

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

As the Chairman was absent from the meeting due to illness the Vice Chair, Cllr Hay, welcomed everyone to the meeting including District and County Councillor Stephen Davies and the members of the public present.

00/12

Public Forum

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

01/12

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Hay (Vice Chair), Paynter, Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore & Mrs Younger.

02/12

Apologies

There was an apology received and accepted from Cllr Jones who was recuperating at home following the illness reported at the last meeting.

03/12

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest relating to known agenda items.

04/12

Minutes

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

05/11 Matters Arising – 8th line – an errant letter ‘s’ was removed and a capital letter ‘I’ inserted for ‘It’.

07/11 Local Plan – 4th line – ‘night’ changed to read ‘might’.

05/12

Matters Arising

Cllr Jones had submitted notes asking what was planned in regard to the planting of the Jubilee commemorative trees to be planted adjacent to the newly installed bench at the entrance to The Close. Cllr Braidford confirmed that he was still willing to carry out the planting and was liaising with John Mason at Highfield Garden World.

Cllr Jones had also questioned how best to deal with the distribution of the remaining commemorative mugs to children of a qualifying age but who do not attend or are no longer at the village school. A few had been collected but not many. Suggestions made included the school newsletter and possibly posters which the Clerk would distribute. Meanwhile, Cllr Hay agreed to promote the matter via Facebook.

A card of gratitude was received from His Majesty the King thanking Council for the message of condolence sent by Cllr Jones on behalf of the Parish on the death of the queen.

06/12

Police & Community Safety Issues

There had still been no feedback in regard to the mobile CCTV camera deployed to combat antisocial behaviour in the Parish. However, PCSO Trebble had been in touch asking for meeting dates for the coming year and was advised that Council would meet on the first Wednesday of each month as usual.

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 January meeting and Cllr Hay would look to circulate an electronic copy.

It was noted that the Playing Field Pavilion had been broken into during the early hours of the previous Friday. As bar stock had been removed there was nothing to steal but damage had been caused to the shutter and window. There was CCTV footage recorded and blood left at the scene. The Police were investigating.

Under this item some matters of concern relating to traffic were discussed. This included an accident believed to have been caused by a u-turning vehicle close to Attwoolls (the police were asking for any witnesses or camera footage); inconsiderate parking at the school and traffic issues at the Whitminster Inn. Cllr Davies advised that a new area highways manager was coming into the post that local concerns could be raised with and, in light of planned and possible future development, he recommended starting a discussion to explore the possibility of installing traffic lights at the A38 crossroads. No response had been received from Yakub Mullah and would probably not now be expected, Gary Wilson would be the new contact to follow up with. Under this item the matter of a licence for the School's use of the Playing Field parking and amenities was discussed and the Clerk explained that he was engaged in assisting the Committee Secretary with renewal.

07/12

Planning

Decisions to Note

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

Erection of three bedroom dwelling.

Permission refused.

S.22/2517/MINAM Rosedale, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Non-material amendment.

Permission granted.

S.21/1126/LBC Packthorne Farm, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Listed Building Application.

Withdrawn.

S.22/2185/DISCON Fish Pass, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Discharge of conditions.

Permission granted.

Applications to Consider

S.22/2458/TCA Stonepitts Bridge, Whitminster Footpath 21, Whitminster Gloucestershire.

STB-0010 - Ash - remove low single branch. STB-0200 - Willow - small diameter branches to be removed. STB-0279 - Willow - small diameter branches to be removed. STB-0290 - Willow - small diameter branches (less than 20 mm diameters) to be removed. STB-0300 - 2x Willows - Small diameter branches to be removed and remaining three larger branches will be removed
Council resolved to defer to the greater knowledge of the District Council's Tree Officer.

S.22/2469/TCA Stonepitts Bridge, Whitminster Footpath 21, Whitminster Gloucestershire.

Various works to trees on the canal.

Council resolved to defer to the greater knowledge of the District Council's Tree Officer.

S.22/2629/OUT Land to the South of Prestwick Terrace, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Residential development of up to 3 dwellings.

Council resolved to oppose this application due to its location outside of the settlement boundary; contravention of the Village Design Statement; density; layout and car parking provision.

S.22/2286/FUL Whitminster Hotel, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Proposed development of 3 no. storage containers to be used as retail units, 20 no. to be converted into offices, 1no. as a site office and 5 no. to create a childcare nursery.

Council opposed this application due to multiple inconsistencies and inaccuracies within the application; concerns over car parking and access; a conflict with the parking and access arrangements for the hotel and existing businesses; inadequate parking facilities; development outside of the settlement boundary and various other concerns.

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.

On the Local Plan, the Clerk had been in touch with the programme manager for the planning inquiry and had received guidance as to when the examination in public would be likely to commence and the opportunities to have further input. It remained the case that 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. Cllr Davies suggested a discussion with the relevant planning strategy officer at SDC as an initial step.

08/12

Highways & Byways

All highway matters had been discussed as community safety matters earlier in the meeting and involving Cllr Davies.

09/12

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, the results of grant applications could be expected in the New Year.

10/12

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. In the meantime he had responded explaining that Council's comments relating to the proposed new masts was being considered and a revised application was likely.

11/12

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

T W Hawkins & Sons	Grass cutting and maintenance	£1,046:60
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A revised invoice had been received with a charge for line marking removed. The new invoice still seemed high given the hot summer and the impact on grass growth. A cheque was approved to make payment but subject to it being withheld until confirmation could be received as to the number of cuts undertaken.

Other Financial Matters

A receipt had been received for the donation of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
Notice of appointment of the new Auditor was received.
The balance at the bank stood at £51,535 as reported by Cllr Jones in his notes.

12/12

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Full Register of Electors for 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.

CPRE Gloucestershire views magazine.

Severn Voice Agenda and Minutes.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/12

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 Hay. However, discussion was had as to whether consideration might be given to arranging a Coronation celebration for 2023.

14/12

Other Business

None.

15/12

Future Agenda Items

Emergency Plan.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.21pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4th January, 2023.