

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

26th January 2017

Present: - Mr. M.E.Jackson – Chairman
Mr. M.R.Bounds
Mrs. P.Kenney
Mrs. A.M.Tyler
Mr. L.M.Phillimore
Mrs. S. Coe (Deputy Clerk)

Mr.P.Cox
Mr. J.Riley
Ms. S.Tomlinson
Mr. D.Smith
Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)

One Parishioner in attendance.

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from: Mr.R.Simmons – holiday, Mr.A.Tanner – other meeting, Nadina Kalsi – emailed apologies, LCC Cllr. Mr.D.Jennings – other meeting, LCC Cllr. Mr.T.Richardson - other meeting.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

117. CHAIRMANS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members and the Parishioner to the meeting. He reminded Members that the various Working Party minutes were for receiving at agenda item 5 (minute 120). Any questions and any recommendations from Finance Working Party would be dealt with in confidential agenda item 12 (minute 127).

118. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Mr. M.E. Jackson, Mr. D. Smith and Mr. J. Riley declared personal interests as Members of the Whetstone Allotment Association.

119. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 22nd DECEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 22nd December 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

120. TO RECEIVE MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 22nd December 2016, Community Premises & Public Open Spaces Working Party held on 4th January 2017, Staff Working Party held on 4th January 2017 and Finance Working Party held on 12th January 2017 be received.

121. 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 graffiti around the village was discussed. The various actions taken and results were given by the Deputy Clerk. The Clerk would use correspondence to make all property owners where possible and also BDC, aware of the issue and the unacceptable situation that was arising by Graffiti not being removed. If no response was given, Ground staff could spend time removing / painting over the graffiti.

ii) On the DWH estate, Orbit had obtained permission for signage approved at certain locations. These had now been moved. Was planning application needed? The Clerk would make enquiries with the planning officer.

iii) Litter around the village was raised as being excessive. Areas were discussed. The Clerk assured Members that the public open spaces would all be “deep cleansed” as they are annually. Any additional areas would be tackled by the staff as were raised. The Clerk made Council aware of a national cleaning weekend being targeted for March. This could

be something the Parish Council advertised and offered litter pickers and bin bags for in the next Duckpaddle. This was felt to be a good idea. Even a Whetstone Litter Pick could be advertised separately to the National Campaign if the timing of the Duckpaddle did not meet the timings required to capture the National Campaign.

iv) The footpath from Otter Way along the top of the brook banks to the new Linden Homes development was very muddy. The Clerk had asked Linden Homes twice for an answer as to whether they would be linking their footpath across Parish Land to Otter Way. No reply had been forthcoming. Early conversations with Linden Homes had indicated an answer would be given “to the positive”. This had been costed by the Clerk at £5,500 for a tarmac path. No funds were available from Parish Funds and no s106 monies had been given from this development to possibly use. The footpath constructed on the development had stopped at its boundary. The Clerk would ask Ground staff to inspect the area and if it was felt to be a hazard, the old Environmental Agency access gate would be reinstalled and the access closed.

122. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

BDC Cllr. Mr. M. Jackson reported the following: A letter regarding the Post Office relocation to the Chemists premises had been received. A resident was communicating with him regarding trees on the rear of his property.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports given be received.

123. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

124. FINANCE TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

RESOLVED: That the accounts paid up to the end of December 2016 were confirmed. The bank reconciliation statement was signed by the Chairman on behalf of Council.

125. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following: The works on the Warwick Road were ongoing. Good feedback was being generated about the all weather path around the park. It was hoped the “missing link” path behind the pavilion could be funded from ongoing s106 monies going forward.

The Clerk tabled an indicative drawing of a Bund that DWH had requested be installed at the front of their open space on Wright Close. Access would be through drop down bollards for machinery to enter and exit. BDC had been consulted and were happy with the scheme presented. This was a benefit going forward and had been brought about by concerned residents of the new estate over illegal access and trespass.

The Clerk updated Members on traffic on Burnham Drive from concerned residents. He would chase up LCC. Tree works were being carried out by the Groundstaff on all open spaces over the coming 4 – 6 weeks.

The Clerk made Members aware of a “what school children saw” as the key skills that Councillors required from a poster that he had seen. A scheme for affordable houses in Cosby was tabled as it had been sent into the office for Members information.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative report.

126. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been copied to members.

a) Whetstone Scouts – Update on building extension – noted. The Clerk updated Members as to his actions regarding their future planning application and possible funding.

- b) BDC – Re: Trinity Road Recreation Ground Safety Checks – noted. The Clerk updated Members as to the annual requirements that the Staff complete.
- c) Letter re Graffiti on M1 bridges in and around the area – received. The Clerk had been asked to write back and inform the Cosby resident that we do signpost all reported matters.
- d) LCC - Highway asset management Policy and Strategy – consultation – noted. A link was on the correspondence should anyone wish to complete.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted.

127. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

a) To discuss any recommendations from the working parties

The Chairman updated Members as to the process to date. The Community Premises & Public Open Spaces Working Party recommended projects had been fed into Finance Working Party as per the minutes. The Staff Working Party gave recommendations to Finance Working Party which needed resolving by Council as they were the Corporate Employer.

All financial implications were built into the Finance working party recommendations for precept and budget and these would be presented in the next item.

Mr. L.M.Phillimore, as Chairman of Staff Working Party overviewed the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the Clerk be awarded one pay incremental point from SP38 to SP39. This was to reinstate Councils desired differential between Clerk and Deputy Clerk of 70%. This was RESOLVED.

Recommendation 2: That a banding be set for the post of Clerk/RFO/Manager for future appointments and that this be set at SP30 to SP42. This was RESOLVED.

Recommendation 3: That the Head Groundman be awarded one pay incremental point from SP25 to SP26. This was RESOLVED.

Recommendation 4: That a banding be set for the post of Head Groundsman which was to be SP23 to SP29 inclusive. This was RESOLVED.

Recommendation 5: That a banding be set for Ground staff of SP15 to SP22 inclusive. This was RESOLVED.

Recommendation 6: That the new Groundsman be awarded two incremental points from SP16 to SP18. This was RESOLVED.

b) To discuss, approve and adopt the budget for 2017/18 for the Parish of Whetstone with the Finance WP recommendation

The Chairman asked Mr. P.Cox, as Chairman of Finance Working party to present the working party recommendation.

A power point presentation was given to Members highlighting last year's budget process and this year's challenges. An hourly rate increase in room hire charges from April 1st 2017 from £12 to £12.50 per hour and from £9 to £10 for any discounted rates given. This was RESOLVED.

Following the presentation and a full discussion, the **recommendation** to Full Council was **a precept of £213,150** with the addition of the Grant of £13,088 and **a Budget of £245,389**.

RESOLVED: A precept of £213,150 with the addition of the Council Tax Grant of £13,088 and a Budget of £245,389 be approved and adopted.

c) To approve the issue of a precept on Blaby District Council for the amount required taking into consideration the grant awarded to the Parish.

RESOLVED: That a precept of £213,150 be issued to Blaby District Council.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.55 p.m.