

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN WHITMINSTER VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2024.

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 had nothing that she wished to discuss.

00/02

Present

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

01/02

Apologies

There was an apology received and accepted from Cllr Braidford as his wife was overseas and he had been unable to arrange childcare for the evening.

02/02

Declarations of Interest

None relating to agenda items.

03/02

Minutes

The Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the one following amendment:

Final page – Meeting closing time – changed to read ‘8:59pm’ from ‘8:9pm’.

04/02

Matters Arising

Cllr Jones asked Cllrs Paynter & Hay if they had an idea of the timescale during which they would look to install the remaining replacement noticeboard. They confirmed they had not forgotten the matter and had planned to do so on Friday but the weather had been very poor. They would aim to get it fitted as soon as possible.

Cllr Paynter commented on how expensive replacement bus shelters were based on the budget figures so far suggested. He said he would still look to obtain a price from local fabricators and the matter would return to future agendas.

05/02

Police & Community Safety Issues

Cllr Jones informed the meeting that there was not presently a dedicated Neighbourhood Warden for the Parish but the area would be covered by others until a new recruit could be selected and trained up. No update had been received from the Police and sample Emergency Plans were awaited. A copy of the plan for Frampton-on-Severn would be requested.

In regard to safety related highway matters, a response had been received from the Area Highways Manager, Gary Wilson, in reply to a request for a site meeting. This was to take place on Thursday 29th February convening at the Village Hall at 11am.

Cllr Mrs Younger confirmed that she had investigated the potential use of the Playing Field defibrillator, as alerted by The Circuit, and found there to be no issue and it hadn't been used. An update had been issued.

06/02

Planning

Decisions to Note

Whitminster Sports Club, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

S.23/2242/FUL Erection of a replacement single storey timber sports pavilion/community building.
Permission granted.

Land at Upton's Garden, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

S.24/0011/MINAM Non-material amendment to application S.21/2010/FUL – substitution of house type on plot 6 only.

Council had not been consulted on this application and it appeared that this was a change to include once larger house type, although justification was suggested on the basis of installing solar panels. Permission had been granted.

Church Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

S.23/2345/VAR Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) and Conditions 3 & 4 (Permanent Retention of Proposed Substation) of Permitted Application S.22/2098/VAR – The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning for a renewable energy scheme of up to 49.9 megawatt (MW) solar farm and up to a 49.9MW battery storage facility.

Withdrawn.

Stonelea, School Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

S.23/2357/HHOLD Erection of a single storey extension.
Permission granted.

The approved plans and decision notice relating to Land at Upton's Garden S.21/2010/FUL, previously notified, was also circulated.

Applications to Consider

Application No. S.24/0012/FUL

Highfield Garden World, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire

Erection of an extension to existing warehouse, erection of a service canopy and recladding of existing warehouse.

Council resolved to support the application being of the view that this is an existing developed area being put to business use and this will remain unchanged; the proposed materials are in keeping with those used in the existing structures; this will enable an established local employer and contributor to the local economy to continue to grow and would appear to have no potential detrimental impact on the adjacent residential properties.

Application No. S.24/0028/HHOLD

May View Cottage, Bristol Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire

Erection of a two storey rear extension.

Council resolved to support the application being of the view that whilst this substantially increases the size of the dwelling the plot is of an appropriate size and the design is in keeping with the adopted

Whitminster Village design Statement. It was also considered that that development will be of no detriment to the nearby residential properties nor the Canal Industrial Heritage Conservation Area. However, Council resolved to ask that appropriate conditions are applied that all construction vehicles must be parked off of the public highway and not obstructing the adjacent A38 lay-by.

Application No. S.24/0079/HHOLD

The Weir Cottage, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Erection of a single storey extension. Replacement roof and alterations to fenestration.

Council resolved to support the application being of the view that the nature and scale of the proposed development was appropriate to the plot, in keeping and of no detriment to neighbouring properties nor the wider setting.

Application No. S.24/0123/OHL

National Grid Replacement Tower, Whitminster Lane, Whitminster, Gloucestershire.

Construct a replacement tower with two new wood pole gantries where a short length of cable will be installed down to the bottom of the tower to serve as a point of connection. Existing tower PDD/PWY19 to be dismantled and replaced with new tower PDD/PWY19R.

Council resolved to oppose this application on the basis that it should have been submitted as part of the original solar farm application so the full wider implications could be considered and fundamentally due to the impact on the setting of the Village Church, other Listed Buildings and the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area.

Local Plan & Other Planning Matters

On the Local Plan there had been no new developments, although an Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council had taken place on 25th January, called for by the Conservative Group, to seek accountability on the current process. Those that had witnessed the meeting observed that they did so having very little confidence in the ability of the officers to deliver what the Planning Inspectors had requested.

There was nothing further received from Planning Enforcement following on from the most recent communication prompted by Cllr Jones.

Cllr Paynter advised that he had not forgotten to inspect the trees currently located on the Grove Lane site and would do so as soon as the weather improves.

07/02

Highways & Byways

As reported at the last meeting, correspondence had finally been received on the matter of the Community Speedwatch Fund with further details requested on suitable sites for the equipment to be located. A minimum of three had been requested and these would be verified to ensure suitability before the matter could proceed. The Clerk had identified 12 locations that had been submitted for consideration.

Cllr Paynter advised that he had received no acknowledgement from the Water Resources Engineer at Stroud District Council, Tom Barrett, in response to his request to discuss the various issues that had been raised recently concerning flooding. Localised flooding continued to be an issue, especially at Packthorne Corner and Whitminster Lane from Sandfurlong. It was agreed that this should also be raised with the Area Highways Manager along with a list of other matters at the meeting to be held on 29th February detailed under Item 05/02 above.

Cllr Paynter reported on footpath matters and circulated details of a number of obstructions and other issues he had reported on-line. He also reported on the response he had received clarifying that it is not an offence to ride a horse on a footpath, with only the landowner being in a position to take any action, and that the prospect of brush cutter training was back on the horizon.

It was noted that a road closure was to be applied to Hyde Lane 19th to 23rd February to facilitate a new sewer connection.

08/02

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 with the initial application submitted to Natwest and sample signatures were being processed. There had been an initial delay due to Cllr Douglas not holding an email address. Cllr Jones shared details of the Exolum contact that had been helpful concerning the Playing Field Pavilion application as their input would also be required on the final detail in siting.

09/02

Solar Farm

There was nothing further to report for the time being in addition to planning matters discussed above. An invoice had been raised for the financial contribution now that works were commencing on site in some measure.

10/02

Accounts

Accounts for Payment

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association – Annual Membership	£50.00
Whitminster Sports Club – Defibrillator Electricity Usage	£44.19

Other Financial Matters

The balance at the bank was £60,522:84 as at the date of the meeting.

In regard to Audit, a request for additional information had been addressed.

11/01

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:

Severn Voice meeting details.

Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine.

Trow Magazine.

Councils Connected newsletter.

Stroud District Council eNews.

Climate Change Community Fund details.

Details of a meeting concerning the Parish election process.

Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme Update Issue No. 6.

Other electronic correspondence had been circulated between meetings.

12/02

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 as Ebley Mill that hadn't been covered in discussions concerning planning matters.

13/02

Other Business

None.

14/01

Future Agenda Items

Parish Elections

Donations

Emergency Plan

Bus Shelter

Annual Parish Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:05pm.

CHAIRMAN – Wednesday 6th March, 2024.