

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th APRIL, 2023.

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

00/04

Public Forum

One member of the public suggested that as the application for the commercial units within the Whitminster Hotel car park had been 'refused' then the District Council should take enforcement action. Cllr Jones advised that the Council's planning department was arranging a focus on enforcement matters shortly and no doubt this would feature, as it had been raised by the Parish Council with the District Council previously and action promised. It was noted that a decision was expected soon concerning the application relating to the proposed holiday lodges and marquee. It was understood that this was likely to be approved due to the extant permission.

Comments were made relating to the applications for large scale development on land East of the A38 and formed across two application sites. It was observed that there had been no community engagement nor discussions with the Parish Council and that the applicant would appear to be looking to exploit a potential situation relating to the district land supply in the event that progression of the Local Plan Review were to stall. In response to a comment that there was little information provided on access and associated matters, Cllr Jones stated that there was a lack of detail but that it would be addressed through a Reserved Matters application in the event that permission were to be granted. Council resolved to consider the application at a subsequent Parish Council meeting and to take up the offer extended by the Planning Officer dealing to meet to discuss the application. A request had been made to this end.

The A38 roundabout was raised in connection with a recent collision and it was agreed that the matter of barriers could be added to the list of matters to be discussed with Gary Wilson, Local Area Highways Manager.

01/04

Present

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

02/04

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 and the Clerk apologised for a change of holiday plans meaning that he was attending remotely.

03/04

Declarations of Interest

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

04/04

Minutes

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

13/03 Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report and County Councillor's Report – 4th line – 'had' changed to read 'hand'.

13/03 Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report and County Councillor's Report – 8th line – 'cyclin' corrected to 'cycling'.

05/04

Matters Arising

It was noted that the proposed Coronation event, that Council had committed to funding in the sum of up to £500:00 if required, would be discussed later during the meeting. It was reaffirmed that a cheque could be drawn to assist with costs in advance if necessary.

The Clerk advised that he was in possession of the two new noticeboards and it was agreed that they should be used to replace those in poor repair at the Playing Field entrance and the junction of The Close with Vaisey Field.

Cllr Jones asked if some tree protectors should be purchased to prevent damage to the new trees planted at the entrance to The Close/Henry Withers' Place, thinking that strimmers used to cut the grass could cause issues. He also proposed that some bulbs be planted in the surrounding grassed area in the Autumn and this was agreed.

06/04

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. However, a note had been received advising that PCSO Trebble was using up leave and would therefore not be available until a date in May.

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, there was no further update on this.

A response was still awaited from Gabrielle Webb on the matter of updating the Village Emergency Plan. A chasing email had been sent and a reply was awaited.

Under this item it was also noted that a further Perspex panel had been damaged in the A38 North bound bus shelter and Cllr Paynter agreed, once again, to carry out a repair.

07/04

Planning

Decisions to Note

S.22/2286/FUL Proposed storage container unit development – Whitminster Inn, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Permission refused.

Cllr Jones advised of other planning decisions of which he was aware but the Parish Council was yet to receive decision notices.

Applications to Consider

S.23/0609/TCA Fromebridge Mill, Fromebridge Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Trees in a Conservation Area – Removal of two multistem Willow trees and one Alder.

In accordance with past resolutions, Council decided to defer to the greater knowledge of the District Council's Arboricultural Officer and passed no comment on this application.

Applications had been received, as referred to during the Public Forum, relating to large scale development North and South of Grove Lane. It was agreed that, as time permitted, consideration would be given at a future meeting to enable a discussion to be had with the Planning Officer

dealing, Cris Lancaster, in light of his offer to meet and answer questions. A request had been made for this to happen and a response was awaited when he returns from leave.

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. However, it was understood that additional resource was being provided to planning enforcement with the whole planning department to be dedicated to assist in clearing the existing backlog of issues during one week later in the Spring.

On the Local Plan, the Clerk had received further notifications in regard to the Examination in Public but nothing requiring action on the part of the Council.

It was noted that the application concerning the masts associated with the solar farm development would shortly be considered by the Development Control Committee and it was reaffirmed that Councillor Paynter would speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

Council had received notification of an opportunity to apply for District wide CIL funding and it was agreed that an expression of interest be put forward for an appropriate project.

08/04

Highways & Byways

Despite chasing, no contact had been received from Gary Wilson who had taken over the role of Highways Area Supervisor in regard to fixing a date for a site meeting, He would be chased again..

Concern had been raised relating to the edge of a concrete forming at Packthorne Corner that was protruding slightly from the verge. This had been added to the list of matters to be raised but it was noted that cones had recently been placed around area.

On footpath matters there was nothing new to report and existing issues were being pursued.

09/04

Skate Ramp

Following the news that a £2,000 award had been made by the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association the results of an application for Build Back Better funding was awaited. Meanwhile, the Clerk was to reach out the proposed contractor and obtain a final update on pricing while the Chairman confirmed he would be willing to make a final effort to mark out the route of the pipeline.

10/04

Solar Farm

A request had been made for the planning application concerning the connection masts to be called in for consideration by the Development Control Committee, as referred to above, and this was anticipated to consider the application later during the month. Meanwhile, there was no further proposal received from JBM Solar. Cllr Jones agreed to try and prompt negotiations in his capacity as District Councillor but otherwise a fresh approach would be made to the local MP to become involved.

11/04

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

There were no cheques for payment drawn during the meeting.

However, the Clerk had settled the Council's insurance policy renewal premium in the sum of £587.96 and an invoice was expected shortly for the recent play equipment inspection visit. An invoice for hall hire in the sum of £180.00 had also been paid by the Clerk.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank remained unchanged since the last meeting.

Following the input of details on-line, at the end of the March meeting, in order to be able to set up on-line banking with Lloyd banks it transpired that no further contact had been received from the bank and this was to be followed up.

12/04

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow Magazine.

Councils Connected newsletter.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Details of a change of the corporate structure of the Play Inspection Company.

Information on free wellbeing, yoga and first aid courses being offered by the County Council to those meeting certain criteria.

Update on the County wide United Code of Conduct,

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

13/04

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report.

All Parish related Chairman's matters had been considered during the meeting.

Cllr Jones gave a brief update on District Council matters.

14/04

Other Business

Annual Parish Meeting – it was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 3rd May at 6:30pm to be followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7:30pm.

It was noted that the Parish would host the meeting of Severn Voice scheduled for July and would meet the cost that meeting. Future meeting would be held three times per year. Cllr Jones also advised that he had contributed towards the leaving gift of the last Severn Voice clerk, in the sum of £10, and would look to recover that amount in due course.

Details of the proposed Coronation event were shared with the plan being a tea party to take place on the Sunday of the Coronation weekend.

Cllr Jones gave a summary of the issues arising concerning the Playing Field Pavilion and the survey that was ongoing. It was agreed that this could be expanded on and discussed more fully at the Annual Parish Meeting.

15/04

Future Agenda Items

None that were not previously noted.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.09pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd May, 2023.