

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

22nd June 2017

Present: - Mr. R.Simmons– Chairman
Mr. M.R.Bounds
Mrs. A.M.Tyler
Mr. J.Riley
Mr. L.M.Phillimore
Mrs. N.Kalsi
Mr. M.Bradford
Mrs. S. Coe – (Deputy Clerk)

Mr. P.Cox
Mrs. P.Kenney
Mr. D.Smith
Mr. S.Duffin (co-opted)
Mr. A.Tanner
Mrs. N.Howden
Mr. L.Breckon (Clerk)

2 Parishioners in attendance.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from :- Mr. M.E.Jackson - holiday, Ms. S.Tomlinson – holiday, LCC Cllr Mr.D.Jennings – holiday and LCC Cllr. Mr.T.Richardson – holiday.
RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

30. CHAIRS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members and Parishioners to the meeting. He had attended the open farm event at Whetstone Pastures farm and had been impressed with the turnout at the event.

31. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Mr. L.M.Phillimore declared a non pecuniary interest as a Member of BDC Planning Committee.

32. TO CONSIDER COUNCILLOR VACANCIES BY CO OPTION

The Chairman was pleased to bring this item to Council as it meant that Whetstone Parish Council would be at full complement of 15 Members for the first time in over ten years.

The Clerk had tabled a letter from Mr. Sam Duffin. He had attended meetings of the Parish Council over the last few months.

The Clerk confirmed that there was one vacancy and was permissible to be filled by co-option. Members asked what he felt he could bring to the Parish Council.

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

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

33. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL DATED 25th MAY 2017

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting dated 25th May 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

34. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 25th May 2017 be received.
RESOLVED: A verbal report on tonight's planning meeting be received from the Chairman of Planning Committee.

35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Public Speaking Protocol - No requests had been received.
- 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 Parishioner in attendance reported the ongoing issues with the Blaby Underpass and the current street art wall project. He went through all issues that were current and his frustration and disappointment with what assistance and support he was getting from BDC and the Police. He asked what help the Parish could offer. Each item raised was discussed. It was suggested that the underpass could be closed by LCC and the alternative use of the crossings on the bypass be made towards Enderby Road. The issue of the underpass could be discussed with the relevant external bodies present, although a meeting had already taken place with BDC officers and Cllrs and also the Police. The outcomes were not satisfactory. The Clerk made Members aware of the project being for 6 months with reviews. Tagging had to be reported and needed acting upon. The ASB and intimidation and drug taking were criminal matters and needed reporting and then action taking. The CSP Chairman at BDC would be asked to raise the dilemma now created by the wall being in place and the immunity being giving to the users of the wall. Graffiti was an offence and needed pursuing as such. A six month "amnesty" was not acceptable. Crimestoppers was available for anonymous reporting. The Police and LCC Cllrs should be invited for this to be an agenda item. The Parishioner would also be invited.
- ii) Hedges were overhanging along Dog & Gun Lane, making it hard to pass as a pedestrian, let alone a wheelchair or pushchair user.
- iii) East Avenue residents were looking to pool funds to allow resurfacing to take place. It was an un-adopted road.
- iv) Speeding cars on Cambridge and Grove Road were making it impossible to safely cross the roads at times. The speed limit needed reducing and LCC Cllrs. would be written to. This had been raised as a requirement before. The Clerk would inspect the various s106 agreements to see if any speed reductions were planned. It was agreed that the mix and use of the road had now changed, so the 40mph currently in place was not suitable.
- v) Banners still adorned various parts of the village. The latest being the Festival on the Pitch. The Clerk gave an update on this.
- vi) A safe road crossing was needed for Warwick Road. This needed adding to iv) above.
- vii) Dog mess on the new DWH open space was becoming a problem. The Clerk gave an update on DWH's stance, but would raise the matter again with the site Engineer.
- viii) The Notice boards were raised. The Clerk informed Members that all boards were being cleaned and refurbished over the summer months. The one outside the office had been completed.
- ix) The local papers had shared some good news stories relating to protecting green wedges and also planning appeals.

36. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The following reports were received: BDC Cllr. Mr. A.Tanner reported that he had attended training courses at BDC. He was involved in Cosby Planning Matters. He reported the works of improvement at Attfield Farm were nearing completion.

BDC Cllr. Mr. L.M.Phillimore reported that he had dealt with Jon Wells at BDC on Holmes Park parking issues. The Clerk had a confirmation email as to the actions Jon had taken. He asked that all Parishioners use their phones to photograph speeding vehicles and poorly parked vehicles. Again, by reporting these through the channels available to residents, action will be taken. The speeding traffic issues needed Parish support by way of letters as did the need to yellow line Cambridge Road.

The Chairman thanked them for their reports.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports given be received.

37. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

38. FINANCE

a) TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

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

b) ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2016/17 – This is a statutory requirement to present to Council. RESOLVED: The Annual Governance Statement be received and where needed, signed by the Chairman.

c) TO RECEIVE THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL 2016/17 - This is a statutory requirement to present to Council. RESOLVED: The Statement of Accounts be received and where needed, signed by the Chairman.

d) INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2016/17 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE WITHIN IT – statutory requirement to present to Council – tabled. RESOLVED: The Internal Auditors report and any recommendations made be received and where needed, signed by the Chairman.

39. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following: The Major planning application which had been amended again for land off Enderby Road 16/1085/FUL had been refused as per Officer Recommendations from BDC Planning Committee.

The Clerk showed a “tag crowd” which showed a snapshot of the types of work types and queries handled by the office. The Clerk updated Members on cars that were illegally parked on the High Street Car park and the actions being taken. The Clerk had reported new graffiti to BDC as per his email to Members. He highlighted action taken regarding the posters around the village for the Festival on the Pitch.

The Clerk showed the Welcome Pack now on the web site. He also showed the revised and updated planning page.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative report.

40. DEFIBRILATOR PRESENTATION

RESOLVED: This item be deferred to the next meeting. Also that it be looked at regarding viewing via the website for Parishoners.

41. CORRESPONDENCE

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

a) Parishoners letter – notice board - received and noted.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted. Mr. A.Tanner left the meeting at 9.35 p.m.

42. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

In accordance with the Public bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the press and the public will be 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 a report as requested on pension matters. The Clerk tabled the report

requested by Council from the LGPS. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk left the room for Members to discuss the contents.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk were invited to return. RESOLVED: That the report be further discussed up by the Staff WP at its July Meeting.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.05 p.m.