

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd August 2011.

A regular Meeting of Whitmore Parish Council was held on Wednesday 3rd August at 7.15 pm in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.

Present.

Councillors Alan Wilkinson (Chairman), Ian Webb, Annette Booth, Audrey Pedley, Nick Hopper, Geoff Corbett, Carl Evans, Bill Murray.

154:8/11. To receive and Approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Frank Chapman, Borough Councillor Ashley Howells and the Village Agent, Debbie Burns.

155:8/11. To receive Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda.

None were declared.

156:8/11. To hold the informal Open Forum.

No parishioners were present, so the Chairman moved on to the next item of business.

157:8/11. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in July 2011.

Cllr Webb proposed, Cllr Corbett seconded, and it was resolved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held in July be approved and signed as a true record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

158:8/11. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes not included in the Agenda.

The Action List from the previous month was considered. Cllr Hopper reported that the latest Newsletter was almost ready for distribution.. The Clerk had made progress with Network Rail regarding the Railway Bridge on Manor Rd. Due to the lack of response from David Greatbatch at Highways it had not been possible to organise an on-site meeting regarding the Access Protection Marker at Station Stores. Councillors were most dissatisfied with this lack of response and requested that the Clerk contact Mike Maryon, the County Councillor Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. Feedback had been received regarding the second pedestrian crossing in Baldwins Gate; Mr Newton had reported that there had been a request for this some time ago; this had failed because it was felt there could be a potential danger with traffic coming round the bend at the western end of Baldwins Gate and endangering traffic stationary because of the pedestrian crossing. It was felt that as this matter had originally been raised by Mrs. Kennedy of Waters' Edge, Whitmore Parish Council should wait for her response before moving on with this matter.

Cllr Pedley had spoken to residents who bordered the Recreation Ground about cutting hedges; all that she had been able to contact were happy to permit this.

159:8/11. To consider Highway Matters.

Updates from the Highways Hotline (CLARENCE), prepared by Cllr Webb, were distributed, showing progress on Highway matters affecting Whitmore Parish. Cllr Corbett had reported a problem with the pedestrian crossing; the number given for this was 11106111.

160:8/11. To consider Anti-Social behaviour and Community Policing Matters.

There was nothing to report.

161:8/11. To receive Reports from County and Borough Councillors.

Cllr Murray reported on a meeting called by County Councillor Chapman to discuss the situation regarding changes to the 164/64 bus services and timetabling issues. This had been attended by representatives from neighbouring parishes, representatives from the Bus Company, the Council and the 'Sentinel'. Cllr Murray had been pleased by the united front that the parishes had presented and he was pleased with the progress of the Meeting. Arriva had agreed to produce a brochure publicising attractions along the bus route. Whitmore Parish Council were unanimous that County Cllr Chapman should be thanked for his continuing support in this and other matters, and Cllr Murray was sure that the neighbouring Councils would want to be included in these thanks to County Cllr Chapman. The Chairman proposed that thanks were also Minuted to Cllr Murray for pursuing this matter and this was agreed.

162:8/11. To review the Parish Plan Action Plan.

The Village Agent and Cllr Webb had updated the Parish Plan and forwarded it to the Website Manager to be posted on the Website. It was felt that the Village Hall portion of the Website needed updating ; it was agreed that Cllr Corbett and Cllr Pedley would raise this at the following day's Village Hall Committee Meeting and they were authorised to offer the Village Hall Committee an hour's worth of time per month to update the Village Hall portion, this to be charged to Whitmore Parish Council.

163:8/11. To receive the Village Agent's Report.

Mrs Burns had sent a report, which was circulated. She felt that a Working Party was needed to move the 'Trim Trail' forward; Cllrs Wilkinson, Webb and Booth volunteered to be part of a Working Party along with Mrs. Burns. The question of suitable insurance for the 'Trim Trail' was discussed with particular regard to the requirement for an annual inspection. Cllr Webb reported on the service offered by the installers of the 'Trim Trail'. The Clerk would make enquiries from Whitmore PC's current insurers and also from Playdale to see if they provided such a service.

Mrs Burns had enquired what help would be available from Councillors at the Information Morning: Cllrs Webb, Booth, Murray, Pedley and Corbett were all available, as was the Clerk. The Clerk would buy supplies needed for refreshments and claim this back from Petty Cash.

Mrs. Burns had also asked for confirmation of the Budget for the 2012 Whitmore Festival: it was agreed to report back to her that whatever funds were needed, these would be available.

164:8/11. To consider the Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area Matters.

Cllr Webb had attended the previous Village Hall meeting . The maintenance for the CCTV system was discussed and it was agreed that the quote from Owen Electrical should be accepted, with Whitmore Parish Council paying the annual amount, then claiming half from the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Hopper asked if there was a limit on the amount of VAT that a Parish Council could recover; the Clerk would make enquiries. The cutting of hedges around the Recreation Field was discussed and it was agreed that this should go ahead, but the budget for Village Appearance would need to be looked carefully next month. Cllr Hopper would need to liaise with MC Landscaping about the cost.

165:8/11. To receive a Report on the Best Kept Village Competition.

Cllr Booth, along with Cllr Pedley and Mrs Kinson had attended the Presentation Evening for the Staffordshire Best Kept Village Competition. Unfortunately, Whitmore

had not been successful although one of the posters designed by children at Baldwins Gate School had won a prize. Cllr Booth had drafted letters to the School, the Rector, the Mainwaring Arms and the Cavenagh-Mainwarings thanking these for all their efforts. The Clerk would send these on headed notepaper. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Booth be thanked too for all her efforts in the Competition and this was agreed. Cllr Booth reported that she would receive feedback from the Community Council of Staffordshire about Whitmore's entry in October, and it was agreed that until this feedback was received, there was no need for the Best Kept Village to appear as an item on the monthly Agenda.

166:8/11.To consider Locality Action Partnership Matters.

As LAP had not met, there was nothing to report.

167:8/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre.

In order to use the software needed to issue bus passes, a static IP address was needed and arranging this was proving problematic. The Clerk was pursuing this.

168:8/11. To receive reports from Councillors on any responsibilities not on the Agenda.

Cllr Booth had still not heard anything about the Footpaths initiative; she understood monies were to be allocated at the end of August.

169:8/11. Town and Countryside Planning.

The Clerk reported on 3 Planning Applications.

PA11/00300/FUL – wind turbine at New House Farm, Acton. This application had been withdrawn for the time being.

PA11/00282/FUL – Acton House, Acton – no objection from WPC.

PA11/00354/FUL – the Dingle – no objection from WPC but comments made about the lack of garage at such a large property and whether conditions should be imposed to limit further construction.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices.

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notice.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notice.

169:8/11. Financial Matters.

Donations and Purchases.

As agreed at the last Meeting, Baldwins Gate Chapel were offered a donation for the use of their premises on 18.5.11. for Whitmore Parish Council's AGM.

A request for donations had been received from a group hoping to set up a local branch of the University of the Third Age in Madeley. It was agreed to donate £50

Payment of Accounts.

		£	VAT	Total.
899	Baldwins Gate Chapel	15		15.
900	Whitmore Village Hall (for room hire)	120		120
901	MC Landscaping	322	64.40	386.40
902	Mrs W Kinson	250		250
903	Madeley U3A	50		50

It was noted that a demand had been received from the Inland Revenue and that the Clerk was making more enquiries.

170:8/11. To receive the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported a quiet month with little correspondence received. Cllr Evans was interested in the item on a local group for 'Joining the Big Society' and the Clerk passed on the relevant paperwork.

771:8/11. To receive reports from representatives to Partnerships and For a

Cllr Murray reported that he had attended the recent Standards Committee. With reference to the forthcoming Heritage Walk, he asked if the Clerk would contact the Council's Insurers and inform them that this was taking place.

772:8/11. To note Councillors', the Clerk's and the Village Agent's planned absences.

Councillors advised the Meeting of their planned Absences. The actual dates were advised to the Clerk.

773:8/11. To confirm the date of the next Meeting.

The date of the next regular Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7th September in the Whitmore and District Village Hall. As a speaker (Inspector Pete Owen from Newcastle Police) had been invited, the Meeting would begin at 7 pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and, as there was no further business, he closed the Meeting at 9.35 pm.