

WHITBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM IN WHITBOURNE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

The Meeting was preceded at 7pm with a Presentation by Studio Smith Architects for proposed new dwelling for land adjacent to Stocking Gobbets

Present: Cllr M Williams (Chairman), Cllr R James (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs J Bromley, P Wood, H Cupper, N Knight, C White, A Evans and J Cummins

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

15/14 To accept **Apologies for Absence**
There were none to receive

15/15 To receive **Declarations of Interest**
No Declarations of Interest were received

15/16 To approve **Minutes of the Meeting** held on:
Tuesday 3rd September 2015
Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr Wood and **RESOLVED**

15/17 To receive the **Clerk's Report:**

- Lengthsman Work - the Clerk had asked Balfour Beatty what the work schedule should be for the Lengthsman Scheme in Whitbourne 2015/16, but had received no reply.
- HALC - there had been some communication with HALC as they had asked why their payment for temporarily clerking a meeting had not been paid, and the Clerk had asked where the Minutes of that meeting were in order that they may be properly filed. There had been no forthcoming answer.
- Events Management - the Clerk had attended a useful session in Events Management organised by the SLCC. Notes were available should any councillors be interested.
- SLCC Roadshow - the Clerk was due to attend a day-long conference on Wednesday 25th November.

15/18 **Financial Matters:**

a) To approve accounts for payment:

Mary Seldon Net Salary 06 07: £348.06

HMRC PAYE 06 07 £87.00

Whitbourne DCC: £1,250.00

M Williams (NDP expenses): £34.98

D Williams: £64.00

Whitbourne Village Hall £27.00

Christmas Tree: £20.00 (donated by Cllr Cupper, to spare Parish Council Expense)

Bringsty Common Manorial Court Donation: £200.00

BCTC Printing £5.00

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

- b) To approve bank reconciliation of 5th November 2015
- c) To approve Income and Expenditure of 5th November 2015

APPROVED by all.

- d) To discuss and approve the **Budget 2016/17**

A precept of £9,500 was proposed by Cllr James, seconded Cllr Cummins and **RESOLVED**.

There was some discussion about the Lengthsman allocation and whether this should form part of the budget. The Clerk was asked to take this out and make this contingency.

It was discussed as to whether, using the Lengthsman Scheme, it would be possible to employ a contractor to do the odd jobs. The Clerk advised that this would need the councillors to liaise with the Clerk, and all work to come through the Clerk.

- e) To discuss any **donation requests** received

- 1st Responder – there had previously been a letter from the First Responder asking for financial help for the new additional First Responder. The Parish Council, whilst voting to give £100 initially, were unable through statute to give this money to an individual and so had asked for a group to whom the cheque be made payable. There had not yet been a response.
The Parish Council were also anxious to give a larger donation, should there be a gap in the required sum and had asked the First Responder to come along to the meeting. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend and so no decision could be reached on this occasion.

15/19 To receive **Ward Councillor's Report**

- Herefordshire Public Green Spaces Grant Scheme £250-£750 – application by January.
- Devolution plans – coming down from Westminster. Herefordshire Council exploring options with neighbouring counties. Collaborative work – at present with Worcester on waste.
- County farms – although starting to sell these off – there are none in Whitbourne
- Budget – consultation – full council in January
- Roads repaired in village, plus new drain
- Rosemoor Grange (this needs to form part of the agenda in future). This is still on-going. Property still well used and action does need to be taken.
- 106 agreement – no further news about where this will be spent. Parish could come forward with ideas. Agenda for next time.
- Additional duties on council – supporting the leader in financial issues

15/20 To receive reports from **Outside Bodies** and receive updates on agreed decisions:

a) **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Cummins reported that bookings were up and everything going on very well.

b) **Playing Fields Committee** – Cllr Williams reported that Mr Clive Pickering was now the new Chairman. The next meeting would take place on 9th November at 8pm and all councillors were welcome to attend. Cllr Williams thanked Cllr Knight for all the work he had done. Cllr Knight asked the Clerk if there was any news on a RoSPA inspection and the Clerk explained that Herefordshire Council had contacted the previous Playing Field Committee asking if an inspection was required and received no answer. She would now ask for someone to come and do it as soon as possible.

It was also asked if consideration be given to the removal of the litter bin that had been a problem.

c) **School Buildings** – The Diocesan Office has been contacted and asked if they would organise a public meeting so that the public can hear what's happening and a small group were going to the Bishop's Palace to discuss the situation on 30th November.

Cllr Shaw suggested that it might be possible to apply for this to be a community asset and offered to send councillors details.

The question was asked as to whether this building is an important part of the social history of the village, in which case the building could be listed so that a developer would be restricted with what he was able to do.

15/21 To receive update on the **Neighbourhood Plan**

- New planning expert replacing Nigel Bannister. The NDP working party had a lot of extra work to complete and were being ably assisted by the new officer.
- Getting ready for Regulation 14 – this may need to be included in a Parish Council meeting in December.

15/22 To report **village issues** regarding road maintenance, clearance, etc.

- War Memorial – A member of the public was thanked for working on the area to tidy it up for Remembrance Sunday. It was suggested there be a working party to make the whole area smaller and the garden area needs revamping. This needs to be the centre piece of the village. Cllrs Cummins, James, Cupper and Knight, plus members of the village volunteered.
- PC Welcome Pack – held with Anne Evans – please tell her if there are any new people in the village.
- Speed on the road past Live and Let Live – lit up speeding signs – could this be 106 money. White line needed to designate road and car park (Cllr Shaw to contact the relevant parties). The Clerk was asked to request that Balfour Beatty remove school signs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be unable to reduce speed limit, but could buy some signs with 106 monies)
- Letter to Balfour Beatty – letter thanking them for working beyond the call the duty.
- Church Bank – Cllr Williams asked to make sure cut in November due to primroses. Philip Richards as last year. Needs to be done in December – the Clerk to chase up.
- The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Ken Nason (website) – thanking him for his work.
- Harpers – new building site working outside hours – please contact.
- Harpers – mud on road – outside Live and Let Live – dangerous for motor bikes – also contact Balfour Beatty
- Street Light – 10 Meadow Green – on steps, needs replacing
- Correspondence: Liz Cousins, letter to be brought to the attention of the councillor. Request – minutes into magazine, but they need to be ratified and they would be too long. Clerk to do a report.
- Blocked gullies and drains outside church – report these again. This is now a matter of urgency.
- Salt facilities Sneed's Corner
- 21st May – still waiting for Minutes – need to be on website – and they will be difficult to approve. Send a letter to HALC. No paper work for this. Ask for copy of their complaints procedure.
- Noticeboard – Ron has cleaned glass. Wood protection needed.
- Ford – dispute between owners of Ford Cottage and those wishing to pass over their land to reach their own land.

15/23 Public Participation – members of the public are allowed 10 minutes to address the Council

- Sarah Lane – spoke about the School Buildings as her house was next door to the old site, and expressed her concern that this could be a site for development very quickly, and she felt that the building was at risk.
Ministry of environment – deemed at risk, by virtue of fact it is about to be sold. Hazel Nash or Kate Graham – Conservation HC – Cllr Shaw to speak to either.
Representative from residents near school need to go – 30th November
- It was asked that the Clerk ensured that Agendas were put onto the website – and hard copies be brought along to the meeting for members of the public.
- Repeater sign by Live and Let Live to help reduce speed was suggested. Cllr Shaw to find out about the possibility of traffic calming on this stretch.

- Grit bins – smashed to bits. If serviceable we need to keep them. Need to tell Cathy Berkeley.
The Clerk was asked to find grit bin survey completed by the previous Clerk and pass to Cllr White.

15/24 Items for the next agenda

- 106 monies – wish list
- report on school buildings