

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th October 2011.

A Regular Meeting of Whitmore Parish Council was held on Wednesday 5th October at 7.15 pm in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors Alan Wilkinson (Chairman), Annette Booth, Audrey Pedley, Geoff Corbett, Nick Hopper, Carl Evans, Bill Murray, Borough Councillor Ashley Howells, Debbie Burns (Village Agent) and Mrs. Rosemary Bardell, a new Councillor on Chorlton Parish Council, who wanted to observe another Council Meeting.

193: 10/11. To receive and approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Ian Webb, County Councillor Frank Chapman and Borough Councillor David Loades.

194:10/11. To receive Declarations of Interest in the items on the Agenda.

None were declared.

195:10/11. To hold the informal Open Forum.

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

196:10/11. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in September 2011.

At Councillor Murray's request, there were 2 changes made to the Minutes, (779:9/11 – the acronym APM be changed to Access Protection Marker so that the meaning was clear and 783:9/11 – this be changed to read 'Cllr Murray would speak to County Cllr Frank Chapman after the Meeting') . Following this, Cllr Murray proposed, Cllr Corbett seconded, and it was resolved that the Minutes of the regular Meeting held in September be approved and signed as a true record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

197:10/11. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda.

779:9/11. A Site meeting regarding the Access Protection Marker outside 'Station Stores' had taken place that morning (5.10.11). Jeff Green had noted the various points made by Cllrs Wilkinson and Murray and would email the Clerk with the actions he proposed to take. One of the residents from the houses that had requested the Access Protection Marker was also present at the meeting.

780:9/11. The Information Morning on 17th September had been a huge success and there was a Vote of Thanks proposed for Mrs Burns; this was passed unanimously.

198:10/11. To Consider Highways Matters.

Cllr Pedley was concerned that cars were using Fair Green Rd to turn – she wondered if a 'No through rd' sign could be erected. Concern was expressed about the traffic in Woodside; although this road is not in Whitmore Parish, it is heavily used by Whitmore residents and a letter had recently appeared in 'the Sentinel' from a Whitmore resident very concerned about the state of the road.

Cllr Hopper was concerned by the widespread abuse of the 'no overtaking' signs on the A5182; it made exiting from Acton and Butterton very dangerous. The Clerk

would contact County Cllr Frank Chapman, with copies to Traffic Enforcement and Highways, about this concern. As Borough Cllr Ashley Howells was present, he offered to inform County Cllr Chapman of these last 3 Highways issues.

199:10/11. To Receive reports from County and Borough Councillors and Officers.

Borough Cllr Howells reported that there were no controversial Planning Applications at the moment.

He mentioned Neighbourhood Planning, whereby it was intended that Parish Councils could have a greater influence over Planning decisions in their areas. It was vital, he felt, that a Council should decide on its Planning priorities and how development in the forthcoming 10 years was planned. The full ramifications of the Localism Bill, he said, were not really known yet.

In response to a query from Cllr Murray about the lack of progress with several matters concerning the local buses, Cllr Howells offered to contact Keith Lawton about these issues.

Cllr Howells also reported that there would be no increase in Council Tax next year and that next May, there would need to be an election for a new Borough Councillor as Freda Myatt had announced her retirement.

Following this, Cllr Howells was thanked for his attendance and at this point, he left the Meeting.

200:10/11. To Review the Parish Plan Action Plan and receive the Village Agent's report.

Mrs Burns had sent the updated Parish Plan through to the Website Manager for publication on the Council's website. She asked if it was possible to arrange a link from the Website through to the Village Agent Scheme. The Council was happy for her to explore this with the Website Manager.

The Trim Trail had been installed and there was already considerable interest in it. There needed to be some grass seeds sown around the base of the machines; Cllr Hopper would ask MC Landscaping to arrange this at a suitable time.

There was now a need to promote the Trim Trail and organise an official opening. Cllr Wilkinson was hoping to involve Stoke City Football Club and he would let Mrs. Burns know about this; she would speak to her brother, Nick Hancock, if the Council would like his involvement as well.

Mrs Burns had been wondering if the idea of a Village Queen, involving the school, could be revived for next year's Festival, and possibly for a Diamond Jubilee event as well. It was agreed that this was worth exploring.

After receiving further thanks for organising such a successful Information Morning, Mrs Burns left at this point.

201:10/11. To consider anti-social behaviour and Community Policing matters.

Cllr Pedley had received reports of a minor incident of vandalism at the Trim Trail, she had dealt with the incident and did not feel it was serious.

202:10/11. To Consider plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

The Clerk had made some enquiries about mugs for the local children to commemorate this event and the firms she had approached required minimum orders of 300 or more which would prove a problem; however she would make further enquiries and Cllr Evans supplied a contact.

Cllr Murray was continuing to pursue his idea of a commemorative clock for all local parishes with Newcastle Council.

Cllr Hopper wanted to promote the idea of a Diamond Jubilee Tree.

It was agreed to put all ideas on paper and consider costs as soon as possible.

203:10/11. To consider Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area Matters.

Concerns were expressed by several Councillors about the state of the wooden flashing at the side of the Village Hall overlooking the car park. Cllr Corbett would be attending the Village Hall Committee Meeting and he would mention it then.

Cllr Hopper has arranged for MC Landscaping to cut the hedges, as discussed, with a maximum of £500 to be allocated to this task. He had also received a form from Newcastle Council to order bulbs that the Council was prepared to donate. He was authorised to order 1000 bulbs – the Clerk would process this application. The Clerk would also make enquiries about the sponsors of the roundabout on the A53 to see if they might be prepared to plant it next year.

The Clerk reported that it was a condition of the sponsors of the Trim Trail that regular inspections were made; it was agreed that she would speak to the Village Handyman about this. Cllr Webb had sent a suggestion that the remaining payment for the Trim Trail be withheld for a few weeks in case there proved to be any problems with it and a letter of thanks then be sent to FreshAir Fitness and to the Wellbeing Fund. This was agreed.

204:10/11. To consider Locality Action Partnership matters.

Cllr Webb had sent a report of the latest LAP meeting. This had included a useful presentation by Robin Wiles from Newcastle Council on various sources of funding. Cllr Webb had further details if needed. LAP was taking the problems with the local bus service, as highlighted by Cllr Murray, very seriously, and in the absence of any progress with local government, was suggesting contacting Rt. Hon. Bill Cash, the local Member of Parliament. The Clerk would ensure that the letter, when sent, was circulated.

205:10/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre.

Cllr Booth reported that progress was at last being made with obtaining a Static IP address and so it was hoped to be able to issue bus passes again at the Information Centre.

206:10/11. To receive reports from Councillors on any responsibilities not on the Agenda.

Cllr Booth reported on the Footpaths Initiative. She understood that £500 would be available for this but it had not yet been received. She had spoken to Mr Whitehead, who was compiling the Footpaths Map, and told him to proceed but he may shortly need to request money from Whitmore Parish Council. Councillors felt that they should see the map before it goes to print, and Cllr Hopper felt it would be very useful to have an electronic version.

207:10/11. Town and Country Planning.

The Clerk reported on 3 Planning Applications.

PA00423/FUL. Butterton Nurseries. Whitmore Parish Council had objected to this Application.

PA00465/TDET New Hayes Farm. This was a formality and no objection had been raised.

PA00311/FUL. Baldwins Gate Farm. This Application was permitted on 28.9.11. Concerns were raised by Councillors about the site at Rose Cottage, Snape Hall Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Department and ask if the site could be defined.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notice.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices.

208:10/11. Financial Matters.

Donations and Purchases.

A donation of £300 from Whitmore Parish Council's allocation of £1000 had been given to Madeley Community Association. This had been processed (as authorised by Whitmore Parish Council) on 16.9.11.

	£	VAT	£
915 Staffs Wildlife Trust (a request from Mrs Burns to pay half of a Training Course she had attended)	50		50
<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			
	£	VAT	£
-			
913 cheque made in error – cancelled			
914 Aon Ltd (additional insurance for the Trim Trail)	101.38		101.38
916 MC Landscaping	322	64.40	386.40
917 Mrs. W. Kinson	250		250
918 Fresh Air Fitness (this cheque prepared as agreed, but not yet sent).			6,446.25

There had been no Receipts this month.

209:10/11. To Receive the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk gave details of a Neighbourhood Watch Conference; Cllr Wilkinson was interested in attending and she would send him further details.

Details had been received concerning a campaign by Staffs Fire and Rescue to test smoke alarms – the Clerk would contact them to say that Whitmore Parish Council would be happy to display notices from them on the Council's Noticeboards and bus stops.

Other correspondence had been detailed in the circulated Clerk's report.

210:10/11. 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.

211:10/11. To confirm the date of the next Meeting.

The date of the next Regular Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 2nd November in the Whitmore and District Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and there being no further business, he closed the Meeting at 9.10 pm.