

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

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Present: - Mr. R. Simmons – Chairman  
Mr. M.R. Bounds  
Mrs. A.M. Tyler  
Ms. S. Tomlinson  
Mr. L.M. Phillimore  
Mr. M. Bradford  
Mr. L. Breckon (Clerk)

Mr. P. Cox  
Mrs. P. Kenney  
Mr. M.E. Jackson  
Mr. J. Riley  
Ms. N. Howden

Mrs. S. Coe – (Deputy Clerk)

3 (1) Parishioner in attendance.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from: Mr. A. Tanner - other meeting, Mr. D. Smith - other meeting, Mrs. N. Kalsi - family illness, LCC Cllr Mr. D. Jennings - other meeting, LCC Cllr. Mr. T. Richardson - other meeting. RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

### **2. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting.

### **3. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

None.

### **4. TO CONSIDER COUNCILLOR VACANCIES BY CO OPTION**

The Clerk had tabled two letters from Mike Bradford and Natalie Howden. Both had attended meetings of the Parish Council over the last year. The Clerk confirmed that there were two vacancies and both permissible to be filled by co-option. One further vacancy existed.

Members asked both to state why they would like to join the Parish Council.

They were proposed and seconded. RESOLVED: That Mr. M. Bradford and Ms. N. Howden be co-opted as Councillors to Whetstone Parish Council.

The Clerk invited them both to sign their declaration of acceptance of office, and once signed, handed them their agenda packs and they both joined the meeting. The Chairman welcomed them both onto Council.

It was noted that it was also good to hear that the remaining Parishioner was also interested in becoming a Councillor.

### **5. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL DATED 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2017**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **6. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, the Staff Working party held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and the Finance and Policy Working party held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be received.

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

## **7. 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) A Member had attended a presentation by the PCC. It was very informative.
  - ii) A tree had been vandalised and removed by staff on the amenity area in front of the Church. The Clerk said the Head Groundsman was monitoring the other trees and would remove and replant if the problem continued.
  - iii) The graffiti had been removed from the Electroform site which was finally good news.
  - iv) The issues regarding the emergency access on Springwell Lane, the large addition to a property on Abbots way, and the sign movement regarding Orbit Homes were raised. No response had been received from BDC Planning. The Clerk would chase.
  - v) Dog fouling was getting less of an issue along Springwell Lane. A big well done to all involved.
  - vi) The Linden Homes footpath was raised. The Clerk updated Members as to the work done to date. If the path in winter became a health and safety matter, the Gate would be reinstalled and access from the development would be stopped. Council had costed the path at £5,700. No funding was in place. A question was asked regarding s106 monies and the Clerk replied that Linden Homes had given no s106 contributions to the Parish Council, so it would be wrong to use other developments money to complete what would have been a simple lo-cost fix for the developer. In previous conversations with Linden Homes, the land had been offered to allow the path to be continued onto Otter Way.
  - vii) Events at the Lime Tree were overspilling the car parking around the Burnham Drive junction. This was an enforcement matter and needed reporting to BDC.
  - viii) Waste around the old Wilford Shoes site on Brook Street was raised as a growing eye sore and concern. Again this was an enforcement matter. BDC had been made aware of the problem and had visited the site.
  - ix) Parking on pavements was raised. The Clerk urged offenders to be photographed and sent to the office, who would email them to the local PCSO for action.

## **8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

BDC Cllr. Mrs. S. Coe had tabled a report in the agenda pack. Other Cllrs. present added that various meetings, including scrutiny had been taking place. It was added that the outline application on the Hewitt turf site in Cosby had been approved. RESOLVED: That the written report and any verbal reports given be received.

## **9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

None.

## **10. FINANCE**

### **a) TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET**

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

### **b) TO NOTE THE RECEIPT OF THE 2016 /17 ANNUAL RETURN PACK AND ITS REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE**

The Clerk updated members as to the date that the audit process must be completed and submitted to the External Auditor.

RESOLVED: To note the date of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 as the required completion date.

### **c) RBS SYSTEM CLOSE DOWN REPORT INCLUDING UPDATED RESERVE TOTALS**

The Clerk had tabled the year end RBS closedown report showing the end of year financial position. This will be presented in the Annual return pack in June.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

**11. TO CONSIDER AN AWARDS / COMMENDATIONS SCHEME FOR WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk had tabled two types of schemes for Members to consider. The Freedom of the Parish is bestowed by the Council and was the original idea put forward by the Clerk. The second "Thurlaston" scheme was more involved from "getting forms out and back in" and getting a "panel" to agree winners (not Council controlled).

The Clerk shared an email from Mr. D.Smith giving his preference.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk set up the Freedom of the Parish scheme and present the final scheme to Council.

**12. CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported the following: A Major planning application – (amended) for land off Enderby road 16/1085/FUL which was for a reduction in Housing numbers from 50 to 43.

The Clerk had tabled Council's previous response. The application was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk object and amend the previous response accordingly.

RESOLVED: Council **Objects** to the application on the following grounds:

- a) Key documents i.e. the transport document were nearly 3 years old and were out of date. The traffic speed sign / volume detector sited on the Enderby Road owned by Whetstone Parish Council outside the Westleigh Office indicated an 11% increase in traffic volumes against those on the report included in the application. The additional housing in Blaby, Countesthorpe, Cosby, Whetstone and Glen Parva had increased traffic flows significantly.
- b) LA Highways had started including cumulative effects of housing schemes on local road networks. This was not included in this scheme or the LA Highways report. The impact, as mentioned by Enderby Parish Council in their original scheme objection, would be severe on all arterial roads around the neighbouring villages.
- c) Traffic turning out of the development would wish to turn right into the village for schooling purposes of which we believe a lot of the residents would be using. This would be through the cueing traffic that appears each morning on the Enderby Road. This would have safety impacts on traffic travelling from Enderby as this traffic was usually not gridlocked, but flowing freely. The Business park filter installed a few years ago was also problematic and having two together in a back to back system would not be desirable in any road design.
- d) A footpath was shown at the end of the development which implied a pedestrian route onto Station Street. This was not possible as the land was a busy industrial yard with delivery vehicles including articulated lorries using the site weekdays daytime. No mention in the associated paperwork mentions if this would be delivered. An access onto the Whetstone Way footpath was not feasible as the land owner does not have access onto this site and any access would mean loss of trees on the old railway embankment. This again would be opposed.
- e) The land as being Green Wedge is protecting the village of Whetstone from encroachment and is therefore against Policy of the BDC local plan in force for Whetstone. The applicant makes light of this in the application, but the wedge is there for a purpose and should not be eroded.
- f) The setting of the Grade 2 listed building would be impacted by 43 dwellings being built in the suggested location. The removal of trees on the Enderby Road to facilitate development as stated in the application would open the views up, and the construction of 43 dwellings would then impact on the view of the listed building, which are not indicated in the applicant's submission.

- g)** The noise impact from the kennels was raised for the protection of the animals, as well as housing when this was previously submitted but withdrawn. A development of 43 houses would impact on their wellbeing as well as the impact of the animals barking would cause the residents of the new houses. This is an established business and we advocate its right in being protected. The acoustic fencing is not seen as effective to prevent noises two way.
- h)** The badger sett solution is not accepted as being full enough. An SUD in the middle of a sett area is not a solution or acceptable.
- i)** The design of the dwellings are not in keeping with the surrounding area as the all local and neighbouring properties have chimneys, which are completely lacking in all dwellings shown. Even if decorative, this detail is needed.
- j)** The housing mix as 100% affordable is not accepted. Whetstone is oversubscribed with regards to affordable housing provision. Council felt that a 25% affordable element would have been easier to consider as normal, open market smaller housing is needed and this is accepted by Council. We are aware of the size of the village in not requiring the Rural Enabler as an exception site, but when Anna's Way, off High Street was moved to providing 100% affordable, we were involved with the Rural Enabler. We have an over provision in Whetstone with both established and new housing schemes, compared to other areas in the district, and although we accept that there may be a district wide need, the over intensification in one area will create the problems that the BDC Housing Strategy is designed to avoid.
- k)** The air quality already deemed an issue due to the stationary traffic twice a day on the Enderby Road for Whetstone Residents and with the LCC recycling and Waste centre generating its odours and pollutants. The BDC Depot and the Maxi Waste cement plant also added to this growing problem. Therefore, this green wedge cannot be an acceptable location to build a housing estate.
- l)** Grange Drive residents (2) would be consumed by this development which is total overbearing.
- m)** Offsite s106 provision would need to be made as the onsite Open Space provision is minimal. This would need to provide for offsite contribution to the Parish for it to provide the under provision with its current provision.

The Parish would wish to speak at a Planning Committee where this application was being heard if the Officer recommended approval with conditions.

End.

The Warwick Road works were completed apart from some site tidying work. A new Members list to be generated after tonight

The defibrillator cabinets were installed and the Clerk was awaiting commissioning and addition to the county and national registers. The Clerk read an email from CLGB on grant use, which was gratefully received. The Deputy Clerk was using the local Scout group to deliver the Duckpaddle, saving £270 per year.

The Clerk showed Members the Deputy Clerks first draft "Welcome Pack" she had been asked to produce as one of her fulltime tasks as Deputy Clerk. It was to be converted to an electronic version as a pdf and made available on the website and also paper copies could be purchased if preferred.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his informative report.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- a) GNS – Newsletter – received and noted.
- b) BDC – Scrutiny work programme suggestions form – received.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted.

**14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

In accordance with the Public bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public were excluded from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (Staffing) and will be requested to withdraw.

- a) To receive any recommendations from Staff Working Party held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Minutes in the agenda pack had the 3 recommendations being presented by the Chairman of the Working Party.

**ALL CONFIDENTIAL TEXT HAS BEEN REMOVED**

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 10.20 p.m.