

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER, 2023.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting including the one member of the public in attendance.

Public Forum

The member of the public present was afforded the opportunity to raise any matters or concerns but declined the opportunity.

00/12

Present

There were 6 Parish Councillors present including Councillors Jones (Chairman), Braidford, Douglas, Mrs Gilmore, Hay & Mrs Younger. The Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.

01/12

Apologies

There was an apology received and accepted from Cllr Paynter as he was absent visiting relatives.

02/12

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jones, Douglas & Cllr Mrs Gilmore declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to agenda item 13 (i) Playing Field Pavilion, arising due to their involvement with the Whitminster Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee. However, it was noted that the decision to proceed and support the project, through the submission of the planning application for the new building, had already been made. Therefore, there were no contentious or potentially conflicting matters to discuss.

Cllr Mrs Younger declared an interest relating to a planning application to be considered relating to Stonelea, School Lane as this was a neighbouring property to her residential address.

03/12

Minutes

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

03/11 Minutes – 7th line – ‘bene’ changed to read ‘been’.

06/11 Planning – Local Plan & Other Planning Matters -87th line – ‘tress’ changed to read ‘trees’.

10/11 Accounts – 1st line – ‘£63.839.02’ changed to read ‘£63,839.02’.

10/11 Accounts – 11th line – ‘bene’ changed to read ‘been’.

04/12

Matters Arising

Cllr Jones asked Cllr Hay if he had an idea of the timescale during which he would look to install the remaining replacement noticeboard with the help of Cllr Paynter. He responded that he hoped this would be done over the Christmas holiday period.

05/12

Police & Community Safety Issues

On the matter of the Playing Field Pavilion break-in, as reported by Cllr Jones at numerous previous meetings and reaffirmed again, 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 but it remained that case that still no further update had been received.

There had been nothing further received from Area Highways Manager, Gary Wilson, concerning amendments to and potential adoption of the alterations to the A38/Grove Lane junction. It was agreed that he should be pursued to request a site meeting in the New Year to discuss this and other highway matters.

Gabrielle Webb of Stroud District Council had been provided with a copy of the Village Emergency Plan for her to review, advise and to provide templates for possible approaches to updating. Dates were discussed to arrange a meeting but they had not proved convenient and alternative proposals were awaited. However, it was suggested that she simply be asked to send over some suitable templates of more recently completed Plans that could be used to refer to.

There was no Police presence at the meeting and no reports had been received from the local PCSO or Neighbourhood Warden but a request had been received to circulate an appeal for witnesses to an assault that took place in the area of the War Memorial on Tuesday 25th April at 8:30pm. This was following an incident in the Whitminster Inn.

The Clerk reported that a grit bin had been ordered in order to store the village central supply of road salt in the Village Hall car park and whilst it should have been delivered it was yet to arrive. This had been funded by a donation from Frampton Country Fair.

Under this item there was also a discussion concerning water pressure following an email received from residents of Upton's Garden. The problem concerned the upper floor of a 3-storey townhouse and it was understood that neighbouring properties experienced a similar issue. Council was not aware of any general problem in the village and most present commented on how good their water pressure was. Therefore, it was felt to be a localised issue that those impacted should raise with Severn Trent directly.

06/12

Planning

Decisions to Note

There were no formal decisions to note. However, Cllr Jones informed the meeting that the Solar Farm Discharge of Conditions – Construction Management Plan had been approved. This was not something that Parish Councils would normally be consulted on and hence Council had not been asked to comment. Cllr Jones looked up and circulated the application reference details for anyone who wished to review the information.

Applications to Consider

S.23.2174/HHOLD 19 Little Holbury, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of a single storey front extension.

Council considered the proposals to enhance the appearance of the building and street scene; to be in line with similar alterations to nearby properties and to be of no detriment to neighbouring houses and hence supported the application.

S.23/2357/HHOLD Stonelea, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of single storey extension.

Cllr Mrs Younger again declared that she resided next to the subject property but nevertheless said that she supported the application. It was understood to be submitted to allow adaptations to the living accommodation of the property to be better suited for the owner, having reduced mobility. The changes would be to the rear of the house and Council could not foresee any detrimental impact to either neighbouring property and therefore resolved to support the application.

APP/C1625/W/23/3326605 Land to the South of Prestwick Terrace, Whitminster, Glos.

Residential development of up to 3 no. dwellings.

An appeal had been submitted in respect of this site. Council had objected previously on the basis of the site being outside of the defined settlement boundary. It was agreed that Council's previous comments be reaffirmed and carried forward to the appeal with nothing further to add.

S.23/2242/FUL Playing Field, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire - Erection of a single storey sports pavilion/community building – The Parish Council had submitted this application and confirmed its support. Issues had been raised by Sport England who had been consulted on the application. As a result detailed internal layout drawings were being obtained from the proposed manufacturer.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

There was no direct update from the District Council concerning the major sites proposed within the village but further comments could be seen by anyone interested on the Planning Portal. On the matter of the possibility of seeking the application of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees located on the Grove End Farm site, it was hoped that Cllr Paynter would be able to take a walk around the site in the near future.

There was nothing further received from planning Enforcement.

Cllr Douglas commented on the works carried out to the drive leading to Packthorne Farm and it was agreed that a watching brief be maintained.

07/12

Highways & Byways

It remained the case that nothing more had been heard on the matter of the Community Speedwatch fund and this was an experience shared by many other parishes.

On the subject of a new salt bin for the Village Hall, this had been covered under Community Safety matters above.

Localised flooding was noted as becoming more of an issue, especially at Packthorne Corner and Whitminster Lane from Sandfurlong. It was agreed that this should be raised with the Area Highways Manager when next meeting with him along with the condition of the A38 pavements South of the crossroads.

It was noted that Tom Barrett remained the Water Resources Engineer at Stroud District Council.

There was some discussion that work had perhaps been done to the lane between Hyde Lane and Jaxons Farm but no one could be sure.

08/12

Skate Ramp

To progress matters a new bank account was needed that could be easily accessed to set up Direct Debits to repay loans and receive funds. This was being progressed.

09/12

Solar Farm

There was nothing further to report other than the matters detailed in planning above and the fact that some of the relevant fields appeared to have been recently sown as grass. A watching brief to be maintained.

10/12

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

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

T. W Hawkins & Sons (S.G.M.S.)	Grass cutting	£796:30
Whitminster Village Hall	Hall hire	£45:00
G.A.P.T.C.	Annual Membership	£259:83
Clerk's Expenses	Planning Application & Grit Bin	£939:01

Under this item Cllr Jones highlighted the cost of maintaining the electricity supply for the defibrillator at the Playing Field, following the demolition of the Pavilion, as running at £20 per

month. It was agreed that this would be paid for in the interim by the Parish Council if an invoice were to be submitted.

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was remained as £62,731:98 following the receipt of a donation of £200:00 from Frampton Country Fair.

A receipt had been received for the Council's donation of £50:00 to the Poppy Appeal.

Nothing further had been heard on the matter of the Audit and Tax Base & Precept paper for the 2024/2025 financial year were awaited from Stroud District Council.

The opening of a new bank account with Natwest was proceeding. The number of signatories would have to be limited to 4 and it was agreed that these should be Cllrs Jones, Hay, Mrs Younger and the Clerk.

11/12

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Severn Voice – Agenda for meeting that had taken place on 15th November.

Update on Casual Vacancies and the 6 Month Rule now approaching potential PC elections.

Cotswold Canals Connected update including details on towpath closures.

Comprehensive Bus Shelter Maintenance proposal.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow Magazine.

Councils Connected newsletter.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

12/12

Chairman's Items & District Councillor's Report.

Most Parish related Chairman's matters had been considered during the meeting and Cllr Jones had nothing to add relating to District Council matters other than to say he would be meeting the following day with Severn Trent, along with Cllr Davies and the Chair of Frampton PC. This meeting would mainly focus on the impact of potential further development in the locality.

13/12

Other Business

A further discussion was had concerning a potential replacement North Bound A38 bus shelter and it was agreed that a formal quotation should be obtained.

Cllr Douglas gave a brief update on church matters including the fact that a new Rector was being appointed the following day but to be viable this meant that the number of churches they were to be responsible for would be doubled. Details for the Christmas service were confirmed.

14/12

Future Agenda Items

Future of the Parish Church.

Potential upgrading of A38 bus shelters.

Playing Field Pavilion.

2024 Budget & Grant Applications.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:51pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 3rd January, 2024.