

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2011.

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

Present:

Councillors Alan Wilkinson (Chairman), Carl Evans, Annette Booth, Geoff Corbett, Bill Murray. County Councillor Frank Chapman and Mrs. Chapman, Borough Councillor David Loades.

212:11/11. To receive and approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Councillors Ian Webb, Nick Hopper, Audrey Pedley, Borough Councillor Ashley Howells and Debbie Burns, the Village Agent.

213:11/11. To receive and approve Declarations of Interest in the items on the Agenda.

None were declared.

214:11/11. To hold the informal Open Forum.

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

215:11/11. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in October 2011.

Borough Councillor Howells had asked for a slight change in the wording of 199:10/11, so that it was made plain that Councillor Freda Myatt would be standing down anyway, as it was the end of her term of office. This was agreed. Following this amendment, Cllr Murray proposed, Cllr Booth seconded, and it was resolved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held in October be approved and signed as a true record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

216:11/11. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes not included in the Agenda

197:10/11. There was nothing further to report following the meeting the previous month with Jeff Green concerning the lay-by outside 'Station Stores', Whitmore. Mr Green had outlined several actions that he intended to take; the Clerk would chase these up to see if any progress had been made.

198:10/11. Cllr Hopper hoped to arrange a meeting with Jeff Green about the widespread abuse of the 'no overtaking' on the A4173. Confirmation had been received that the Police were looking into this. County Cllr Chapman was not sure what more could be done about this, but he was happy to remain involved and help in any way that he could.

217:11/11. To Consider Highway Matters.

Updates from the Highways Hotline, prepared by Cllr Webb, were distributed. There were no questions. Cllr Booth had observed a case of fly-tipping in the lay-by on Three Mile Lane, Whitmore, and she had reported this. Borough Cllr Loades commented that there had been some reorganisation within 'Streetscene' but he was sure that this case would be dealt with.

218:11/11. To receive Reports from County and Borough Councillors and Officers.

County Councillor Chapman reported that Staffs County Council were committed to no increase of Council Tax for next year. He spoke about Staffs Police, saying

they were an exceptional force with an excellent Chief Constable. After this, County Cllr Chapman gave a brief snapshot of his varied work as a County Councillor – the different Committees of which he was a member and the work undertaken. He was about to undergo appraisal, as all County Councillors were part of an appraisal system. Cllr Murray raised a problem involving taxis by the Bus Station in Newcastle – this had been reported by a parishioner. County Cllr Chapman would look into this. Following his report and the chance for questions, County Cllr Chapman was thanked for his attendance, and at this point, he and Mrs. Chapman left the Meeting.

Borough Cllr Loades then addressed the Parish Council. He was glad to be able to be present as other commitments had prevented his attendance previously. He reported that the road works on the bridge at Manor Rd were about to end and the road works preventing through access to the village of Maer were about to begin. He was aware that there had been a new application made for a wind turbine at NewHouse Farm, Acton and he would be calling this in. The Borough Council would be making some changes to re-cycling. In his position as Chair of the Locality Action Partnership, he was aware that there was still not much progress being made about the timetabling problems with the buses through the Parish and he would try to chase up the scheme, suggested by Cllr Murray, of discounts in local pubs, on production of a bus ticket. Other parishes in the Local Action Partnership had been in favour of this.

219:11/11. To consider anti-social behaviour and Community Policing Matters.

Borough Cllr Loades felt that the Community Police were working very hard and anti-social behaviour had dropped across his area. Councillors expressed a concern that the Community Police would have less time for the rural areas now that their remit also included the campus at Keele. The Chairman commented how much it was appreciated having information from Borough and County Councillors.

220:11/11. To review the Parish Plan Action Plan.

Under this item. Borough Cllr Loades mentioned Neighbourhood Plans and offered to keep the Council informed about these.

221:11/11. To receive the Village Agent's Report .

The Clerk reported that she had been in communication with Mrs Burns and Mrs Burns felt that there was nothing much for her to report this month.

222:11/11. To consider plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Cllr Murray had made further enquiries about commemorative clocks for the parishes. The Clerk had details of 2 local sources of commemorative mugs; she was asked to follow these up and get further details.

223:11/11. To consider Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area Matters.

Cllr Corbett had noted 3 minor problems with the machines of the 'Trim Trail'. These had been reported to FreshAir Fitness. The Clerk had written a letter of thanks to the Community Wellbeing Fund. Letters had been sent to all those who had indicated at last year's Information Morning that they would be interested in using outdoor fitness equipment; these letters informed the recipients that the equipment was now in place, and also asked them to complete a survey about their proposed use of the equipment. This survey would fulfil one of the conditions of funding, which was that feedback about the machines was received from people in

the community. It was hoped that an event to officially open the 'Trim Trail' would be held, but possibly not until the New Year. The Village Agent was still investigating this. Cllr Evans suggested that Newcastle Borough Council might be able to assist with promotion, and he gave the Clerk details of some contacts. The next Whitmore Parish Council Newsletter would include information about the 'Trim Trail' – Cllr Booth would send this to Cllr Hopper.

The Clerk had arranged that the Village Handyman would inspect the 'Trim Trail' every month when he inspected the play area.

224:11/11. To consider Locality Action Partnership matters.

Borough Cllr Loades, as Chairman of the local LAP reported on the last meeting, as Cllr Webb was not present. He reported that although LAP would still operate with Parish Councils, it was becoming involved in other areas, eg mental health and social care.

225:11/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre.

A Static IP address had now been obtained and Cllr Booth was now waiting to hear from Newcastle Borough Council so that bus passes could again be issued at the Information Centre.

226:11/11. To receive Reports from Councillors on any responsibilities not on the Agenda.

Cllr Booth had received some feedback from the Best Kept Village and this had not been encouraging. She wondered if Whitmore should take part next year or not. Cllr Corbett commented that the children at Baldwins Gate School had enjoyed participating, as a Council, Whitmore had at least taken part and it perhaps did not matter that no prizes had been won. No decision was needed until February. Cllr Booth had nothing more to report on the Footpaths Initiative.

227:11/11. Town and Country Planning.

The Clerk reported on 6 Planning matters.

PA11/00354/FUL The Dingle, Whitmore Heath. Following refusal, the Application had now gone appeal. Whitmore Parish Council maintained its policy of objection to this Planning Application.

PA08/00289/FUL Rose Cottage, Snape Hall Lane. A query had been made about the definition of the site. The Clerk had checked details of the site, and the householder had assured Councillors that he was keeping within the site.

11/00465/TDET New Hayes Farm, Acton – this had been permitted.

11/00504/FUL Whitmore Riding Stable. Change of use of barn – comment by 9th November.

11/00550/FUL Garage, Broadlands, Heath Rise – comment by 9th November.

1/00536/FUL. Wind turbine, New House Farm, Acton. The Planning sub-Committee had already prepared a Strong Objection to this Application and this Objection was circulated to Council members. From the Chair, Cllr Wilkinson proposed that this Strong Objection be sent to the Planning Department; all were in favour.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notices.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices.

228:11/11. Financial Matters.

There had been no requests for donations or purchases.

Payment of Accounts.

| | | £ | VAT | £ |
|-----|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 918 | FreshAir Fitness (final payment for 'Trim Trail', grant from Wellbeing Fund) | 6,446.25 | 1,289.25 | 7,735.50 |
| 919 | Whitmore Village Hall (hire of Hall for Information Centre, Council Meetings) | 128 | | 128 |
| 920 | Mrs. W. Kinson | 250 | | 250 |
| 921 | Mrs W Kinson (expenses – postage for Trim Trail survey) | 33.44 | | 33.44 |

Receipts.

HMRC - £46.95 (an overpayment for the year 2010/11, requested by Whitmore Parish Council on 22.9.11)

The Clerk had completed a form, reclaiming VAT charged for the period 1.4.11 - 31.10.11.

It was agreed that it would be useful if Cllrs Booth and Corbett were to become signatories for the Whitmore Parish Council Bank Account. The Clerk would find out more.

229:11/11. To receive the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk informed the Council of correspondence received during the previous month, as detailed in the circulated Clerk's Report.

230:11/11. 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.

231:11/11. To confirm the date of the next Meeting.

The date of the next Regular Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7th December in the Whitmore and District Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

An item of further business was the mention of the death of Norman Page, who had been a Clerk of Whitmore Parish Council. His death was noted, with regret, and it was decided that an obituary of Norman would be in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and there being no further business, he closed the Meeting at 9.50 pm.