.

As it was agreed that with the changing season it would now be appropriate for them to be planted adjacent to the bench installed at the entrance to The Close to commemorate the Jubilee. Cllr Jones suggested that, short term, any potted trees could be kept to the rear of the Village Hall close to the storage building.

Cllr Jones was in receipt of the 200 Jubilee Mugs to be distributed at the village school on 11th November and Cllrs Paynter and Braidford agreed to assist with transporting the mugs to the school and would liaise with Cllr Jones.

06/11

Police & Community Safety Issues

There were no issues raised and still there had been no feedback in regard to the mobile CCTV camera deployed to combat antisocial behaviour in the Parish. However, there had been no new incidents reported.

On the matter of the Emergency Plan and a potential review/update, it was decided that any discussion as to how best to take this forward should again wait until a future meeting when there would be a full attendance of Councillors present. It was hoped that this could be considered further during the December meeting.

07/11

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.22/1909/HHOLD Rosedale, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Two storey extension to the side and a single storey extension to the rear. Replacement bay window and open porch (demolition of garage and rear extension).

Permission granted.

All other recent applications remained pending a decision.

Applications to Consider

S.22/2098/VAR Land Parcels A & B Near Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Section 73 Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Application Reference Number: S21/0465/FUL (The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning for a renewable energy scheme of up to a 49.9 megawatt (MW) solar farm and up to a 49.9MW battery storage facility). Variation to consist of two point-of-contact masts required to connect solar farm to electricity grid.

Council resolved to oppose the application for the following reasons:

- It was no doubt the case that the applicant would have anticipated the need for this infrastructure when submitting their original application. Council would contend that if this detail had been submitted, pertaining to a particularly sensitive part of the overall site, and had it been considered within the totality of the impact then it would have affected the decision reached and therefore a wider consideration of the application should be entered into afresh.
- The proposed structures, as a grouped cluster adjacent to an existing pylon, would be a significant visual intrusion into the landscape that cannot be mitigated. This impact intrudes on new views and at a greater distance from those considered in relation to the original application.
- The proposal would impact to the detriment of the setting of a group of highly graded Listed Buildings, including Whitminster Church, and also impact on the vistas to and from the Industrial Heritage Conservation Corridor close by. It would also neither preserve or enhance a Conservation Area. The point of connection is, as advised by Historic England, the closest possible point to the

most highly graded heritage assets across the whole site area. There is a great potential for harm that needs to be addresses in accordance with paragraph 200 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

It was noted that there was still no update received from planning enforcement concerning the Whitminster Inn and Old Stables at Kidnams Farm.

It was understood that the scaffolding had come down at Kidnams Farm as work was progressing.

On the Local Plan, there was a growing feeling the opposition to sites at Wisloe and Sharpness might lead to a renewed effort to put forward land at Whitminster between the A38 and M5. With this in mind, Council should start to consider whether professional representation might be needed at the Examination in Public and at what cost.

08/11

Highways & Byways

Cllr Paynter had no significant matters to report as crops had gone and footpaths, save for known exceptions, were clear.

Concern was again raised relating to the condition of the pavements adjacent to the A38 following recent works as well as the fact that the work understood to be planned to the pavements running South had not commenced.

It was understood that Yakub Mulla would soon be back from his extended period of leave and this could be followed up with him once he responds to the other matters raised by Council during the meeting held at the end of Summer.

09/11

Skate Ramp

A date was still awaited for a site meeting with Fisher German on behalf of Exolum to consider pipeline matters after a planned meeting was cancelled. However, Marcus of Ten Skate Ramps had confirmed he would attend when arranged. Meanwhile, application packs for grant funding were received for both GPFA and the County Council's Build Back Better fund and would be submitted in due course.

10/11

Solar Farm

A further response had been submitted to Michael Baker highlighting the community contributions put forward in relation to a number of local schemes, the latest being at Frocester. His considered response was awaited.

11/11

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Parish Council Websites	Annual website hosting and maintenance	£160.00
Poppy Appeal	Donation	£50.00

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood at £51,535 as reported by Cllr Jones.

Following a receipt of a CIL payment of £2,066.49 a request was received from the Whitminster Village Hall & Paying Field Management Committee to support energy efficiency projects at the Village Hall in an effort to reduce running costs given the ongoing energy costs. Reducing the overall amount could give rise to a VAT benefit available to charities. Whilst funding had been obtained

from other sources there remained a shortfall of £732.20 in regard to the proposed replacement doors and £2,816.62 for new LED lights in the Hall.

Council considered the request but felt that with other costs met by the Council, such as grass cutting on the playing field and a recent contribution towards tree cutting, meant that a sizeable amount of support was already being given to the Hall & Playing Field. To give more at a time when funding is being sought for Council's own project, being the new skate ramp, and with the potential costs of professional planning advice looming it was felt was not appropriate. However, it was agreed that the matter could be considered again in the New Year and may be viewed more favourably if other sources of funding for the Council's projects are received.

ACAS Guidance notes for new employers were received relating to the Clerk's employment along with the final necessary HMRC code to set up payments through a PAYE and these had been passed on to the payroll provider.

12/11

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

An email of thanks was received from Stephen Taylor who was standing down as Interim Monitoring Officer and advising that Claire Hughes had taken over his role.

The minutes of the last meeting of Severn Voice were received.

A request was received for confirmation to be given as to how Council wishes to receive the electoral register for the coming year. It was determined that this would be initially by post and that monthly updates would not then be required.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/11

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

There were no items raised in the notes submitted by Cllr Jones in absentia, nor any Chairman's Matters raised by Cllr Paynter as Chair of the meeting. However, Cllr Jones had submitted a written report in his capacity as District Councillor.

He advised that Cllr Norman Kay had been elected to replace Cllr Trevor Hall as Vice Chairman of the District Council following the resignation of the latter and three members of the Stroud Youth Council had been presented with awards for 5 years of service. On economic matters, the Council had passed a motion to declare a Cost of Living Emergency and was calling for financial support to help improve energy efficiency to achieve a zero carbon target by 2050. £100,000 had been allocated towards Community Hubs, Warm Spaces and similar concepts. This was in addition to £123,000 awarded to the District by the County Council for October through to March 2023 – details of how this will be allocated will follow. In addition to the County Council money, £129,000 was awarded to SDC earlier in the year for Household Support.

Other matters included plans to install electric vehicle charging points in Council owned car parks; consultation on the creation of a new parish to cover Great Oldbury and a potential increase in the number of councillors for some parishes which, locally, could include Eastington and Frampton-on-Severn.

Cllr Jones had also issued a reminder regarding the Service of Remembrance. A small ceremony was planned and he already had the wreath but may need assistance to deputise on the day.

14/11

Other Business

None.

15/10

Future Agenda Items

Emergency Plan.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.41pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 7th December, 2022.