

WHITBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on
THURSDAY 3rd March 2016 at Whitbourne Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Williams (Chairman), Cllr R James (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs P Wood, C White, N Knight, G Cupper.

In attendance: Cllr N Shaw (Ward Councillor), Mrs M Seldon (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

CSO Steph Annette visited the meeting and spoke and answered questions before the meeting started.

19/16 To accept **apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs A Evans, J Bromley and J Cummins

20/16 To receive **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared

21/16 To approve **Minutes of the Meeting:**

Thursday 28th January 2016

Proposed Cllr Knight, seconded Cllr Woods and **RESOLVED**

22/16 Clerk's Report: Update on discussions from the January meetings and other matters for information only

- Her Majesty's 90th birthday – Civic service idea – Cllr Williams 12th June or/and an appropriate rose

23/16 To receive the **Ward Councillor's Report**

- Weston Under Penyard NDP approved and possibly adopted at Council meeting 04/12/2016
- CIL – comes into effect approx. 1st January 2017 – by which time the Whitbourne NDP will be in place and so the Parish Council will be able to spend 25%, and Herefordshire Council will spend 75%. This can be used in conjunction with each other – collaboration, etc. Details are still being decided.
- Balfour Beatty
- Community Champions
- Section 106 – Cllr Shaw had approached various people in Hereford Council to 'sound them out' about the Parish Council's previous ideas. Cllr James asked about the Church being able to apply to improve access. Cllr Woods asked for an update on the categories
- Cllr Williams – asked about fly-tipping opposite Tiblands- this should have been reported to Environmental Health
- Herefordshire farms owned by the Council – what is Cllr Shaw's attitude to tenant farmers? There was some discussion and further questions about this.

The Chairman asked for the meeting to be opened to the public. Proposed Cllr Cupper and seconded Cllr Woods and **RESOLVED**. Richard Freeman asked about the average rents of the farms in question and whether it would be possible to increase the rents and gain income that way. Cllr Shaw said he would find out. He also said that the council had not maintained the properties. Council needs asset value of the land to use for other areas of responsibility.

24/16 **Financial Matters:**

a) To approve accounts for payment:

Mary Seldon (Salary) 11 12	348.06
HMRC PAYE 11 12	87.00
Mary Seldon expenses	50.00
M Williams (NDP)	19.98

Proposed for payment Cllr Cupper, seconded Cllr Woods and **RESOLVED**

- b) To approve Bank Reconciliation to 3rd March 2016
- c) To approve Income and Expenditure to 3rd March 2016
Both documents had been distributed to councillors at the meeting. The Clerk explained entries and how spending had been managed in the financial year.
- d) To consider grass cutting contract for 2016/17
3 quotes had been sought but only one submitted.
Proposed Cllr James, seconded Cllr Woods and **RESOLVED.**
£1,120 Derek Williams

25/16 To receive an update on the **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Williams reported that all comments had been received and taken into consideration for the draft. The Clerk to order an up to date copy of the Local Core Strategy – this would be necessary for future development.

Cllr Knight asked why all parish councillors had not been invited to the meeting where the comments that had been received and discussed as the rest of the process had been transparent.

Cllr Woods – a minor amendment proposed – final sentence on page 16 – ‘historic’ not history.

Propose that this Council formally submit the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Herefordshire Council in accordance with Regulation 15. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Cupper, 5 for and 1 abstention.

The Clerk to send this to NDP department – Gemma Webster.

26/16 To receive brief verbal reports:

a) **School Buildings**

A great deal of correspondence re: school buildings on the website. Cllr Woods reported and gave an update. The Parish Council is unlikely to have any form of ownership. The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) feel they don't have the power for a restrictive covenant to stop demolition. DBF have received planning advice from Herefordshire Council – who have said they wouldn't support any application that called for demolition of the older buildings – although this may not be the case as this was pre-planning advice only. The joint working party might write back to the DBF and ask for the restrictive covenant – as the planning considerations is what had previously stopped them.

Cllr Williams asked if there were any questions from the parish councillors. Cllr Knight spoke about undesignated historic assets – however, if not listed it is not a crime to demolish. Cllr Cupper felt that conversion was much more likely.

Cllr Williams asked that the meeting be opened to the public. Proposed Cllr Woods, seconded Cllr White and **RESOLVED.**

Mr Kneen spoke and said he agreed with Cllr Cupper and that a conversion was more likely. Cllr Woods felt that all possibilities should be covered and then the community would know that everything possible had been done and thus stay true to the position.

Mrs Lane asked about the school building being named in the Neighbourhood Development Plan as this would help – and Cllr Williams confirmed this had been added.

b) **Rosemore Grange**

Cllr Knight had been trying to get answers to all the previously asked questions with regard to this building.

The Clerk to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council – Mark Tansley Enforcement Officer

c) **The Village Hall**

9 regular weekly bookings and weddings were now being booked. Profit and loss account had been viewed at the previous meeting and a profit was made this year.

d) **Playing Fields**

Clive Pickering was to submit a report about playing field, but in its absence Cllr Knight gave a brief report.

The meeting in February had not voted in any officers. There was some concern about the hedge needing cutting and there was some discussion about the correct time of year. Removal of litter bin as this was not

being used for the correct purpose.

Cllr Williams was concerned that the lease was not being adhered to and this was very disappointing. Cllr Williams to see Mr Pickering and speak to him about commitments.

e) War Memorial

Draft proposal had been made available to the public and feedback received. There was some discussion as to the way forward for this and it was hoped that the working party could make some decisions and then they would present it to the parish council for approval. Cllr Williams suggested that this could be delegated to the working party in order that this be completed so that the area be ready for the summer visitors.

Working party to get a formal plan drawn up and a formal quote.

27/16 **Public Question Time** – the public are allowed 10 minutes to address the council

There were no questions

28/16 To report **matters of concern** within the village

- **Top Lane** – full of pot-holes and slippery tarmac:
- 2 opposite bottom lodge at the bottom of C1066
- Smeeth's Corner to Rosemore
- Top Lane – edge of road has disappeared
- Bottom by the ford – road coming back to Highfields
- Stocking Gobbetts by oak tree that fell over – blocked gully – entrance to Stocking Lane
- Stocking Lane – half way down outside Little Stocking Cottage – there is now a traffic cone in the middle.
- A44 – opposite Moor Court

Action:

The Clerk to write to Sir Nicholas about the state of the road past the church, please attend.

The Clerk to write to Welsh Water

- Location of the proposed postal bus – this is deemed to be unsafe
- Churchbank has not been touched due to the weather. Mr Richards will do when asked, but this will not be until the primroses have finished flowering.
- Public notice put on bus shelter about 420 service. Twice been defaced which is disappointing and appears to be not the work of a child. This appeared to be a personal grudge which was disappointing.

Agenda for May meeting: Final approval of work for War Memorial

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm

NEXT MEETINGS: WEDNESDAY 11th MAY
Annual Parish Meeting: 7pm and Annual Council Meeting 7.30pm