

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

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

18<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Present: — Mr. M.C.Burley in the Chair

Mr. M.R.Bounds

Mr. J.Dunkley

Mrs. J.C.Songhurst

Mr.T.C.Scrivens

Mr.D.H.Garratt

Mr.P.Cox

Mr. J. Kenney

Mr.K.Coles

Mr.M.E.Jackson

Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)

County Councillor Mr. D.Jennings in Attendance

### **PARISHIONERS TIME**

The chair asked if any members as parishioners had any questions to raise.

1. Concerns were raised over cut backs to the 45 bus service. It was suggested that Item 11.c) on the agenda BDC – Community Transport review could be used to pass this information back.

2. The footpath across Oliver park was mentioned as being messy when wet. Council was reminded that it had opted for this surface at design stage to allow it to blend in, even though it was known to be high maintenance.

3). The play equipment on Trinity park was viewed to be shabby due to poor grass cutting. The clerk was asked to investigate who and how it was cut.

### **80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Mrs.J.M.Sault - holiday, Mr.T.Ball – family commitment, Mrs. A.M.Tyler - other business , Mr. S.R.Webb – another meeting , Mr.A.C.Tanner – another meeting, Mrs. J.Forey – another meeting

RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

### **81. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS**

None.

### **82. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

None

### **83. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007 AND THE MEETING OF COUNCIL DATED 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007.**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and after amendment of one error in the minutes of the meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **84. RECEIVE MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be received and the verbal report on tonight's meeting be received and accepted.

### **85. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Jennings reported that the search for suitable sites for the two county incinerators were continuing, but confirmed that Whetstone was not one of the sites being considered. This was needed as landfills were getting fuller and the government were looking to increase tax on landfill use.

District Councillor Kenney invited all members to a scrutiny panel meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November to be held at the Boys Club, where underage drinking was the subject for discussion.

District Councillor Coles informed the meeting of specific ASB incidents within the village which were of a serious nature and which had been taken and discussed at the JAG meeting. Also a youth day on the 27<sup>th</sup> October was being organised at the Pavilion, Huncote. BDC planned to provide transport to the venue from villages and encourage young people to see what is on offer at Huncote.

RESOLVED: That the reports given be received.

**86. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Two written reports have been distributed with the minutes from Sue Tomlinson who attended the BDC DART (Drug Alcohol Response Team) and the Clerk who attended the SLCC Branch Meeting.

The clerk reported verbally that he was invited as clerk and had attended the BDC achievement awards held at the Marriott. It was a good night, being fully sponsored and a local company, The Underfloor Warehouse from Whetstone won the business award category for providing the UK's only showroom showing renewable energy options from underfloor heating to rainwater harvesting systems.

Mr.J.Kenney, Mr. M.Burley, Mr.S.R.Webb and Mrs. A.M.Tyler had all attended the BDC Parish Seminar held at Huncote. All felt that transport to and from the venue was key within the district to make it become fully utilised and viable as a usable centre for all age groups.

RESOLVED: That the written reports and any verbal reports given be received.

**87. FINANCE – AUTHORISE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET**

The Clerk presented to Council a monthly report for September 2007 showing actual monthly spend against budget and actual year to date. The clerk also presented a bank reconciliation statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of September 2007 are confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

**88. CLERKS REPORT**

a) General report and Ground Staff Work Schedule. The ground staff work schedule has been distributed.

The clerk had received a copy of the results of the questionnaire given out at the recent Community Safety Road show event run by BDC. A copy will be issued for your information.

The lease of land off BDC on Trinity was updated by the clerk. BDC have stipulated that play equipment should be fenced due to Health and safety stipulations. ROSPA give no need for fencing play equipment in unless there is a need, i.e. dog issues on the park, or safety issues. The clerk to contact BDC and discuss this requirement as installation of a fence will be an expensive additional cost.

The annual Christmas tree has been ordered and the light requirements looked at. The clerk asked that after the event, the tree is relocated to the front of the offices where it can be safely lit and reflect a true Christmas spirit. Last year the tree was quickly vandalised. The event is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Co-op. The installation of the lights by the council at the Memorial Hall was discussed and it was agreed that WPC would install the lights as they had last year. The Memorial Hall were happy that the siting of a flag pole by the Parish Council on their property/ building would be a welcomed move. A question was raised and it was agreed to place an item on a future agenda for discussion regarding Christmas lights for shops and businesses in Whetstone for 2008. The clerk was asked to look at Flagpole costs and providers and report back to council, and Christmas lights for 2008 be added to an agenda.

The clerk informed the meeting that the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday had been ordered, and they will be delivered to Mr. J.Dunkley for safe arrival on the morning.

The clerk reported that the last coffee morning had had a zero attendance.

A new way to cover parishioner's time at meetings was introduced by the clerk. It would become a standard agenda item which reads as follows: "Public Participation – The meeting will be suspended to allow members of the public to make representation about any item that is on this agenda". This covers the latest guidance from NALC ensuring that members of the public have a slot on the agenda to talk. We have always met the requirement with the statement on the agendas that states time will be made for public participation.

A discussion was held saying the old system allowed informal items to be raised of importance and that any item raised that needed a decision, other than an action from the clerk was documented and placed on the agenda of next full council or of the appropriate working party or committee. The clerk hoped that parishioners, who have 5 day a week access to the office, and a 24 hour 7 day a week answer phone and email reporting system to report “minor” issues, would be reporting them real time and not waiting until the monthly meeting. The new agenda item will be added and monitored.

The clerk reported that 2 parishioners had enquired about taking areas of land into their own boundaries, one on Wright Close and one on Hubbard Close. These will be added to the next WP meeting agenda.

The clerk reported that a wall on the village green had been knocked down, but that its repair is booked in. The Rainbow Tree café had had its front window broken, and the florists and nursery had had chips put in their glass windows. Bottles had once again been used as missiles from the underpass into the horse’s field and a horse has been cut, but the source of cut could not be guaranteed. All have been passed to the police for action.

The clerk informed council that our ground staff had all successfully completed the Road Signage course they undertook at LCC in August. Congratulations to be passed on.

b) War Memorial Update – The clerk reported that Busby’s were completing the work in the next 10 working days in time for completion for Remembrance Sunday.

c) BDC Evening 637 bus visit feedback – The clerk read out some feedback statistics from the Youth worker regarding the evening events held on Trinity Park.

d) Annual playground inspection – The clerk informed council that this had taken place and we were awaiting the report.

e) Whetstone Brook - Environmental agency work – The clerk and Graham Hamilton had met with the EA to look at access into the brook for the equipment to be used during dredging. An area of fencing would be removed opposite Whetstone House, and tracking laid to protect the grass and block paved footpath. This end of the village green would be taped off and closed whilst the work was taking place. A ramp will be cut into the bank to again allow machine access into the brook, and then when the work completed, restored and reseeded. The EA will inform us ahead of start date so we can arrange the taping off of the village green area affected and the clerk to place notices on the appropriate boards to inform residents.

f) Working party meeting dates – The clerk asked that dates be set ahead of the November Finance meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November to allow budget implications to be discussed and gathered in a timely manner. The Public Open Spaces & Cemetery working party and the Recreation, Leisure & Community Premises working party meeting joint date was agreed for 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 p.m. Mr. M.E.Jackson was appointed as Chair for this meeting.

## **89. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) To receive correspondence report: RESOLVED: The list be received.

b) Blaby Parish Council – The letter re the reopening of the railway station was read out by the clerk for members, as it was late correspondence at the last meeting. RESOLVED: The letter be received.

c) CEAP – A Thank you letter and follow up plan from last meetings presentation had been received. It was felt by the meeting that this may be of use in the future to council. RESOLVED: The letter be received.

d) DEFRA – Ways to tackle climate change – The clerk had a copy of a booklet for councils information. RESOLVED: The letter be received. The clerk to retain the booklet in the office for future reference.

e) St.Peter's C of E Primary School thank you letter re the tree and boundary work. The clerk was asked why the school had queried the fence boundary, but was not aware of the reason.

RESOLVED: The letter be received and the clerk to enquire why ownership was an issue.

f) BDC – Pullen Court Confirmation of naming- The Clerk informed the meeting of the “confusion” over the procedure for this process from BDC. The road use for Anna Pullens name had been discussed with BDC and was approved as being acceptable for the new road on the Whetstone House development when completed and named as Anna's Way. This will be opposite the memorial erected in her honour on the village green. RESOLVED: The letter be received.

g) BDC –Scrutiny Information Pack – The clerk made members aware that an information brochure was available in the office for reference. RESOLVED: The letter is received.

h) Leicestershire Police – Key personnel changes – This was highlighted to the meeting for information. Again it is frustrating that personnel changes at all levels continue to change the team that we deal with within the LPU. RESOLVED: The letter be received.

**90. APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER MEETINGS**

a) APLC – Community Forums RESOLVED: Mr.K.Coles was attending, the clerk also.

b) BDC – Race Equality Scheme – RESOLVED: The Clerk to complete.

c) BDC – Community Transport - 3 Questions need answering – The issue regarding the 45 bus service was discussed and can be fed back under this review.

RESOLVED: The clerk to ask Mrs.A.M.Tyler for any views as she is a Bus User within Whetstone.

**91. MEMORIALS**

The following applications in respect of memorials in Whetstone Cemetery were received: -

GR 156 JOAN CHARLES                      INSCRIPTION ON EXISTING MEMORIAL

F 37     TERRY PARAMORE                INSCRIPTION ON NEW MEMORIAL

The clerk asked if this administration item needed to be on the agenda, as Council were not made aware of whom had been buried or interred in the cemetery for the month, but were informed of the inscriptions on memorials.

RESOLVED: The applications be approved subject to the appropriate fees being paid. The clerk to put this item on the agenda for next months meeting for discussion.

With there being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 8.47 p.m.