

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH**

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Present: - Mr. R.Simmons – In the Chair.

13 Councillors were in attendance as parishioners, 1 parishioner was in attendance, Clerk and Deputy Clerk in attendance.

1. **Confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
RESOLVED: The minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.
2. **To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**  
The Chairman of the Parish Council read a short report, as follows:

“I had the pleasure of being elected Chairman last May after being presented with the chain of office from the former Chairman Mr. M. Bounds. At the same meeting Ms. J. Shore was elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

We have been joined recently by Mr M. Bradford and Ms. N. Howden who were co-opted at the April 2017 meeting. We are fortunate to have a Parish Council where we now have only one place left vacant.

It has also been agreed that a Freedom of the Parish scheme is to be set up with nominations being put forward to Council.

There have been some changes in our employed staff, the hours for the Deputy Clerk were increased to 37hrs in September 2016 due to increased workload now and in the future, and the retirement of Mr. Roger Gryzb one of our ground staff who will be working on a part time basis in the future.

There has been new equipment replaced as per the Machinery replacement schedule and a new Ransome triple mowing machine was purchased, the terms for purchasing being very favourable.

The Public Open Spaces working party had arranged with the Ground staff to hold an open evening event so that all Council Members could view the equipment that is used to look after our Open spaces. All concerned were thanked for a very informative and instructive evening.

Various work had been carried out on the Parish offices with a new porch and windows being fitted and all electrical equipment being PATS tested with no issues raised. A new photocopier was installed in the office as the old one had come to the end of its life, the new one would be cheaper to lease and the running costs would be lower.

During the year, a lot of maintenance work and new fencing has been carried out to the various open spaces around the village, the breedon gravel path around Oliver park was resurfaced, we saw the installation of fencing around the play equipment on Trinity Park, giving better security for children and keeping dogs away from the area. The fencing between the top yard and St. Peters School has been replaced. New fencing around Oliver Park was installed but this did create an issue for disability scooter users because they were unable to get through the new kissing gate easily. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to remove the kissing gate as soon as possible and get the old-style entrance redesigned to make access and egress easier. This was welcomed and Council were thanked for listening. An all-weather track had now been installed around the

Warwick Road Park paid for with s106 monies. The Clerk confirming that the application for £48,009 s106 grant monies had been accepted and approved.

During August, I welcomed Jean Chapman and Cheryl Pharaoh of Cosby Parish Council to the meeting. I also welcomed In September Cat Hartley from the planning department of Blaby District Council to answer some planning concerns that members had raised.

David Wilson Homes had started work on the Springwell Lane bridge into Elliot Public open space. Pictures were shown by the Clerk of the bridge because it had raised quite a few issues with occupiers. The Clerk was asked to share these issues with David Wilson Homes.

It was with sad regret that the Clerk informed the Council of the sad news of the death of Mr. Dennis Burrows who had always provided a valuable source of history of the village and everyone agreed he would be sadly missed.

The Good Neighbour scheme for the village has been launched this year and it was agreed that as a gesture of good will they would be allowed to use the Parish rooms three times free of charge.

A grant request was received from The Whetstone Church Lads & Girls Brigade for £500 for training of mini bus drivers to assist in transporting to and from various functions this was agreed and granted. Also, a grant was requested and agreed of £120 from the Whetstone Allotment Association.

During June, BDC, WPC and BPC agreed to share the cost of paint to remove the graffiti from the bypass underpass. The work was to be carried out under the Community Restorative Justice Team.

A concern was raised in October about the underpass since the recent repainting, it was now suffering new graffiti and looked a mess. Various suggestions were made but it was felt that it was the responsibility of the District Council not the Parish Council.

In September, our new website went live. A lot a data would need to be uploaded to the new site by the Deputy Clerk, which took a few weeks to complete.

The transfer of two pieces of land from Blaby District Council was completed and both sites were transferred to the Parish Council. The registration had been achieved with the Land Registry at no cost to the Parish Council.

It was agreed to purchase two Defibrillators for a cost of £2,770 plus approximately £300 for electrical installation, two sites were agreed, one at the Park vets and the other at the Bulls Head Pub both units are now commissioned and live.

The official opening of the Back-Lane Meadows Community Orchard was held during October. Councillors and public were invited and in total about 80 people attended. Food and hot drinks were made available and everyone was thanked for coming. All those who had helped to organise the event were thanked especially the Deputy Clerk Sharon. To improve the Back-Lane Meadows site the Clerk had also made a successful application to Stepping Stones for more trees and hedging.

A proposed residential development was received for up to 50 low cost, affordable dwellings with associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping on land off Enderby Road by Westleigh Homes. Various concerns were raised particularly the entrance on to Enderby Road and these were sent to Blaby District planning department.

The application was subsequently resubmitted later in the year with a reduction of housing numbers down to 43.

I attended the Remembrance Day Sunday Parade and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and was impressed by the turn out of the village. It was good to join and remember the dead of previous world wars.

“Whetstone Parish Council Does Christmas” was held for the first time in December with a choir called Musical Village singing carols and other musical items. It was a well-attended event with everyone enjoying the hot chestnuts, mulled wine and hot drinks. The Deputy Clerk and others were thanked for organising the event and everyone for coming.

In the budget process, we were informed that in future years we would be losing the new homes bonus and council tax support grants awarded by BDC. It was agreed that a precept of £213,150 with a Council Tax Grant of £13,088 was approved and adopted.

Once again it has been a busy year for Council making Whetstone a clean, colourful and “nice” place to live. I would like to thank on behalf of all members our Clerk Lee and Deputy Clerk Sharon our Ground Staff Graham Hamilton, James Thorsby and Roger Gryzb, Sue Croft our premises officer and litter picker and finally Alan Gamble our cleaner. We owe our staff a great debt of thanks for what they do in the Parish making Whetstone a wonderful place to live.

Thank you for making my year as Chairman a pleasant one. I have been very fortunate to have council members that are mostly of one mind “making Whetstone a better place” and I look forward to the future with excitement serving the Parishioners of Whetstone”.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman’s report be received and that he be thanked for it.

3. **To consider any matters parishioners wish to raise**

No matters were raised.

With there being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.