

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023.**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting including the four members of the public in attendance and District & County Councillor Davied who was present for part of the meeting.

## **Public Forum**

The members of the public present were afforded the opportunity to raise any matters or concerns. Janet Maidment spoke on behalf of the Guideposts Connect Group and hoped to ask for some financial support for the group that is attended by a number of local people. It provides help to those with Dementia, learning difficulties and other vulnerabilities. It was noted that Council had provided support in the past when the then Cllrs Mrs Pockett was involved with the organisation. An emailed request from Ms Maidment had not been received and she agreed to send through the details again and Council would consider the matter in due course.

Mr Nick Peters raised his concern regarding the installation and impact of the traffic island at the junction between Grove Lane and the A38. Council advised that it too felt there remained issues concerning the junction and concerns had been raised with the County Council Area Highways Supervisor at a meeting held in the Summer. He had confirmed that the layout would be considered fully before adoption by the County Council.

## **00/09**

### **Present**

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

## **01/09**

### **Apologies**

There were no apologies received from Council members, as all were present.

## **02/09**

### **Declarations of Interest**

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

## **03/09**

### **Minutes**

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

00/07 Present – 2nd line – rectified to show Cllr Paynter as Vice Chair rather than Cllr Hay.

06/07 Planning – 7th line – ‘Lim’ changed to read ‘Lime’.

11/07 Chairman’s Items & District Councillor’s Report – 9th line – ‘or’ changed to read ‘of’.

13/07 Other Business – 3<sup>rd</sup> line – ‘Way’ changed to read ‘May’.

## **04/09**

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Jones was pleased to note that tree protectors/trimmer guards had been fitted to the new trees planted at the entrance to The Close/Henry Withers’ Place and duly thanked Cllr Braidford.

Cllr Paynter confirmed that he planned to attend to the damaged Perspex panel in the A38 North bound bus shelter very shortly, when Cllr Hay might be able to assist.

Cllr Jones asked Cllrs Paynter and Hay if they might be able to take forward the installation of the two new notice boards in the near future, as the existing notice board to the end of the Playing Field access road had fallen into further disrepair. They agreed to do this as soon as possible.

Cllr Jones had circulated email communications he had pursued with Daniel Bentley of Persimmons concerning the play areas still owned by the company in the village. However, he was no longer 'in post' and despite promises that he would pass on details to the new person responsible, as well as previous responses advising a management company was being set up to facilitate ongoing management, nothing more had been heard.

Following the presentation put forward at the July meeting from Mr Owen Thomas, concerning a proposed Housing Needs Exception Site on the A38, Cllr Jones had been unable to advise him of the outcome of Council's discussions as he had no contact details. However, the Clerk found an email address on initial correspondence and agreed to make contact advising it was not something Council felt able to support under the circumstances.

## **05/09**

### **Police & Community Safety Issues**

On the matter of the Playing Field Pavilion break-in, the perpetrator had been identified through DNA left at the scene and linked to another incident. It was understood the case had been passed to the CPS.

Following a response received from Gabrielle Webb of Stroud District Council on the matter of updating the Village Emergency Plan, a copy had been provided for her to review, advise and to provide templates for possible approaches to updating.

There was no Police presence at the meeting and no reports had been received from the local PCSO or Neighbourhood Warden.

## **06/09**

### **Planning**

#### **Decisions to Note**

S.23/0723/FUL Packthorne Farm, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Renovation of an existing listed farmhouse with some minor demolition of unsympathetic 20thC additions.

Permission granted.

In relation to proposed development at 12 Paynes Meadow, it was noted that no application was necessary.

#### **Applications to Consider**

S.23/1504/HHOLD Orchard View, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of two storey rear extension.

Council considered the above application and was of the opinion that it would have no detrimental impact on the street scene and would be sufficiently distant so as not to impact on dwellings to the rear. Therefore, Council resolved to support the application.

S.19/0291/FUL Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B

Reinstatement of the 'Missing Mile' and associated developments.

Again, Council had not been directly consulted due to the issues arising with the District Council when applications straddle two parishes. However, Council considered the revised application, did not consider the amendments to make any material difference and resolved to object once again due to the inclusion of the proposed business use development outside of the defined settlement boundary.

S.23/1484/REM Land at M5 Junction 13, West of Stonehouse, Eastington.

Reserved matters relating to new football stadium.

Council resolve to object to the proposals on the basis that there was insufficient detail concerning car parking and traffic management as well as no details provided relating to the originally proposed wildlife areas that was the only part of the application site to fall within Whitminster Parish.

Concerning the applications relating to large scale development North and South of Grove Lane, Council's objections had been submitted and those present were reminded that comments could be added to as further information emerges throughout the process. Consultation was ongoing.

#### Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There was still no update received from planning enforcement concerning sites within the village. It had been more than two years since the matters were first reported. Cllr Jones stated that the Senior Enforcement Officer had left so the department was short staffed again and finding it difficult to recruit.

In regard to the Stroud Local Plan examination in public, following concerns raised by the Inspectors the District Council had requested a pause in the process to look to address the issues raised.

### **07/09**

#### **Accounts**

##### Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were ratified for payment with cheques drawn during the meeting:

TW Hawkins & Sons (SGMS)	Contract mowing	£977.00
Kay Brown	Clerk services – Severn Voice	£50.00
WVH&PMC	Defibrillator power supply	£379.44

##### Audit

The approved accounts had been submitted but no acknowledgement nor receipt for any further information had been received as yet.

##### Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was confirmed as £56,241.75 with all cheques presented.

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 bank, it transpired that no further contact had been received from the bank. Cllr Jones and the Clerk had made contact, jointly, once again and the forms necessary to collect new signatures were to be issued to Cllr Jones by post and email.

### **08/09**

#### **Highways & Byways**

Following on from the meeting held with Gary Wilson, Highways Area Supervisor, he had written to confirm that Council's concerns relating to the A38 junction works had been taken on board and passed to the County Council's legal for scrutiny prior to any adoption being considered.

Details of other matters discussed during the meeting that had taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> July had been circulated between meetings.

On footpath matters Cllr Paynter gave a brief update but there was nothing new to report other than that the potentially hazardous hole that had opened up in the surfacing of The Lager had been repaired. This had been raised in the meeting with Gary Wilson.

Council considered the frequency of verge cutting and a potential later start in the season but on the grounds of highway safety resolved to continue with the contract applying the same frequency of cuts and timings.

It was noted that the Schoolfield Close hedge required further attention once again.

### **09/09**

#### **Skate Ramp**

It was noted that the application for PWLB funding had been completed and submitted and was subject to the necessary scrutiny by the local Parish Council Association following the appointment of a new CEO.

**10/09**

**Solar Farm**

The Deed of Gift Agreement detailing a single payment from JBM Solar in the sum of £40,000:00 on the commencement of work on the solar farm was agreed and signed in meeting.

Consideration was given to a Discharge of Condition application (that Council had not been invited to comment on) relating to the site that seemed to imply an alternative address and potential access, but this was determined to be an administrative issue and not a material change.

**11/09**

**Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Letter providing details on the Hedgehogs R Us Highways Project and seeking donations.

Invitation to a training session on 'Understanding Affordable Housing for Parish & Town Councils'.

Trow Magazine.

Councils Connected newsletter.

Information on the Interim Review of Polling Districts and Places 2023.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Invitation to training course on Health & Safety for Parish Councils.

Notification that GAPTC had appointed a new CEO following the departure of Alison Robinson.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

**12/09**

**Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report.**

All Parish related Chairman's matters had been considered during the meeting other than in regard to the Playing Field Pavilion. Cllr Jones provided a short update particularly focusing on issues concerning the disconnection and temporary relocation of services that had been completed. This was followed by a brief summary of District Council matters.

District & County Cllr Stephen Davies was present and gave a report on County Council matters (this agenda item was taken out of turn to allow Cllr Davies to make his report and leave) including:

- Tour of Britain cycle race would pass through the County the following Saturday.
- Climate Change - £250,00 allocated to education.
- County Economic Plan.
- Adult Social Care – further improvements and funding.
- Firefighters – a national challenge competition had been won while internal investigations were ongoing.
- Children's Services - continue to improve.
- Trading Standards – focusing on illegal vapes.

**13/09**

**Other Business**

Severn Voice – Cllr Jones gave a brief update on the meeting hosted by the Council – details had previously been circulated.

Cllr Paynter asked if Council might consider a Freedom of Information Act request be submitted to Gloucestershire Constabulary asking for the data relating to speed checks conducted on the periphery of Gloucester, where there is not understood to be a record of vehicle accidents, compared with the data that would determine the needs for any speed monitoring in Whitminster and around the A38 crossroads in particular

**14/09**

**Future Agenda Items**

Future of the Parish Church.

Potential upgrading of A38 bus shelters.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:08pm.

**CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.**