

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

21st December 2017

Present: - Mr. R. Simmons - Chairman

Mr. M. R. Bounds

Mrs. A. M. Tyler

Mr. L. M. Phillimore

Mrs. N. Kalsi

Ms. S. Tomlinson

Mr. L. Breckon (Clerk)

Mrs. S. Coe (Deputy Clerk)

Mr. P. Cox

Mrs. P. Kenney

Mr. M.E. Jackson

Mrs. N. Howden

Mr. M. Bradford

Mr. A. Raithatha

2 Parishioners in attendance.

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from – LCC Cllr. Mr. D. Jennings – other meeting , Mr. A. Tanner – other meeting, Mr. S. Duffin – other commitment, Mr. D. Smith – other commitment.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

108. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. He thanked everyone involved for the first Carols on the Car Park event. There had been some 120 people attending and he was sure that it was the way forward. The Weather had been kind and he felt apart from a few tweaks it could only get bigger and better. It was the perfect start to the Christmas festivities and he thanked those Members who attended and also the Staff for “bringing it together”.

109. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Mr. L. M. Phillimore declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of BDC Planning Committee and as a Member of Cosby Parish Council.

110. TO CONSIDER COUNCILLOR VACANCIES BY CO-OPTION

The Clerk had tabled a letter from Ash Raithatha. He had attended the previous meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that there was one vacancy and was permissible to be filled by co-option.

Members asked Ash to state why he would like to join the Parish Council.

He was proposed and seconded. RESOLVED: That Mr. A. Raithatha be co-opted as a Councillor to Whetstone Parish Council.

The Clerk invited him to sign the declaration of acceptance of office, and once signed, handed him the agenda pack and he joined the meeting. The Chairman welcomed him onto Council.

111. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 23rd NOVEMBER 2017

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 23rd November 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

112. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23rd November 2017 be received.

RESOLVED: A verbal report on tonight’s planning meeting be received from the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

113. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Public Speaking Protocol - No requests had been received by the protocol deadline.
- b) The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to make representation about any item not on the agenda (old parishioners time).
- i) The light on the footpath from East Avenue to Trinity Park was obscured again by the trees and hedges of the one property on East Avenue. The Clerk has allowed Ground staff to trim the hedge back before and indeed earlier this year. He would report it to LCC who should be doing the enforcement work.
- ii) The footpath on Trinity Park was narrow and bumpy and in the dark was a trip hazard. This was possibly a s106 spend item and the Clerk would bring this and others to Council over the coming months for approvals for appropriate spend. A path on a POS was permissible spend.
- iii) The possibility of grit bins on College Road was discussed. The Clerk would make enquiries as to the current provision by LCC of bins and the grit. Bins had to be located off the Footway.
- iv) Traffic congestion, speeding, irresponsible car parking and safe pedestrian crossings were all becoming problems again. The Clerk highlighted an application from the FA to make part of Badger Drive no parking at any time to ease their egress and ingress on "MATCH DAYS". If this could be done for a commercial venture, then the new developments on the Whittle Estate must be asked to fund road safety measures in the village. The Clerk would invite both County Councillors to the January Meeting to raise this with them. Millions of pounds were being spent elsewhere on roads schemes, this issue had to be raised on behalf of the village and the strains now being seen on its infrastructure. It was not acceptable to wait for an accident to happen.
- v) With the "ever growing" Baptist Church, the mud on the road was unacceptable and the promise of wheel washing on site was not being carried out. The Chairman offered to pass this on to the Church for actioning.
- vi) The Scouts had raised a record amount from their Santa Run this year. Santa had been moved by people's spirit and optimism.
- vii) The Woodyard turn onto Enderby Road was being used incorrectly by some users as they were turning out and trying to go right across the traffic. The Clerk would raise this with Highways as the signage was not mandatory at this time.

114. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The following reports were given: BDC Cllr. Mr. M.E.Jackson reported that Scrutiny were looking at GP service provision within Blaby District. BDC Cllr. Mr. L.M.Phillimore reported that Blaby had the DPD consultation out at the moment and urged all interested Members to look at it and comment even if it was only in relation to Whetstone. The Clerk had this item for Council to consider under correspondence. He added that Scrutiny at BDC were well thought of for its current workstreams.

115. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

116. FINANCE

a) TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of November 2017 were confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

b) TO CONSIDER CHANGING BANKING PROVIDER DUE TO CLOSURE OF LOCAL BRANCH IN 2018

The Clerk updated Members on the letter from Nat West regarding the local Branch Closure in Narborough next year. The Deputy Clerk has been doing some work on alternatives and it was suggested that Finance WP look at this in detail and report back to

Council with recommendations. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will need amending if changes are approved.

RESOLVED: That Finance WP look at the banking and make recommendations to Council for Approval

117. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following:

The Clerk had tabled the latest S106 monies update from the S106 officer at BDC. It was good news and these would now be progressed to quotation stage. New replacement bollards had been installed at the side of the main offices and also on the High Street Car Park to assist in the prevention of fly tipping.

More graffiti and rubbish had been reported in the underpass. BDC were asking to extend the 6 month project for a further 6 months.

The main room had had the carpets cleaned. A new generator had been purchased. The Clerk gave a verbal update on the latest National pay award details. The Clerk would be emailing Members WP meeting dates for January ahead of the budget and precept setting process.

The Clerk had tabled a draft Parish Awards scheme. This was favoured as a good way forward to reward community actions by individuals and groups. It was suggested and agreed that the POS WP look at this in detail and report back with a proposed scheme. This could look at tying grant funding into actions taken by Groups.

The Clerk had received the Council Tax Base and had shared this with the Chairman of Finance WP. It showed a further 90 plus new lived in properties were now paying Council Tax in the village. This was used for the budget and precept cycle.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative report.

118. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive correspondence report: RESOLVED: The list be received and noted. All correspondence had been copied to members.

a) LCC – Parish Consultation regarding Highways and Transport – noted. All Members can complete online following the link.

b) Nat West – Branch Closure 2018 – noted.

c) BDC – Free innovative car driver training – noted.

d) BDC – Parish liaison meeting minutes – noted.

e) BDC – Local Plan Delivery DPD Plan – Consultation – Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would print paper copies for the Chairman and Chairman of Planning Committee to complete. The Clerk would also look at Whetstone sites listed which had been copied to Members in the document included in the Agenda pack.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members and Parishioners for their attendance, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.