

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th January 2013, at Whittington Village Hall at approx.19:40 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: Concerns were ongoing regarding Parking in the village with problems of school parking exacerbated by the long term parking of vehicles in breach of the Access Only Order. M. Baker supplied PCSO Allchurch with a list of offending vehicles and supporting photographs. The Chairman reported his negotiations with the Police in this matter and the problems of shortage of manpower that they faced.

A parishioner queried whether the lengthsman was still litter picking in the village (he was not).

Queries were raised about highways matters and the Chairman reported briefly on the meeting held with WCC Highways personnel from whom a response was awaited. It was revealed that some of the overgrown hedges in the village had been cut by Mrs N. Rogers' firm on a goodwill basis, and that gritting had been similarly undertaken.

Complaints were received about the placing of advertisements around the J7 Roundabout.

It was reported that there was no sign towards Whittington as one approached on the B4084 from J7.

2013.01 Attendance.

Present: S.L. Brooker, J.E. Chamberlain, S. MacLeod, P.J. Wood.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; District & County Councillor R.C. Adams, pcso Ben Allchurch.

Apologies: C.A. Smith.

2013.02 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, and Ethical Matters.

- a. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests in items on this Agenda.
S. Macleod reported that she had spoken with the monitoring Officer at WDC and wished to declare a non-pecuniary interest in the matter of parking restrictions proposed on Church Lane.
- c. Dispensations: Councillor Brooker had applied for grant of dispensation re Precepting and related matters. It was agreed (JEC/SM) to grant a dispensation from the requirements of S31 of the Localism Act 2011 to Councillor Brooker in respect of matters pertaining to the setting of the Council's Annual Estimates, Budget, and Precept. The dispensation was to last for four years or for the life of the present Council whichever was the less. For the future Members agreed (SLB/SM) unanimously that delegated authority be given to the Council's Proper Officer to grant dispensations to Members when required or relevant.
- d. Ethical Matters. Members were reminded of their personal responsibility to keep their Register of Interest entries up to date.

2013.03 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

To consider the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th November 2012.

Amendment of the second sentence of the second paragraph of the report of the Democratic Period/Question Time to read "Parking by school parents combined with the parking of large vehicles outside the church was reported as creating a potential problem of access for emergency vehicles." Was agreed (SM/JEC)

Thereafter the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th November 2012 were adopted (PJW/SM) as amended.

2013.04 Co-option of Members to fill vacancies on the Council.

An application form had been sent to M. Baker but had not been received by him. The Clerk reported his verbal application that evening, and in the light of their knowledge of the applicant, and his history as a previous Chairman of the Council he was proposed by S. MacLeod, seconded by J.E. Chamberlain and co-opted unanimously, leaving one vacancy.

2013.05 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: None
- b. Previous consultations. None
- c. Planning Decisions:
Planning Ref W/12/01946/PN - Planning Portal Ref PP-02177720 - St Philip and St James Church, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RQ - It was reported that this application was withdrawn on 21/11/2012.
- d. Other Planning Consultations:
SWDP: South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) Draft Submission Document: Consultation - Test of Soundness and Legal Compliance. Notice of this had been forwarded to Members, who had no comments.
- e. Other Planning Matters: The Clerk reported a complaint regarding a new sign erected at the Swan Inn and the felling of trees on the bank in front of it. He recalled no planning application for the sign, nor did members and the Clerk was instructed to pursue this with the relevant authority alongside complaints about the advertising at J7 of the M5 (See Democratic Period and Question Time)

2013.06 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

None.

2013.07 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a Receipts: since the last meeting: WCC re. Lengthsman, Sept. & Oct. 2012- £369.60 ; HSBC interest c22p/month
- b Payments: a list of invoices and requests for payment totalling £417.70 was submitted. Payment was approved (SLB/SM).
- c Proposals for Expenditure. None
- d Other Finance Matters:

Quarterly Accounts report to 31/12/2012 Having been previously sent out, this was considered and approved (SM/SLB).

New Homes Bonus The Clerk reported that the latest "statement" showed an accumulation of £205 for Whittington Parish, and circulated the explanatory letter.

2013.08 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General:

Meeting with Jon Frazer & Roy Fullee The Chairman referred to the meeting held with Highways representatives on 6/11/2012. The promised written response had not been received. Matters raised there are so noted below by an asterisk (*).

Swan Roundabout Improvements: No further response from Highways.*

A public meeting had been convened by Lisa Ventura to discuss the roundabout after being involved in a whip lash crash. The Clerk understood that the meeting was scheduled for 15th January but it appeared that it had already taken place; WPC had not attended.

M5 Noise: Nothing reported

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None proposed

Previous Matters:

B 4084/M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: Maintenance of footway NE corner.*

Old Road: Overgrown Hedges opposite the Swan - Resolved

Walkers Lane: Overgrown Hedges along lane - Cut by Parishioner The Clerk to write expressing thanks.

New Matters:

The lengthsman having declined the task as it required mechanical cutting, the Clerk had requested WCC to cut the hedge on Old Road/Church Lane from the Swan Access Road to the entrance to Whittington Lodge.*

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: Speed limit to be reduced - consultation started by WCC.*

WCC agree to mark pedestrian/cycle route over island - consultation initiated.*

Village Gatings: Materials supplied to WCC who had requested WPC 50% contribution - the Clerk had pointed out the agreed payment arrangements - installation date to be advised.

Speed enforcement B4084. No further progress.

Yellow box junction markings at Swan Roundabout - no response from WCC.*

Enforcement of Access Only Order: No further developments. "Notices" purporting to come from Whittington Parish Council had resulted in various enquiries and complaints. These referred to "Parking Restrictions" which was inaccurate and it was agreed that the activists putting out such notices be asked to use the "approved notice" or to remove the reference to Whittington Parish Council. The Clerk passed a draft notice he had prepared to Members and to PCSO Allchurch. A suggested amendment was submitted by S. MacLeod

New Matters:

Parking on bad bends of Church Lane: WCC had sent a plan which outlined a proposal to introduce double yellow lines at the above location in order to address the problem of obstructive parking and to maintain forward visibility for drivers. The Council's views were requested by 18 January 2013. Members considered that the problem of school parking in this area was exacerbated by the cars parked long term which were in breach of the Access Only Order, and that if that was not enforced the no waiting restriction was not likely to be, which would cause further disrespect for the law. The council thus rejected (SLB/SM) the proposal. A meeting was to be sought with Mike Digger and WCC Officers to consider the matter of parking in the village.

DFS: Latest report in circulation file

b. Byways Matters:

General: None

Bridleways: BW RoW 523 - nothing further reported

Footpaths: Obstruction of FP RoW 503 - nothing further reported.

2013.09 Training.

Details of training offered by CALC had been sent to Members. The Training "Being a Better Councillor 2 - Financial Planning" which JEC was to attend had been cancelled. Further events were reported as follows:

Joint LGA and NALC conference: Modelling devolution – Working together to deliver local services

NALC Members' Policy Lunch: Community Right to Bid Theme.

Building Community Planning Camp - 3rd-5th Feb 2013 - Bristol.

2013.10 Estimates Budgets & Precept for 2013-2014.

The Clerk/RFO presented his draft estimates and budget which Members reviewed and questioned before agreeing (SLB/PJW) unanimously to adopt them without amendment.

Members formally agreed (SLB/SM) to "Precept" (i.e. precept + support grant) for a total of £6,700.

2013.11 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan & "Village Centre" Planning

In the light of the "Whittington Green" presentation by developers which preceded this meeting and meetings with WDC representatives on 21/11/2012 the Chairman adjourned this item until after other matters on the agenda.

When the Council returned to this item it was agreed to hold an informal meeting preferably before the end of the month to allow Councillors to be updated on the Neighbourhood Plan process implications and requirements and if necessary to consider the implications of the "Whittington Green" proposals on these. No decision would be possible at such a meeting, but a formal meeting could be convened for 12th February if necessary.

2013.12 Neighbourhood Watch in Whittington.

The Chairman expressed his enthusiasm for and belief in a properly functioning Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Members noted the existence of some arrangements but felt that it could be improved. Members instructed the Clerk to invite the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (Adrian Symonds) to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss how existing arrangements could be improved and Neighbourhood Watch in Whittington more widely established.

2013.13 Bulk Purchasing of LPG

The Chairman referred to the various Heating Oil buying groups which existed and noted that this would probably be more appropriate in Whittington and indicated that a similar scheme for LPG was now available through at least one supplier. Interested persons were asked to contact the Clerk

2013.14 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

Councillor Adams addressed the matters of funding of both County and District Councils on which he served.

Although no decision had been taken he felt it likely that a nil increase would be set by both, to gain the benefit of the central government grant available to Local Authorities announcing no Council Tax increase.

He noted that oil theft was on the increase in the area with thieves coming from as far away as Manchester, and promoted good security arrangements. He was supportive of the Council's wish to improve the Neighbourhood Watch in the village and suggested that a scheme similar to Norton's "DogWatch" might be considered.

With regard to the Uffnells Farm development he noted that the planning application was not included on the January agenda for the WDC Planning Committee and he anticipated further slippage as Highways matters had still to be resolved.

He reported on the adoption by all three participating councils in the SWDP and explained his reasons for abstaining from voting on its adoption by WDC.

He noted the Council's view with regard to double yellow lines on Church Lane and would bear this in mind in his response to the consultation. On the matter of parking in the village he suggested that a meeting might be arranged with Mike Digger to try to come up with a village wide solution.

2013.15 Police Report - For Information.

PCSO Ben Allchurch had been present at the meeting but was unfortunately required suddenly for other duties and had to leave before he could present a full report though he did mention the theft of a bicycle in the Parish.

The Clerk was to liaise regarding parking, and other police related matters.

2013.16 Reports by Councillors and Delegates, and Items for Future Agendas.

- a. Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies, to ask relevant questions, and to consider appropriate action.

WPC staffing Committee: Chairman S.L. Brooker had nothing to report

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: M. Baker reported continuing problems with glass; others noted the proliferation of litter on the J7 roundabout. He was to take these matters up with Envirosort at the next meeting scheduled for 22nd February.

West Wychavon PACT: The Council's representative C. Smith was not present. M. Baker was also prepared to attend. The Chairman indicated that he considered that Speeding on the dual carriageway and Pershore Road should remain a standing item on the Council's agenda and for PACT

Worcestershire CALC: The Council's representative J.E. Chamberlain reported on the forthcoming Wychavon Area Committee meeting which she expected to attend.

Whittington School: The Council's representative S.L. Brooker had nothing to report but was to raise the possibility of closing the rear access to the school to prevent the congestion in Church Lane near the junction of School Walk.

Whittington Village Hall: The Council's representative P.J. Wood indicated that the main preoccupation of the Committee was the redevelopment of the hall and evaluation of the proposal offered by N. Hodgett's proposals for its relocation. M. Baker expressed interest in its funding.

- b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. None.

- c. Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. Communication with Parishioners.

2013.17 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

Subjects included information about the "Aquasacs" held by the Council, the village gatings, acknowledgement of N. Rogers' public spirited gritting and hedge trimming in the village, a request for those active in parking monitoring not to use the Council's name in non-approved notices, the approach to STW for reinstatement of the damaged land drain allegedly caused during the building of the Sewage Pumping Station on Church Lane the bulk purchase arrangements for oil and LPG and a request to send e-mail contact details to the Clerk in order to be kept abreast of Council matters.

2013.18 Correspondence.

Some correspondence received since the last meeting has been periodically sent out to individual responsible Members specifically, other more general items are included in the Correspondence File for circulation and are noted in the "Clerk's Digests".

There were no specific items referred to.

At this point the Chairman returned to item 2013.11 which is reported in numerical sequence.

2013.19 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 12th March 2013, at Whittington Village Hall. Any interim meeting would likely be held on 12th February.

The Meeting closed at 22:07 Hrs.