

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on 15th March 2021

Attendance:

Note: Attendance was by remote video conferencing as necessitated by the Covid-19 lockdown.

Present: R James (Chair); J. Bromley (JB); G. Cupper (GC); T Hunt (TH); P. Wood (PDW); M. Clark (MC); C. Wier (CW); P. Davis (PD); S. Knowles (SK)

In Attendance: Ward Councillor Nigel Shaw (NS), K Phillips (Clerk). 24 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence:

All Councillors were present

2. To receive declarations of interest:

RJ declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 5b and 5c. He would continue to chair the meeting but not make comment nor vote on these items. In the event of a tied vote, the vice chair (JB) would make the casting vote. This was accepted by Councillors. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting: 3rd March 2021

Proposed CW, seconded GC. All in favour. Approved.

4. Matters arising from above minutes

RJ noted with sadness that the newly erected bus shelter on Bringsty Common had been vandalised.

5. Planning

a) Planning consultation - 210348 - The Hollies, The Gaines Road, Whitbourne

It was noted that this property is just outside the parish of Whitbourne. It was proposed PDW and seconded JB that no comment be made on this application. All in favour. Decided.

b) Planning consultation - 210527 - Crumplebury Farm, Whitbourne

It was proposed by SK and seconded by CW that the meeting should be opened to the public. All in favour. RJ then opened the meeting to the public and invited the applicant to address the Parish Council. The applicant provided the background to this application. He also noted that he had been contacted by the Environmental Health Department at Herefordshire Council to attend the site and surrounding area and dwellings to undertake noise checks and examine the fabric of the building. This would take place on the 18th March 2021. The music would be played at its loudest for the testing. The applicant then answered some question from Councillors. Members of the public were then invited to address comments to the Parish Council. RJ then closed the meeting to the public once all points had been aired. RJ then invited PDW to summarise the situation with regard to the legal complexities. RJ thanked PDW for his legal appraisal and there being no further comments JB proposed to oppose this application (seconded by SK). RJ did not vote. Remainder in favour. Decided. PDW kindly agreed to provide briefing notes to be passed to Herefordshire Council.

c) Planning consultation - 210640 - Crumplebury Farm, Whitbourne

It was proposed by PDW and seconded by MC that the meeting should be opened to the public. All in favour. RJ then opened the meeting to the public and invited the applicant to address the Parish Council. The applicant provided the background to this application. Members of the public were then invited to address comments to the Parish Council. There being no further comments, RJ closed the meeting to the public. After a short discussion it was proposed by PDW and seconded by SK that this application be opposed. Seven in favour with one abstention. RJ did not vote. Decided.

6. To decide upon offer concerning the nature zone land adjacent to Playing Fields

It was proposed by CW and seconded by PDW that the meeting should be opened to the public. All in favour. RJ then opened the meeting to the public and invited Mr J. Evans to address the Parish Council. Mr Evans had suggested the option now that the tenant farmer arrangements were changing. He felt it was a good opportunity for a group within Whitbourne to utilise and maintain the space for all parishioners. He agreed that there was no immediate urgency to respond to the offer and that a side-letter could be agreed such that if in the future no groups would maintain it, then the use of the land would revert back to Whitbourne Estate. There being no further questions, RJ closed the meeting to the public. PDW thanks Mr Evans for his generosity in this matter. It was agreed that an article in the parish magazine would be a good place to attract possible groups to maintain the area as a place of solitude and study.

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7. Public participation

- Regarding the above nature zone it was pointed out that if the land were gifted then the boundaries would need to be redrawn, which would attract legal expenses. Mr Evans emphasised that this was not a gift of land but the use of the land, perhaps with an annual peppercorn rent.
- Mowing of verges. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 22:34.

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Chairman – 15th March 2021