

Whittington Parish Council



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Minutes of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on 12 January 2016 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time - None

Those Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Macleod
Councillors: Cllr M Baker, Cllr Clark, Cllr A Guy, Cllr F Richards, Cllr Pearce
Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)
Attendees: 4 parishioners

1) **Attendance and Apologies - To record those present and to receive apologies for absence. None.**

2) **Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.**

- a To receive declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None.**
- b To receive declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature.
- c Ethical Matters. **None.**

3) **Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.**

- a The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2015 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.
- b The minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 10 December 2015 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4) **New Councillor Co-option -**

The Clerk had tabled at the meeting an application form from Mr Ross Michael Pearce for Co-option onto Whittington Parish Council. Mr Pearce addressed the Council, following questions from Members, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to vote Mr Pearce onto the Council, the vote was unopposed, the Chairman declared that Mr Pearce had been duly elected onto the Council. Mr Pearce signed the declaration of office and signed the dispensation form. Cllr R Pearce joined members on the council.

5) Finance.

a. **Receipts:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which listed the receipts for November & December 2015, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all receipts listed be approved.

Payments: The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which listed the payments for November & December 2015, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all payments which totalled £829.66 be approved.

B. Bank Reconciliation: The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the bank reconciliation up to 31 December 2015. The 3 accounts showed the overall balance as at 31 December 2015 was £31,600.96. The original bank statements were available at the meeting. **NOTED.**

C. Proposals for expenditure. The following items were deferred at the meeting held on 10 November 2015.

1) **Allotment Management Course** The Clerk advised the Council that she would like to attend an allotment management course held by SLCC at a cost of £125. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk attend the allotment management course for £125.00.

2) The Clerk advised the council that she had incurred cost of £4.00 for stationery/administration to which she required to be refunded. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be refunded £4.00.

3) The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a quote and company brochure from Nicholas Hancox Solicitors Ltd. The quote of £300.00 from Nicholas Hancox Solicitors was submitted to the council for advice on Whittington Village Hall Trusteeship. The Clerk also tabled two further quotes for professional services, following discussion, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Nicholas Hancox Solicitors be engaged to advise the Council on the trusteeship of Whittington Village Hall. It was also moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council meet with Gordon Lutton Solicitors later in the year once the Council has further clarity on the Trusteeship of the Whittington village Hall.

d. Budget: To set the budget for 2016/2017. The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report on the draft budget for 2016/17 which had been based on the half year figures for of the current year 2015/16.

Income: The report explained that Wychavon DC had confirmed that they were to pass over the support grant of £383 for 2016/2017 the same amount as the current year. Also the Interest to be received was expected to remain the same for 2016/17. The Lengthsman Scheme Grant for 2016/2017 had not been confirmed by WCC, but it was expected to remain the same as the current year. The report also reminded members that £361 of New Homes Bonus would be available to draw down for 2016/2017. **NOTED.**

Expenses:

Wages: The Clerk reported that the wages in line with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had been increased to £2,880 for 2016/17 this had been adjusted to account for staff pay increment from Scale 17 to Scale 18 accordingly. **APPROVED.**

Neighbourhood Plan - The report explained that no budget had been set for this heading in the current year. A budget of £500 had been set for 2016/2017. **APPROVED.**

Allotments - A new heading with a budget of £200 had been set for 2016/2017. The report explained that although the developer had committed to make ready the allotments, this budget would be used to enhance or repair fences, footpaths etc. **APPROVED**.

Community Grants and Events - Following discussion it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Grants budget be increased to £500.00 for 2016/2017.

Village Hall - The Clerk reported that this budget had been in place for several years, last year 2014/2015 the budget was overspent, the balance came from reserves accumulated under this budget heading for the Bat Survey and for the re submission of the Village Hall Plan to Wychavon DC. The current year's budget is forecast to be spent on professional fees for the clarification of WPC's trusteeship of the village hall. A budget of £300 had been set for 2016/2017. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to increase the budget for the village hall to £450.00 for 2016/2017.

Enhancement - This budget had been reduced for 2016/2017. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the enhancement budget be set at £200.00.

Contingency - It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that this budget be increased to £500.00.

6) Election of a Whittington Parish Council Representative for Whittington Village Hall Management Committee.

Upon the resignation of Cllr P Wood in May 2015, WPC had not formally elected a Member to be WPC representative on the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC). The Chairman of the VHMC had advised that there would be a meeting in January therefore a WPC Member(s) should attend. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Richards and Cllr Pearce would attend the VHMC meeting in January.

7) New Planning Applications

W/15/02878/PN <http://bit.ly/1kN6ccU>

St Philip and St James Church, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RQ

Proposal: Remove existing portacabin and make good grounds; demolish single-storey lean-to on north elevation; construct single-storey extension on north side to provide meeting room and toilet and facilities. Variation of condition 4 of planning permission W/15/00519/PN in order to allow retention of portacabin until replacement facilities are completed. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to support this application.

The Chairman readout a report from Mr David Chestney which is annexed (1) to these minutes.

b) 15/000045/REG3 - This planning application was tabled at the meeting

Worcestershire County Council

Crookbarrow Farm

Whittington Road

Proposal: Widening of the existing access to Crookbarrow Farm off the A44 Whittington Road. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection to this application.

8) Police Report - To receive the reports from West Mercia Police- The Chair read out an emailed report from Julie Pardoe, Police Community Support Officer.

'On the 9th December a burglary was reported at a property on the B4084, an item of furniture was stolen. On 29th December a report of damage to a vehicle on Walkers Lane, a windscreen had been broken with a hammer. On 4th January there was a report of a burglary in Walkers Lane, at this moment it is unclear if anything was stolen. The report also noted that if anyone has any information or sees or hears anything suspicious **please ring** immediately on 101 or 999 as appropriate. We would encourage all residents to review their home security and to leave a light on a timer to give the impression that someone is at home'.

Cllr Baker expressed his dismay that as Whittington Parish Councils Police representative he had not received any correspondence.

The Chair noted that Kempsey Parish had the same parking and speeding issues as Whittington, and that the police were actively policing Kempsey she reported that she had asked the police if they would come and police Whittington, PCSO Pardoe advised that the request needed to go through PACT on line. Cllr Baker said PACT meetings were being held in neighbouring parishes. Cllr Baker would confirm that he is representative.

9) Highways & Byways. To receive reports of Highways.

Whittington Road/Swinesherd Way Roundabout Pedestrian Barriers

Following correspondence to the Highways Department with regards to Whittington Road/Swinesherd Way Roundabout Pedestrian Barriers, the Chair read out an email response from Maurice Carless Annex (2). In response to the email from Maurice Carless it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the council express to Mr Carless that they were very disappointed with his response to a situation which was clearly of concern for the safety of pedestrians and would like to find a way to move forward with speed/camera signs to slow the traffic down.

Parking issues in Whittington Village Following a meeting in the village with Cllr Rob Adams, Kieran Hemstock WCC, WPC Chair Cllr Macleod and Cllr Baker in the village. the Chair read out an email response from Kieran Hemstock, See Annex (3). The Chair would reply to Kieran Hemstock to advise him that the speed lines should be placed across the road by the church and by the village hall/Severn Trent works. The Chair would also contact PCSO Julie Pardoe to review Whittington's parking restrictions.

10) Training, meetings and seminars To receive reports of relevant training, meetings and seminars attended or offered to the Council and to consider attendance by Members and or the Clerk. Cllr Clark had attended a new councillors training course, he found it very informative and helpful.

11) District and County Councillors' Report. None

12) Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

To receive the 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: Staff appraisal to be arranged in February

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison: **None.**

West Wychavon PACT: **None.**

Worcestershire CALC: All correspondence had been previously emailed

Whittington School: Cllr Clark was elected to be Whittington School representative.

Whittington Village Hall: See agenda item 6.

Neighbourhood Watch: None

Whittington Church - See agenda item 7 and annex (1),

13) Correspondence & Council Consultation. All correspondence had been previously emailed.

14) IT - Facebook & Communication. None.

15) Enhancement The Chair thanked Carol & Steve Chambers for tending the flower troughs.

16) Community Events - Her Majesty the Queen 90th Birthday Celebrations.

The mark Her Majesty the Queen 90th birthday celebration it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Pearce would start the preparation of a Parish event.

17) Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Whittington Village Hall.

Elizabethan Room Development Group

Report to Whittington Parish Council – January 2016

Present Position. The Group has not met since late November having taken a break over Christmas but fundraising continues in different ways; grant applications are being put together for early submission to a number of charities and other sources, including the Heritage Lottery and events are being planned for this year.

Section 106 Agreement. Following the Parish Council's decision in December to support the Elizabethan Room as a community project for the District Council to take forward in negotiations with the Developer of the land between the Village and Swinesherd, we have been asked to provide full background argument for those negotiations. I have provided some information and wait to hear what more is required.

Jubilee Room. As you know the NW Extension to the Church (the Elizabethan Room) was granted planning permission in May 15 with the support of the Parish Council. The permission provided for the removal of the portacabin (Jubilee Room) after completion of the NW Extension but did not cover the period after planning permission ran out for the Room last November, in effect if work had not started! Consequently application has been made to extend permission for the portacabin to match that of and tie it firmly to the NW Extension by varying the Planning Permission for the latter. The application will be before you for consideration at the meeting and I'm sure I do not need to stress the importance of its approval; the facilities the Jubilee Room contains are vital to the Church in the interim.

David Chestney January 2016

Whittington Road/Swinesherd Way Roundabout, Pedestrian Barrier

I understand from Tom Comerford that you have a meeting with Whittington Parish Council tonight and it is likely that one of the ongoing issues likely to be raised concerns vehicles colliding with the pedestrian barriers at the Whittington Road/Swinesherd Way roundabout. Accordingly I am responding separately on this particular having analysed the accident history and liaised with colleagues more familiar with the engineering and financial connotations of this problem.

We fully understand the concerns not only of the Parish Council but also parents who walk their children to school. Unfortunately there is no easy answer to this situation both from an engineering and financial perspective.

The first point to note is that the roundabout and associated signalised crossing complied with the robust Department for Transport design standards as applicable at that time.

The particular barriers in question are for shepherding pedestrians to the correct crossing point, not stopping errant vehicles.

Whilst accepting that damage to the barrier has occurred on a number of occasions the accident history does not reflect a problem with the roundabout design or signalised crossing. There have been three slight personal injury accidents in the last 3 years. Two of those collisions were nose to tail shunts and one loss of control on the approach from Swinesherd Way. None have resulted in injury to pedestrians. These are not entirely unexpected incidents for roundabouts, especially ones of this strategic importance carrying exceptionally raised volumes of traffic. Regretfully we have many more locations across the County with higher numbers of injury collisions and of course against a background of tight financial constraints, these have to be prioritised first.

Having said the above we are currently looking at the need to establish funding and a ranking system for instances where we have safety issues/fears but no current features. To install something new such as a fully functional vehicle restraint system to replace pedestrian barriers would be an improvement not maintenance and we are obliged to spend Department for Transport allocated funding on maintenance infrastructure. Vehicle restraint systems are very complex in design and very expensive within the overall remit of Highway budgets.

It is important to note that vehicle restraint systems are not necessarily appropriate in all situations hence the stringent regulations around their use. On contact errant vehicles are likely to be deflected into the carriageway where they may hit other road users including vulnerable road users such as cyclists. This may also include pedestrians crossing the carriageway or waiting at open crossing points.

For now I regret that we are unable to follow through with any firm proposals however we are

mindful of the depth of local concern and will continue to monitor and assess the situation.

I am sorry that we are unable to offer a more positive way forward at the present time but I hope that the issues have been explained fully,

Kind Regards,

Maurice Carless.

Whittington Village - Parking Issues

The current double yellow lines near Langland were implemented in August 2013 to tackle the issue of obstructive parking on footways and where there was limited forward visibility for motorists on the bend. The initial proposal also included double yellow lines to cover the 'school keep clear' marking, but this element was not pursued at the request of the Parish Council.

Looking at the current parking arrangements, we need to take a balanced view so we can understand what the issues are, how these could possibly be treated and the potential knock on effects.

Ordinarily, parking prohibitions (double or single yellow lines) are only promoted to address significant safety and/or congestion issues, they are not used as a means to remove 'nuisance' parking. Looking specifically at Whittington, there is likely to be justification to protect the western side of Church Lane opposite Narrow Walk and the radii of the link road leading to the A4440, if parking is persistent in these areas. I have attached a plan for your reference.

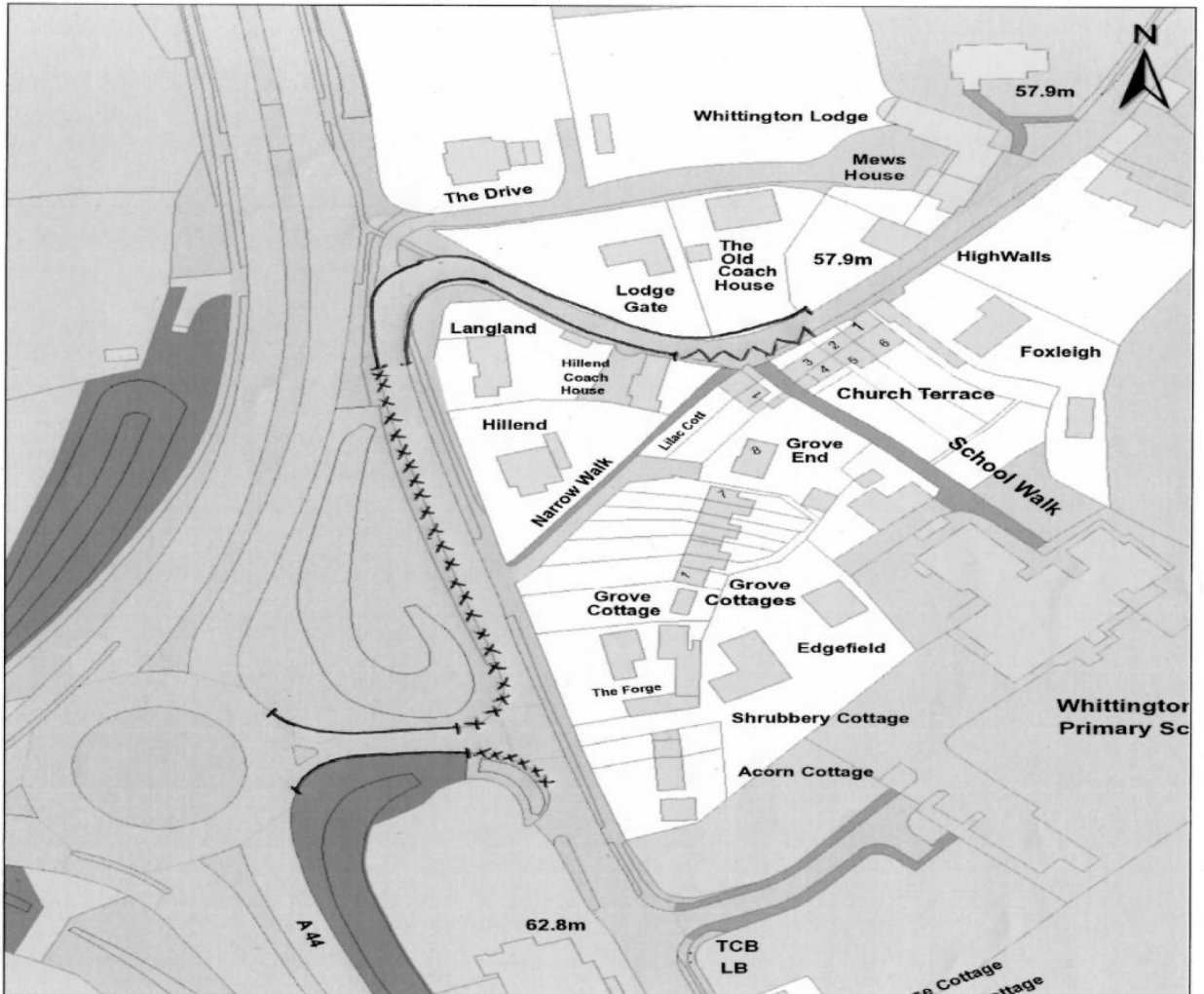
Limited waiting restrictions (for example 1 hour no return within 2 hours) are imposed where there is a local requirement for a turnover of on street parking, generally speaking such restrictions are only provided outside shops/businesses where there is a high demand for short term parking. At this time, I'm not convinced limited waiting would be justified in Whittington. I understand school parking can generate congestion, as is the case at most schools, but this is only for short periods of the day. The likely impact of limited waiting would be a clear road for most of the time, which I'm sure would please some residents, but this does not take into account the longer duration parking needs of other residents, visitors, workers, nor the potential consequences of parking migration.

As with any form of parking restriction we need to consider the potential knock on effect. Often motorists will migrate to the nearest available parking area, which can often be less suitable from a road safety perspective. We also have to be mindful of recycling nuisance parking to other parts of the village. It is for these reasons that there has to be strong initial justification for parking restrictions based on road safety or amenity.

I trust this information is useful to you and should you wish to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Kieran



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CHURCH LANE, WHITTINGTON

PARKING

— — — — — : EXISTING DOUBLE YELLOWS

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XXXXX : POSSIBLE DOUBLE YELLOWS

worcestershire
 county council

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