

WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2011.

A Regular Meeting of Whitmore Parish Council was held on Wednesday 7th September at 7 pm in the Whitmore and District Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors Alan Wilkinson (Chairman), Ian Webb, Geoff Corbett, Carl Evans, Bill Murray, Annette Booth., Debbie Burns (Village Agent)

774:9/11. To receive and approve Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Nick Hopper and Audrey Pedley, County Cllr Frank Chapman and Borough Cllr Ashley Howells

775:9/11. To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda.

None were declared.

776:9/11. To hold the informal Open Forum.

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

777:9/11. Inspector Peter Owen from Newcastle Police Station.

Inspectors Peter Owen and Neil Hulme from Newcastle Police Station gave a wide-ranging and comprehensive talk on the structures and priorities for local policing. In the discussion that followed, the Inspectors confirmed that their major concern in the Whitmore area was the A53 and the problems created by this dangerous road. Councillors voiced their concerns about maintaining an efficient out-of-hours service when the Police move from their present Merrial St Headquarters into the Civic Centre.

778:9/11. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held in August 2011.

Cllr Webb proposed and Cllr Booth seconded, and it was resolved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held in August 2011 be approved and signed as a true record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

779:9/11. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes not included in the Agenda.

The Action Sheet from the previous month was considered.

No satisfactory responses had been received about the Access Protection Marker (the white line in the lay-by) at Station Stores. The Clerk would contact all concerned again and ask for an on-site meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that Playdale would be prepared to inspect the 'Trim Trail' equipment. She had also made enquiries for alternative Insurance Policies and was waiting for quotations.

There was no limit on the amount of VAT that could be reclaimed by Parish Councils.

780:9/11. To review the Parish Plan Action Plan and receive the Village Agent's Report, plus plans for the 2012 Whitmore Festival.

With Council's approval, these items were considered next. Mrs Burns reported that 28 stalls were now booked for the Information Morning on September 17th and final plans for this event were made. The Clerk would buy supplies for the refreshments. Mrs. Burns was concerned about the budget for the 2012 Festival as she had already committed £500 by booking the belly dancers and Morris Men; she

suggested that perhaps it might be appropriate to ask for contributions from stall holders and it was agreed that this was a good idea. Finally, Mrs. Burns asked the Council would be prepared to donate £50 towards a Training Course that she was keen to attend. This was agreed . Following this item, Mrs Burns left the Meeting.

781:9/11. To consider Highway Matters.

Updates from the Highways Hotline (CLARENCE), prepared by Cllr Webb, were distributed showing progress on Highway matters affecting Whitmore Parish. There was still a concern about the traffic lights at the Pedestrian Crossing. Regarding the second pedestrian crossing, the Clerk had spoken to Mrs Kennedy to say that the Council would wait to hear feedback from her before proceeding any further with this. The Clerk had received official notification about the closure of Manor Rd. The grass in Acton and Butterton needed cutting and, as Cllr Hopper was not present, the Clerk would contact him to ask if he would liaise with MC Landscaping to arrange this.

782:9/11.To consider Anti-social behaviour and Community Policing Matters.

The Chairman was concerned about a problem with tipping at the top of the top of Whitmore Heath, although this was on private land. He would speak to the Community Police about this.

783:9/11.To receive Reports from County and Borough Councillors and Officers.

Councillors expressed their disappointment that no County or Borough Councillors were present. Cllr Murray would speak to County Councillor Frank Chapman after the meeting and the Clerk would email him.

784:9/11.To consider Village Hall, Recreation Field and Play Area matters.

Cllr Webb gave a progress report on the installation of the 'Trim Trail'. The money had been received from the Grant and a deposit paid on the 7 items ordered. It was hoped that the machines would be installed in the week beginning 26th September. There were need to be some publicity for this event and the Working Party would discuss this.

785:9/11. To consider Locality Action Partnership Matters.

Cllr Webb reported that the next meeting of LAP was due to take place on 20th September.

786:9/11. To receive a Report on the Information Centre.

It was still not possible to issue bus passes at the Information Centre and the Clerk was still pursuing this matter. There had been a problem with the computers at the Information Centre, but this was now solved. Cllr Booth reported that the Information Centre would be open during the Information Morning and, if possible, she would get feedback from any visitors about its usefulness to the Whitmore community. A decision about the future of the Information Centre could be raised in the next Newsletter.

787: 9/11.To receive Reports from Councillors on any responsibilities not on the Agenda.

There was nothing to report on this item.

788: 9/11. Town and Countryside Planning.

The Clerk reported on 5 Planning Applications.

PA11/282/FUL. Acton House, Acton. This Application was permitted on 3.8.11.

PA11/311/FUL. Baldwins Gate Farm. Whitmore Parish Council had no objection

to this Application.

PA11/137/FUL. 'Ingleside'. Whitmore Parish Council had no objection to this Application.

PA11/354/FUL. 'The Dingle', Heath Rise. This Application was refused on 22.8.11.

PA11/423/FUL. Butterton Nurseries. Comment needed by 23.9.11.

Cllr Webb reported that he had received the paperwork relating to Greenacres Farm, Dab Green. This Application had been permitted on appeal. He passed the paperwork to the Clerk, for filing.

Newcastle Borough Council Planning Committee Calling Notices.

Newcastle Borough Council Conservation Working Party Calling Notices.

The Clerk tabled the latest Calling Notices.

789: 9/11. Financial Matters.

Donations and Purchases.

Community Chest – a request for £300 from Madeley Community Group was considered. Cllr Booth proposed and Cllr Webb seconded, and it was agreed that £300 of Whitmore's allocation for the 2011/12 Community Chest be donated to Madeley Community Group. The Clerk would authorise the application form and send it to Newcastle Borough Council.

Purchases – The Clerk requested £15 to buy supplies for refreshments at the forthcoming Information Morning.

908 Mrs W Kinson £15.

Payment of Accounts.

		£	VAT	£
904	Fresh Air Fitness	2,148.75	429	2,578.50
905	Audit Commission	285	57	342
906	Prontaprint (July newsletter)	226.79	45.36	272.15
907	Mrs W Kinson	250		250
909	MC Landscaping	322	64.60	386.40
910	Buttons Web Solutions	182.50	36.50	219
911	Pat Moss	162		162

Subscriptions.

912 Staffs Playing Fields Assoc 15 15

Receipts.

Staffs CC (funding for 'Trim Trail') £8,895

Staffs CC (quarterly Village Lengthsman Agreement) £162

Other financial business.

The matter with HMRC had been resolved. The Clerk thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their help with this.

The Clerk had written to see if the £700 mentioned by HMRC could be reclaimed.

790:9/11. To receive the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk gave details of an 'Engaging Communities' initiative and other matters detailed in the circulated Clerk's Report.

It was agreed that the Queen's diamond Jubilee should feature as an item on the next Agenda.

791:9/11. To receive reports from Representatives to Partnerships and For a

It was agreed that this item could be dropped from future Agendas.

792: 9/11.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.

792:9/11. To confirm the date of the next Meeting.

The date of the next regular Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 5th October in the Whitmore and District Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

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