

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY, 2023.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting including the three members of the public in attendance.

00/02

Public Forum

Mr Nick Peters raised a number of matters including asking who sets the settlement boundary for the village (derived from the Stroud District Council Local Plan); what is the Strategic Allocation (again a Local Plan matter); some comments on the Cotswold Beechwood Conservation Area and the 'comings and goings' at the Whitminster Inn. Mrs Rosemary Merrett raised concerns over issues concerning water and drainage at Packthorne Corner and it was agreed that this would be raised at a future meeting with the Area Highways Manager

01/02

Present

There were 7 Parish Councillors present for the meeting including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Hay (Vice Chair), Paynter, Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore & Mrs Younger.

02/02

Apologies

There were no apologies received from Council members as all were present but it was noted that County & District Councillor Stephen Davies had sent an apology for being unable to attend as he was reporting to Frampton Parish Council and their meeting.

03/02

Declarations of Interest

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

04/02

Minutes

The Minutes of the January 2023 meeting were signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the following amendments:

02/01 Apologies – 1st line – 'presented' changed to read 'present'.

05/01 Matters Arising – 2nd line – 'liaising' changed to read 'liaise'.

07/01 Planning – Applications to Consider – 27th line – 'conditions6' change to read 'condition 6'.

11/01 Accounts – Accounts for Payment – 7th line – 'on cut' changed to read 'one cut'.

11/01 Accounts – Other Financial Matters – 2nd line – 'hay' changed to read 'Hay'.

05/02

Matters Arising

It was clarified and confirmed that Council had committed to funding of up to £500 to support a village Coronation event.

Albeit not a matter arising, there was some discussion concerning a film clip circulated from the BBC archives that concerned the restoration of the church clock.

It was noted that the Play Inspection Company had responded to advise a date for inspections to take place but that had subsequently changed. Cllr Braidford agreed for his number to be provided

for new arrangements to be made. Cllr Braidford also confirmed that he would take forward the planting of the Jubilee trees over coming weeks. On a related matter, publicity has resulted in requested for Jubilee mugs to be presented to eligible children living within the Parish and Cllrs Paynter and Hay agreed to drop these off.

06/02

Police & Community Safety Issues

PCSO Trebble was not in attendance and no crime figures had been received Neither had there been any reports from the Neighbourhood Warden.

On the matter of the Playing Field Pavilion break in, further developments were awaited once the Police Scenes of Crime Department had concluded processing the available evidence.

Cllr Jones advised the meeting that he had been informed the play areas within the Parish under the control of Persimmon Homes were to be cleared to be made safe. They would then be fitted with new equipment and transferred to a management company. The details of the equipment to be provided remained to be seen. Cllr Jones had circulated correspondence he had with Mr Curry, a local resident.

Following the circulation of the Emergency Plan contact had been made with Nikki Humphries at SDC to seek guidance on updating. However, she advised that she had moved on to a new role and Gabrielle Webb made contact to say she would be in touch once she had picked up the brief and was familiar with matters.

Turning to road safety matters, the Council's application to the Community Speedwatch Fund had received no further update and Cllr Davies had been contacted to pursue.

On the subject of flooding, Cllr Paynter confirmed he had received the relevant details and training information relating to the Floor Warden Scheme, now being developed by the GRCC's Community Resilience Specialist on behalf of SDC.

07/01

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.22/2381/VAR Whitminster Park, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Section 73 application to remove conditions 6 (cabin use) & 7 (occupancy and register) from the application S.19/1439/VAR (S.13/1508/FUL) to allow for the siting of 16 holiday log cabins to exist independently from the Whitminster Inn and/or Marquee and a variation to condition 1 (approved plans) to allow for replacement holiday units.

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

It was also understood that an application relating to 3 new proposed dwellings on land adjacent to Prestwick Terrace had been refused, although no decision notice had been received.

Applications to Consider

S.23/0164/TPO 28 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

Tree Preservation Order - Removal of two dead branches within tree canopy.

Council resolved to defer to the specialist knowledge of the District Council's Arboricultural Officer and passed no comment on this application.

S.23/0119/TPO 28 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

Tree Preservation Order - T13 -Corsican Pine- remove.

Council was concerned that there was no substantial reason for the removal of this tree and that the trees retained when the land was developed were considered crucial to maintain the setting and character. It was difficult to understand how removal of the tree in question would not set a precedent for others to follow and on that basis Council resolved to oppose the application.

S.23/0002/HHOLD 52 Uptons Garden, Whitminster, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

Householder Application - Rear single storey orangery, changes to fenestration, and an

adjustment to the front fence line.

Council considered this application in detail and considered the proposed development to be in keeping and not to impinge on any adjacent property. Therefore, Council resolved to support the application.

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.

Details had been filed in regard to the process to be pursued in the event that the Council would wish for application to be called in to the Development Control Committee in the future.

Again, it was noted that the solar farm application submitted for Arlingham Parish had been withdrawn.

On the Local Plan, the Clerk had been in touch once again with the programme manager for the planning inquiry, Charlotte Clancy, and details had been received concerning the Examination in Public now including the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions document. This had not produced anything of notable concern to suggest that proposed sites would be overturned nor that excluded sites would be reconsidered. However, advice on the timing and process would still be sought from the relevant District Council officers.

Under this item, Cllr Jones also observed that Frampton PC was looking to add additional council seats while Great Oldbury would likely gain a parish council separate from Eastington.

08/02

Highways & Byways

Gary Wilson who had taken over the role of Highways Area Supervisor had been in touch and was happy to meet and review this issues previously discussed with Yakub Mullah to be sure he understood clearly. However, his available dates were limited but proposals would it be made. It would have to be a daytime meeting. He also confirmed that, subject to competing demands that may arise, Hyde Lane was schedule for resurfacing work in the coming financial year. To the list of matters to be discussed it was agreed that a request for footpath crossing warning signs for School Lane would be added.

Mr Peters had been in touch concerning PRW EWH23 which he found to be nearly impossible to navigate. It was considered unlikely that there would be any resources available to the County Council in order to be able to do anything about it.

It was noted that EWH 28 1 was blocked between the Church and Whitminster Lane and Mrs Teasdale would be contacted as the landowner.

Details of a public engagement concerning the GCC Local Transport Plan was received.

09/02

Skate Ramp

No response had been received from the proposed contractor but it transpired that the company had been relocating and had since re-engaged. Grant funding applications were being submitted and pending.

10/02

Solar Farm

No further response had been received from Michael Baker of JBM Solar following his email focusing on the changes being made to the planning application for variations to the consented scheme. This was to be pursued.

11/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

GPFA	Annual Membership	£50:00
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There were no other cheques for payment drawn during the meeting but agreement was given for payments between meetings, if needed, for hall hire costs and also insurance.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank stood at £51,425.90 as per the last received statement.

A budget for the coming financial year was considered by Council resulting in the setting of the Precept for 2023/2024 at an unchanged level of £18,200.

A revised price for grass cutting for the coming year from T W Hawkins was considered at a 7% increase and in the context of wider inflation this was considered acceptable and was agreed.

12/02

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow Magazine.

Councils Connected newsletter.

Voter ID Partner Pack.

Information on SDC operated pest control services.

GAPTC contact details update – completed.

Parish and Town Council Charter – details were circulated and drop in sessions had been publicised.

It was agreed that this would be considered further at the March meeting.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/02

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report

Cllr Jones had covered Parish matters elsewhere but on District Council issues advised at the next meeting the Council's budget would be set that leads on to the Council Tax with an increase of 3-5% expected. Also, SDC had been awarded £127,000 by the LTA for work to the tennis courts at Stratford Park with some smaller contributions coming from elsewhere meaning work could proceed.

14/02

Other Business

None.

15/02

Future Agenda Items

None that were not previously noted.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.46pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 1st March, 2023.