

WHITBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th November at 7.30pm in Whitbourne Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr R Freeman (Chairman), Cllr M Williams (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs R James, J Cummins, C White G Cupper, N Westacott, J Archer

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr G Swinford (Ward Councillor), CSO S Annette (beginning of meeting only) and Mrs Mary Seldon (Clerk), 2 members of the public - Mr and Mrs Kenwright

13/87 To accept **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr D Haddock

13/88 To receive **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cummins: 13/92 Whitbourne Church

13/89 To approve the **Minutes of the Meeting** held on:
Tuesday 3rd September

Proposed Cllr Williams, Seconded Cllr Cupper, AGREED by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

13/90 To receive the **Clerk's Report**

- 4 Seasons Contract – The Clerk had tried to contact the company via telephone and email, but had not yet been able to speak to anyone about the contract.
- Bridge archive – nothing had been received for this.
- SLCC Conference and bursary – the Clerk had applied to go to the Regional Conference for the SLCC in Cheltenham and had also applied for a NALC bursary to help towards the costs.
- Printing of the Neighbourhood Plan for community update – a quotation had been given to Cllr Williams and the Clerk was asked to get the job completed later in November.
- War memorial restoration update – nothing to report.
- Grass cutting grant – the Clerk had applied for this, but would not have any news until the next financial year.
- Herefordshire Council Budget Consultation
- CiLCA – a resit had been completed, but results were not yet known.

The Chairman asked if the agenda might be interrupted to allow CSO Steph Annette to speak. Proposed: Cllr Archer, seconded Cllr Westacott. CSO Annette gave an update of the changes in local policing and answered questions from councillors.

13/91 To vote on the **settlement boundary** issue for Whiteacres

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr and Mrs Kenwright which answered some questions they had been asked by councillors.

Cllr Archer read out a statement from Yvonne Coleman and expressed concern that any decisions made by the Parish Council might have future financial implications, but was reassured that this would not be the case.

There was some discussion before Cllr Williams proposed that the settlement boundary should be kept as it is, Cllr James seconded this. Vote: 5 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.
Motion carried.

13/92 **Financial Matters:**

a) To approve **accounts for payment:**

Mary Seldon Net Salary 07 08: £348.57

HMRC PAYE 07 08: £80.00

Expenses incurred by the Clerk: Travel for ½ year 80 miles @ 45p: £36.00

Postage £7.20

Hire of Church: £13.00

Huw Davis: £80.00

Whitbourne Church annual donation for upkeep and maintenance: £1250.00

All in favour – accounts approved. Cllr Cummins abstained.

b) To approve **Bank Reconciliation** to 5th November 2013

c) To approve **Income and Expenditure** to 5th November 2013

APPROVED by all.

d) To receive update on progress with Parish Notice Board

Cllr James had started to tidy this up, and Cllr Westacott agreed to look at it in the better weather.

e) To discuss the setting of Precept 2014/15 and approve the proposed budget

The Clerk distributed copies of a proposed budget for the year 2014/15 and this was discussed. It was decided that councillor expenses could be reduced to £50 and the Neighbourhood Plan would a) not need any further budget and, b) had not spent the original agreed allowance.

There was much discussion and it was decided to raise the precept to £9,500 from £9,000.

Proposed Cllr Cummins, seconded Cllr White, **APPROVED** by all

Councillors **AGREED** to revisit the budget in January to ensure matters and future plans had not changed too much.

13/93 To receive **Ward Councillor's Report**

- Budget/Bankruptcy, etc.,
- Balfour Beatty

13/94 **Public Participation** - members of the public are allowed 10 minutes to address the Council

Mr Kenwright referred to the vote on 13/91 and asked if there was a valid planning reason for this decision? Answer - this is Open Countryside.

It was **AGREED** that the boundary did not stop planning being applied for and being granted.

There were no further questions.

13/95 To receive update on the **Neighbourhood Plan**

The draft plan was now ready to be printed and distributed to the community in order that as many people as possible had seen it before the public meeting in January. The Clerk produced a quotation from PIP Printing for this and it was **AGREED**.

Meeting: Wednesday 22nd January 7.30pm PUBLIC MEETING

The Clerk volunteered to take attendees contact details at the beginning of the meeting in addition to taking the minutes of the meeting.

Cllr Williams asked the Clerk to put a notice of the meeting into Whitbourne Parish Magazine and would provide the wording.

13/96 To receive reports from **Outside Bodies:**

- Village Hall – nothing to report
- Playing Fields – Cllr Westacott gave the report. There had been faults with some equipment and Playforce had been to inspect and would replace. Playforce had also had sight of the RoSPA report. Equipment had a 10 year guarantee.
Cllr Williams asked about the landing areas as the matting was breaking up and wanted to know if this was Playforce too and also under the 10 year guarantee.
It was also decided not to trim around posts as this caused damage and water is now getting in. It was agreed that it might be worth putting weed-killer down in future.

13/97 To report **village issues** regarding road maintenance, clearance, etc.

- Cllr Williams asked that all pot holes be reported again to Balfour Beatty.
- Tedney Road needed reporting
- Water - starts at Acreage and comes right down to shop. This is now coming into the shop. Gully between shop entrance and road - because of slop on road the water from highway is coming onto private property. Historical - this has been going on many years.
- Outside church yard - large pothole. This is Welsh Water - contact them. Boundary just past lych gate. Road right up to water works and is a danger.
Cllr Swinford to speak to Goodchap.

13/98 To discuss danger for vehicles exiting Parish Road onto A44 and turning left
There was some discussion about this, but it was felt to be too difficult to change.

13/99 To discuss hedge-cutting on the public highway, with particular reference to the road leading to Tedney.

Cllr Freeman explained that trimming of hedges needed to be done in this area and that this could be causing a problem on the road too. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Herefordshire Council to ask them to contact neighbouring properties. Also the: c1066 from church turning to Tedney.

13/100 Items for future consideration
Proposed budget