

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th May 2011.

A Regular Meeting of the Whitmore Parish Council was held on Wednesday 4th May at 7.15 pm, in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.

Present.

Councillors A. Wilkinson (Chairman), I. Webb (Deputy Chairman), Mrs. A. Booth, G. Corbett, W. Murray, plus Borough Councillor Ashley Howells and Mrs. D. Burns (Village Agent). A parishioner, Mr. D. Lawton, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, was also present.

91:5/11. To receive and approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from County Cllr F. Chapman, Cllr N. Hopper, Cllr. P. Maskery and Cllr A. Pedley.

92:5/11 To receive Declarations of Interest in the items on the Agenda.

None were declared.

93:5/11. To hold the informal Open Forum.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. D. Lawton. Mr. Lawton, in his capacity as Secretary to Whitmore Village Hall Committee, wanted to report the following to Whitmore Parish Council:

1. He had written to the Borough Council in support of the 'Trim Trail' project.
2. He had been considering looking for another firm to deal with the maintenance of the CCTV camera, as he was dissatisfied with the present firm, Security Services. This action was approved by Whitmore Parish Council.
3. The Village Hall Committee had been considering the hedges on the edge of the Playing Field, which Councillors agreed needed cutting, and it was felt that MC Landscaping could be asked to cut them. However, Cllr Webb felt that before this took place, the residents of the houses that border the Playing Field should be consulted. Mr. Lawton would confirm with the Village Hall Committee that they were happy for this action to be taken, and the hedges cut in due course.

Mr. Lawton was thanked for these points and for his attendance, and he then left the Meeting.

94:5/11. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in April 2011.

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

95:5/11. To receive Reports from County and Borough Councillors .

As Borough Cllr Howells was present, at the Chairman's suggestion, this item was taken next.

Borough Cllr Howells wanted to make sure that Whitmore Parish Council was content with the actions he had taken with regard to the flooding problem at Station Stores, Whitmore. It was agreed that the problem was now finally being tackled seriously by all agencies concerned and Councillors thanked Borough Cllr Howells for his involvement. He enquired about the possible Enforcement matter at Baldwins Gate Farm, and the Clerk was able to report that progress was being made with this matter - the Enforcement Officer and the Planning Dept at the Borough Council were now involved, and it might be that a Planning Application would be required for the building work in question. Borough Cllr Howells next raised the matter of the Planning Application for a wind turbine at Hungersheath Farm, Ashley, and a discussion ensued about this. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Planning Department to ask if Whitmore Parish Council could be a consultative body for this Planning Application, and to make a strong objection. The Clerk would need to do this as soon as possible, as the date for objection had actually passed (May 3rd) and the Application was to be put before the Planning Committee on 10th May.

There was discussion about another Planning Application involving Whitmore Riding Stables, and Borough Cllr Howells reported that this Application should be considered by the Planning Department in June. Borough Cllr Howells was thanked for his attendance and he then left the Meeting.

96:5/11. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes in item 4, not included on the Agenda.

The Action sheet from the previous month was considered . As Cllr Hopper was not present, there were 3 items that would need to be reported next month (speaking to the Website Manager, looking at Trustees for the Playing Field Charity and finding out the date of the 2012 Horticultural Show). A letter had been received about the Manor Rd Bridge replacement scheme; this letter stated that the railway bridge was unaffected by the proposals. The Clerk was requested to write

back, asking that Whitmore Parish Council be informed about any proposed works to the railway line. Cllr Murray would draft a letter. The Clerk was also asked to make enquiries about the need for a second pedestrian crossing in Baldwins Gate. She would speak to Mrs. Kennedy, the parishioner who initially asked about this, to the Chapel congregation, and to the staff at the Spar shop , to see if evidence could be gathered in support of a crossing.

97:5/11. To consider Highway Matters and Parish Appearance.

Cllr Corbett reported that a parishioner had complained about the poor state of the storm water pumping station behind Meadow Way. He would report this to CLARENCE. He was also asked to report the need for a dropped kerb (to aid wheelchair access) at the junction of Snape Hall Rd and the Sheet Anchor.

A problem had arisen involving parking in the lay-by outside Station Stores. A white line had been painted to ease the access into the 2 houses which front the lay-by – The March and Oulton House – and the owners of these 2 houses seem keen to prevent their access being blocked by parked cars. This matter had been raised at the LAP meeting, where the Clerk had been instructed to write to Highways asking for a ruling on this matter. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries on behalf of Whitmore Parish Council.

It was felt by several Council members that the Playing Field area would benefit from a general tidy, and a skip would be useful. Cllr Murray suggested that Streetscene could be asked to provide a skip; Cllr Webb would pursue this suggestion.

Updates from the Highways Hotline (CLARENCE), prepared by Cllr Webb, were distributed. He reported that the flooding problem in Trentham Rd now seemed to have been sorted out.

98:5/11 To consider Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Policing.

There was nothing further to report on this item.

99:5/11. To review the Parish Plan Action Plan.

Mrs. Burns reported on the Information Morning that she was planning for 17th September; it would run from 10 am – 1 pm, and she had contacted all those who had taken part in the previous Information Morning . She was already receiving positive responses. She hoped to hear a decision about funding for the Trim Trail on 31st May, and she would pursue links with the local Scouts after the Commissioner for Scouts had addressed Whitmore Parish Council in June. Cllr Murray reported on the Heritage Walk planned for September 11th and Mrs. Burns would put this event into the Parish Plan.

100:5/11. To Receive the Village Agent's Report.

Mrs. Burns wanted to report that funding for her post now came partially from 'Awards for All', which meant that the emphasis of her post was slightly different, notably involving care for older people, for example, help with the digital switchover. Cllr Murray suggested it would be helpful to have an article on this in the next Newsletter.

Mrs. Burns asked again for the date of the 2012 Whitmore Festival to be set as soon as possible, so that she could begin work on this. It was agreed that Cllr Corbett would act as the main liaison with the Village Agent for the 2012 Festival.

101:5/11. To consider Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area .

Cllr Webb reported that the Planning Application for the Trim Trail had been submitted.

102:5/11. To receive a Report on the Best Kept Village Competition.

Cllr Booth reported that she had received offers of help from a parishioner and she hoped to clean up the telephone kiosk prior to judging. It had been confirmed that the School premises could be included without including the whole of the area between Whitmore Village and the School; the headteacher had been most helpful and wanted to involve the children as much as possible. As soon as Cllr Booth received notice of the date of judging, she would inform Jeff Green and the Highways team, as well as the Community Warden.

103:5/11. To consider Local Action Partnership matters.

Cllr Webb and the Clerk had attended the recent LAP meeting, where Cllr Webb had reported that he had heard that a site in Whitmore Parish was being considered for the building of affordable housing. Using information passed on by Borough Cllr Tomkins (who had also been at the meeting), Cllr Webb had followed this up, but he concluded that it had been mis-information.

104:5/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre.

There had been no change to the position at the Information Centre – still very quiet. It was agreed to raise this again in the next Newsletter.

105:5/11. To receive Reports from Councillors on any responsibilities not on the Agenda.

The meeting took place on the day before Council Elections and all Councillors were aware that Cllr Maskery was not standing again. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter of thanks to Cllr Maskery and that the rest of the Council would sign it at the Annual General Meeting on 18th May.

As Cllr Pedley was away, Cllr Corbett would attend the next Village Hall Meeting on 12 May.

Cllr Booth had applied for a Footpath Initiative Grant and Mr. Whitehead was completing a new footpaths map.

106:5/11. Town and Countryside Planning.

The Clerk reported that 6 Planning Applications were in progress:

PA11/00186/FUL – The Old Barn, Manor Rd – no objection from WPC.

PA11/00052/FUL – Whitmore Riding Stables – strong objection from WPC.

PA11/00107/FUL – ‘Wildacre’, Heath Rd – no objection from WPC.

PA11/00137/FUL – ‘Ingleside’, Baldwins Gate – comment needed by 10th May – circulating.

PA11/00175/FUL – Application for ‘Trim Trail’ – decision expected by 10th June.

PA11/00198/FUL – Methodist Chapel, Acton – change of use. No Objection from WPC.

Enforcement Matters.

Baldwins Gate Farm – this matter was now in the hands of Mark Cooper-Adams, Enforcement Officer.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notice.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling notices. Cllr Webb commented that the Conservation Working Party had no objection to Whitmore Stables’ Planning Application.

107:5/11. Financial Matters.

Donations and Purchases.

There had been no requests for donations or purchases.

Payment of Accounts	£	VAT	£
880 Aon (Annual Insurance)	1,960.42		1,960.42
881 Prof. Eve (internal audit)	110		110
882 Mrs. W. Kinson	250		250
883 P. Moss (Pest control)	30		30
884 Mrs. W. Kinson	7		7

(preparing papers for audit)
a total of £2,357.42.

Receipts.

Borough of Newcastle (2011/12 Precept)	£20,244
Staffs C C	£ 175.

HMRC (VAT returns)

£ 818.44.

Other financial business.

Community Chest.

An application had been received from Ashley and District First Responders for funds from Whitmore's allocation of Community Chest 2011/12.

A cheque for £142.21 for payment to the Inland Revenue had been received from Bob Haysom.

2010/11 Annual return.

The Clerk distributed copies of the Annual Return. The Chairman proposed and Cllr Webb seconded that:

The Accounting Statements on page 2 be approved,

The answers to items 1 to 8 inclusive on page 3 be 'yes' and the answer to item 9 be 'not applicable'.

The Annual Internal Audit be noted, and

The Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 be adopted and accepted. This was agreed and the Clerk was thanked.

108:5/11. To receive the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported on a number of topics already mentioned in the circulated Clerk's Report. She gave details of a new mapping system that Public Bodies were eligible to join and she was signing Whitmore Parish Council up for this.

The celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 was mentioned and Cllr Murray proposed an event in June 2012 on the Playing Field when all children at Baldwins Gate School would receive a Jubilee mug.

The Clerk was asked to write to the School, Whitmore Village Hall Committee, Baldwins Gate Chapel and Butterton and Whitmore Churches so that all local organisations could be involved in this. The Chairman seconded this.

An invitation to a Civic reception hosted by the Mayor had been received. The Clerk would accept and a number of Councillors hoped to attend.

Cllr Murray expressed concern about the 164/64 Bus Service and the Clerk was asked to write to the relevant bus companies and local authorities, requesting that local councils be consulted before any changes to the timetable took place.

109:5/11. To receive reports from Representatives to Partnerships and For a.

None were received.

110:5/11. 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.

111:5/11. To confirm the dates of the next Meetings.

The Date of the Annual General Meeting and annual Parish Meeting were to be Wednesday 18th May in the Chapel , Baldwins Gate at 7 pm and 7.30 pm.

The date of the next Regular Meeting was confirmed as 1st June 2011, at 7.15 pm in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.

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