

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr A. Wilkinson
'Ravenswood', Whitmore Heath,
Newcastle, ST5 5HS

Clerk: Mrs. W. Kinson,
The Old Laundry, Maer,
Newcastle, ST5 5EF

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd March 2011 .

A Regular Meeting of the Whitmore Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 2nd March at 7.15 pm, in the Whitmore and District Village
Hall.

Present

Councillors A.J. Wilkinson (Chairman), I.D. Webb, N.D.K. Hopper, Mrs. A
Pedley, Mrs. A. Booth, W.P. Murray, G.R. Corbett, plus Wendy Kinson,
Clerk, County Councillor Frank Chapman, by invitation, and Mrs. Chapman,
Mrs. D. Burns, Village Agent.

47:3/11 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Borough
Councillors A. Howells and B. Tomkins, and Councillor P. Maskery.

48:3/11. To Receive Declarations of Interest in the items on the Agenda.

None were declared..

49:3/11. To hold the Informal Forum.

No parishioners were present and the Chairman moved on to the next item of
Business.

50:3/11. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in February 2011.

The Clerk had been notified of changes needed to the Minutes: these were
that County Cllr Howells and Cllr Corbett had presented their Apologies,
and County Cllr Howells requested that a Report sent in by him about the
flooding situation at Station Stores, Whitmore be mentioned. The Clerk had
made these changes. Cllr Hopper requested that the details of the Chairman
and the Parish Clerk were included in the Minutes displayed on the Notice
Boards. This was agreed, and after these amendments, Cllr Murray proposed
Cllr Webb seconded, and it was resolved that the Minutes of the Regular
Meeting held in February be approved and signed as a true record. The
Chairman signed the Minutes.

51: 3/11. To Consider Matters Arising from the Minutes in item 4 not included on the Agenda.

The Action Sheet produced by the Clerk to accompany the Minutes was felt
to be helpful, and it was agreed that this practice be continued.

John Inchley, Churchwarden at Whitmore Church, had spoken to Cllr
Murray about possible help in the Churchyard (32:2/11) and it was felt that
some physical assistance, possibly from MC Landscaping, along the outside
wall and in the Churchyard would be much appreciated; this could also help

Whitmore's efforts for the Best Kept Village. County Cllr Chapman mentioned that it should be possible to find out the actual date of judging the Competition and make concentrated efforts by all agencies to tidy the village before that date.

Mrs. Burns had to report that the funding for her post as Village Agent had been lost and so this was the last meeting of Whitmore Parish Council that she would be attending. Councillors expressed their regret at this news and thanked Mrs. Burns for all her help. There was a discussion about whether money might still be available from County sources, and Cllr Webb pointed out that as there was a sum in Whitmore Parish Council's Budget for a Village Agent, it might be possible to employ someone for particular events or projects.

52: 3/11. To Receive Reports from County and Borough Councillors and Officers.

As County Cllr Chapman was present, this item was taken next. County Cllr Chapman gave a report from the Complaints Team, which investigated complaints about the care of vulnerable adults. He had also been involved in trying to sort out the major flooding problem at Station Stores, Whitmore, and he felt there was now a determination between Newcastle Borough, Staffs Highways and the Environmental Services that this issue should be resolved. He had been grateful for Cllr Webb's help and support. Two extra drains had been installed outside the property. Cllr Webb hoped that by the next meeting of the Council, the whole problem would have been resolved. The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation of County Cllr Chapman's involvement and thanked him for his attendance. County Cllr Chapman and Mrs. Chapman left after this item.

53: 3/11. To consider Highway Matters including maintenance tasks for the Parish Handyperson, tasks for the Neighbourhood Team, and CLARENCE Reports.

There had recently been a fatal accident on the A53 and a discussion took place about the dangerous nature of the road. Copies of the latest CLARENCE Report, updated by Cllr Webb were distributed.

54: 3/11 To consider the Parish Appearance, Parish Handyperson and Community Warden tasks.

Cllr Corbett had received a complaint from a parishioner about dog fouling on the footpath to Chorlton Moss. As this footpath was in Chorlton Parish, the Clerk would notify the Clerk to Chorlton Parish Council.

55: 3/11. To consider Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Policing Matters.

There was nothing to report.

56: 3/11. To review the Parish Plan Action Plan.

Cllr Webb reported on the Trim Trail: an application for a grant was being submitted before the end of March. Mrs. Burns was thanked for her help with this. A new hurdle was the fact that it seemed as though Planning Permission was going to be needed, although there was some doubt about this. Cllr Hopper offered to look through the documents relating to the positioning of the Playground equipment to see if Planning Permission had been needed for that. The Clerk would pass existing files on the Recreation Ground to him. A meeting would be needed in daylight to think about where the Trim Trail equipment should be sited: Cllrs Wilkinson and Webb would arrange this and the Clerk would accompany them, if possible.

57: 3/11. To receive the Village Agent's Report.

The Information Morning, originally planned for March, would not be taking place, because of the loss of the Village Agent. Cllr Murray felt that the Council should be considering another date.

There had been no response to the posters about a Youth Forum. There was a discussion about the possibility of reviving the Youth Club and Mrs. Burns felt that if training for Youth leaders could be provided, then it might be possible to find people to run a Youth Club. She had learned from Steve Broadhurst, the Commissioner for Scouts and Cubs, that he would welcome an invitation to address Whitmore Parish Council. The Clerk would contact him to facilitate this..

The Village Agent had sent details of bunting that was available locally; it was felt that this matter was better raised at the Village Hall Meeting. Cllr Corbett would be attending and would mention this. The Clerk passed on the details.

Before Mrs. Burns left. Councillors thanked her again and wished her all the best for the future.

58: 3/11. To consider Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area Matters.

There was nothing further to consider on these topics at this Meeting.

59: 3/11. To receive a Report on preparation for the Best Kept Village Competition 2011.

The entry form for the Best Kept Village needed to be submitted by 31st March, and as well as the £15 entry fee, Cllr Booth asked if some posters could be purchased. This was agreed. The Cavenagh-Mainwarings had already signalled their support, as had the Mainwaring Arms and Whitmore Cricket Club. Cllr Booth would prepare an article for the next Newsletter and send this to Cllr Hopper. The dates for judging would be between 1st

May and 19th June. The Chairman asked what help was needed: Cllr Booth felt, as all involved had offered support, it should not mean too much extra work. It was suggested that Baldwins Gate School might be involved, possibly by producing posters. Cllr Booth and Cllr Pedley would go and see the Headteacher to discuss this.

60: 3/11 To consider Locality Action Partnership matters.

The next LAP meeting was due to take place the following day (3.3.11): Cllr Webb would be attending.

61: 3/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre and consider plans for its future.

During a general discussion about the future of the Information Centre, Cllr Booth suggested making it more of a ‘drop-in Centre’, offering cups of tea and the opportunity to chat. Cllr Murray felt that people who ‘dropped in’ could be encouraged to use the computers with help, for example, to trace their ancestors. This was felt to be an excellent suggestion: Cllr Booth proposed it, Cllr Pedley seconded, and it was agreed to start the scheme as soon as possible.

62: 3/11 To receive reports from Councillors on any Responsibilities not on the Agenda.

Cllr Hopper reminded Councillors that items for the next Newsletter were due.

Cllr Murray introduced the subject of Heritage Open Days (8th – 11th September) and suggested holding a Parish Walk, possibly in conjunction with Chorlton and Maer. He would register interest, to receive an information pack, and the Clerk would notify the Clerks of Chorlton and Maer.

Cllr Webb wondered if the Parish Website might include mention of the Information Centre, the Community Transport Scheme and possibly, a ‘What’s On’. Cllr Hopper felt that if the Website was developed further, there would obviously be a cost.

63: 3/11. Town and Countryside Planning – To receive a Report on Applications, Appeals and Results, approve the comments made on Applications and consider general Planning Matters.

4 Planning Applications/Matters were in progress.

1. PA11/00026/FUL – Merry Hill Farm – No objection from Whitmore Parish Council.
2. PA10/00780/FUL – The Old School House, Butterton – Objection from Whitmore Parish Council. Comments were received at the Meeting on this Application and the Clerk would register them with the Planning Department.

3. PA10/00623/FUL – ‘Janston’, Acton Lane – notification of Planning Permission granted (dated 15.12.10) received, following request.

4. PA10/00568/FUL – Wilkins Pleck – Appeal – no objection from Whitmore Parish Council.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices for the Planning Committee. (which included 10/00621/FUL. Butterton Nurseries)

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notices.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices and Cllr Webb reported that the last meeting had been cancelled.

Enforcement Matters.

A Councillor reported that a query had been received from a Parishioner who was concerned about building work taking place at Baldwins Gate Farm. The Clerk would investigate this.

64: 3/11. Financial Matters. To consider Donations and Purchases, receive a Report on the current situation, authorise the payment of Accounts and consider other Finance Matters.

The Clerk tabled documents and spoke on this item, with the Chairman’s approval.

1. **To consider Donations and Purchases.** There had been no requests for Donations and Purchases.
2. **Community Chest.** An Application form from Ashley and Loggerheads First Responders had been received. Another had been received from Madeley earlier in the year. To ensure that Whitmore’s full allocation of £1000 was spent, Cllr Webb proposed and Cllr Murray seconded and it was agreed that £500 should be allocated to Madeley First Responders , with what was left of Whitmore’s Allocation (just over £100) going to Ashley and Loggerheads First Responders.
3. **Clerk’s Induction and Annual Subscription to NALC.** Two amounts (for £40 and £163) were requested by the Clerk to cover these expenses. This was agreed.
4. **MC Landscaping.** A quotation for the year 2011/12 , at the cost of £322 per month had been received. Cllr Hopper proposed, Cllr Booth seconded, and it was agreed that this be accepted.
5. **Playdale.** A quotation for £656 had been received for work needed following the Annual Inspection of the Playground. Cllr Hopper proposed, Cllr Webb seconded, and it was agreed that this work be carried out.

6. **Clerk's Salary.** It was agreed that the Clerk be paid £250 per month.

To authorise the payment of Accounts. The Clerk tabled and explained the accounts for payment which had been previously circulated. Cllr Webb proposed, Cllr Wilkinson seconded, and it was agreed that the following accounts be paid.

(cheque number precedes the Payee. DD indicates Direct Debit)

859 Buttons Web Solutions 207.29 (VAT 31.79)

860 – made out incorrectly – cancelled.

861 MC Landscaping 374.40 (VAT 62.40)

862 Playdale (Inspection) 117.00

863 J.D. Quick 20.00

864 Staffs Parish Councils Assoc 40.00

865 Soc. Of Local Council Clerks 163.00

866 Clerk's Salary (as agreed) 250

867 Cartridge World 28.58

(invoices presented at meeting)

868 Community Council of Staffs 18.00

(for best Kept Village material)

A total of 1218.27 (including 113.69 VAT)

65: 3/11. To receive the Clerk's Report and to consider miscellaneous Correspondence.

The Clerk reported on a number of topics already mentioned in the circulated Clerk's Report.

66: 3/11. To receive Reports on Representatives to Partnerships and Fora.

There was nothing further to report.

67: 3/11. To note Councillors', the Clerk's and the Village Agent's planned absence.

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

68: 3/11. To confirm the date of the next Regular Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Regular meeting of the Council would take place on **Wednesday 6th April in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.** The Clerk sought permission to include on the Agenda arrangements for Elections, the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and, as there was no further business, he closed the Meeting at 10.10 pm.

