

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHETSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held at the Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone

24th August 2017

Present: - Mr. R. Simmons– Chairman

Mr. M.R. Bounds

Mrs. A. M. Tyler

Mr. M.E. Jackson

Mr. L.M. Phillimore

Mr. M. Bradford

Mrs. S. Coe – (Deputy Clerk)

No Parishioners in attendance.

Mr. P.Cox

Mrs. P. Kenney

Mr. D.Smith

Ms. S. Tomlinson

Mr. S. Duffin

Mr. L. Breckon (Clerk)

LCC Cllr. Mr. D. Jennings

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from:– Mr. J.Riley other meeting, Mr. A.Tanner – family commitment, Mrs. N.Howden – holiday, Mrs. N.Kalsi – holiday and LCC Cllr. Mr.T.Richardson – other meeting.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies received.

57. CHAIRMANS REPORT AND REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members and Cllr. Jennings to the meeting.

58. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

59. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL DATED 27th JULY 2017

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings dated 27th July 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 27th July 2017 be received.

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

61. 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) Fly poster's had appeared regarding a wrestling event. The Clerk had been approached to place these in the notice boards, but it was not a local event and had declined.

ii) The general rundown state of High Street was raised. Progress on the Wheatsheaf was slow. Station Street was also a "mess".

iii) The cars outside the house on Grove Road was raised as getting worse. The issues had been reported to the District Council who were looking at the problem.

iv) The old taxi rank by the Lime Tree had piles of rubbish outside it. The Clerk had seen activity at the building.

v) The DWH Substation on Springwell Lane was in a poor state regarding the fencing around it. The Clerk would get this reported.

vi) Dog fouling still occurred in the village, but it was not as big a problem.

vii) Dangerous driving and speeding was now occurring along Wychwood Road and Springwell Lane still had the same problems. POS Working Party would be asked to look at this as a s106 issue regarding calming measures as possible spends.

viii) The astro turf on the swings on Trinity Park and the zip wire sat were in a poor state. The Clerk would review all parks and get the repairs completed.

62. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

LCC Cllr. Mr. D.Jennings reported the following: He was getting enquiries from parishioners regarding the possible Junction 20 a M1 junction and an eastern bypass. This was Highways England and was part of the Midlands Engine work published in January. The Combined authorities group were looking at plans for Leicester and Leicestershire and were looking at a draft masterplan for future consultation. It was known that County, City and District councils were organising briefings for Members. Phil Crossland was retiring as Director of Highways.

BDC Cllr. Mr. L.M.Phillimore had been dealing with issues of noise from the Lime Tree and looking at Parking Enforcement as part of a solution with BDC. He updated Members on planning matters in Cosby. BDC Cllr. Mr. M.E.Jackson was heading the scrutiny working group looking at Lubbesthorpe and ensuring it became integrated as it developed. He also discussed a community speed watch group for Whetstone. The Clerk updated Members as to the previous works done.

RESOLVED: That any verbal reports given be received.

63. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

64. FINANCE

a) TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRM BALANCE SHEET

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

65. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following: The Deputy Clerk was completing work on the High Street Car Park rateable values and small business classification going forward. This may prove a useful exercise for Council going forward. A height restrictor on High Street car park had been quoted for and would be fitted to prevent unlawful use of and dumping on the car park as witnessed over summer. This was protecting the asset.

The Clerk had tabled the Wheatsheaf footpath closure order due whilst the building was to be demolished. The Defibrillator video was now available through a link on the web site which the Clerk showed Members.

The Clerk shared with Members the Alcohol licence application advertised in the papers for the old Londis shop. The Clerk had received an email from the Police regarding how graffiti was dealt with. This was part of the underpass graffiti wall issue being dealt with at Septembers Council meeting.

The High Street planning application approved at BDC Planning Committee was good news for the village. This was discussed as to the approval notice tabled for Members by the Clerk.

The Clerk was thanked for his informative report

66. CORRESPONDENCE

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

a) BDC Cosby Neighbourhood area application - received and noted as accepting the Parish boundary as outlined at this point.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be received and actions noted.

67. 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 an update and discuss any recommendations from the Staff Working Party held on 23rd August 2017.

The Chairman of the Staff Working Party overviewed the meeting held the night before and made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

WPC retain membership of the LGPS for its current employees for the foreseeable future.

Recommendation 2

Subject to the revaluation in February / March 2020, WPC reserve the right to review the revaluations given by employing skilled external expertise (Independent Financial Adviser) to understand the position at that point and going forward.

Recommendation 3

That WPC write to the LGPS Pension Board to express the deep concern over the increases seen from 2005 to date and going forward to 2020 (12%). That a transparent and understandable explanation be requested from the LGPS as to how the WPC fund works and why the increased employer contributions are needed. That the Chairman share the letter and concerns raised with the LRALC and asked that it be shared with all Member Councils who must be feeling the same financial strain on the expected contributions.

Recommendation 4

That the Chairman of Council and Chairman of Staff Working Party meet the LRALC to discuss their stance regarding a Parish Council leaving the LGPS.

RESOLVED: That the all recommendations made be approved.

With there being no further business, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.