

Whittington Parish Council



Clerk to the Council: Carol Chambers, 1 Crookbarrow Cottage, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RL
Email whittingtonpc@live.co.uk: Tele 01905 358470
Web Site Worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish Facebook.com/whittingtonpc

Minutes of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on 10 January 2017 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time – None.

Those Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Macleod
Councillors: Cllr S Clark, Cllr A Guy, Cllr R Pearce
Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)
Attendees: Cllr R Adams

1) **Attendance and Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllr F Richards.

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.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4) **Finance.**

a. **Receipts and Payments:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of the Receipts for September & October 2016 and the receipts for November & December 2016. Original Receipt and Payment invoices were available to view at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the receipts and payments for September, October, November and December 2016 be approved.

b. **Bank Reconciliation.** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the bank reconciliation for September & October and the bank reconciliation for November & December 2016. Original copies of HSBC Bank Statements were available to view at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation for September to December 2016 be approved.

c. **Proposals for expenditure:** The Clerk has circulated with the agenda a request for the cost of the Christmas decorations for entrance gates Original receipts were available at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to refund the Clerk £48.05.

d. **Annual Return 2015/2016.** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of the Annual Return for 2015/2016 the report stated that Grant Thornton the external auditor had completed their inspection of 2015/2016 accounts and had certified them as complete. **Noted.**

e. **Budget 2017/2018.** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which detailed the current years Actual - v- Budget figures up to December 2016, which was used as a guide to the income and expenditure for 2017/2018. The report also detailed an analysis of the expected income and expenditure for 2017/2018 and confirmed that Wychavon DC would pass over the support grant of £383. The report requested that Members should consider any new projects that may need to be budgeted for and to consider how much budget to set against the existing or new budget headings. A draft budget for 2017/2018 had also been circulated. Following discussion Members agreed in principal to the draft budget for the year 2017/2018. But concern was expressed that the budget did not reflect the addition of the new housing development within the parish. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Wychavon District Council and explain that the parish had doubled in size and needed raise the budget for the additional cost of Whittington Parish Councils responsibilities. It was noted that Wychavon District Council had to be in receipt of Whittington Parish Councils Precept request no later than Friday 3rd February 2017.

5) New Planning Application/Consultation

Application Number : W/16/02949/RM

Applicant : Persimmon Homes Ltd

Location : Land Rear of Hill House, Swinesherd Lane, Spetchley

Description of Proposal :Reserved matters application following the grant of the outline permission W/15/01514/OU for the erection of 91 dwellings (Phase 1) with associated works in relation to the outline planning permission *W/15/01514/OU.

*WPC comment made in July 2015 was attached for information.

Extract of WPC Comment.

- 1. The applicant has identified just two veteran trees for retention in their development scheme. That only two trees are to be preserved is a surprise and disappointment. It is the strong opinion of the Parish Council that there are many more trees that should be preserved and the applicant's design should be revised to incorporate them.*
- 2. There is scant detail regarding the bridge over the A4440 and this should be forthcoming before the development as proposed can be approved. The Parish Council also believes that the bridge should be completed before the any other development begins to ensure the safety of residents. The bridge is currently referred to in the applicant's proposals as a "foot and cycle" bridge, yet the development site is also served by a number of bridleways and therefore the proposed bridge should be of a design and construction to cater for equestrian uses too.*
- 3. The SWDP and the Wychavon Local Plans that preceded it have all made clear that the coalescence of settlements in this area is to be prevented. The Significant Gap policy and the Strategic Gap policies in and around the Parish are there specifically to ensure that ancient settlements do not merge. However, it is evident from the applicant's submissions that it is their intention to refer to and promote this development site as "Whittington" instead of "Swinesherd". To do so would extend the commonly understood boundaries of the village of Whittington far beyond those that have been observed for centuries – and effectively wipe Swinesherd off the map. Contrary to the applicant's assertions, there have been dwellings here since Anglo-Saxon times and the Parish Council feels very strongly that the applicant's marketing department should not simply "rebrand" a settlement. Therefore, the Parish Council are seeking assurances from Wychavon District Council that the name of Swinesherd will be preserved. Previously the Parish Council has been invited to make road name suggestions on new developments and for this site we are very keen to see the arterial road serving this development formally adopt the name "Swinesherd Lane" along its entirety, with variations for the routes branching off it to include "Swinesherd Fields", "Swinesherd Pastures", "Swinesherd Meadows" and such like.*

4. *The applicant's house designs make no concession to the location and appear to be indistinct from houses they erect elsewhere in the country. Hill House, Catnaps Cattery and Little Lodge Nursery will be the "gateway" buildings which every visitor to this development site will pass. All three are of an architectural design recognisably Worcestershire in character which the applicant should replicate across the development. In the opinion of the Parish Council, the applicant should be required to incorporate architectural features into the designs of all the proposed dwellings that will make them visibly different from others elsewhere. The inspirations for such features should be unmistakably taken from buildings in this part of the county of Worcestershire. It was also agreed that Cllr Guy would enquire if WPC can apply for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). also the importance of retaining the Swinesherd has it had had a settlement for over 1,000 years.*

6) Police Report - Julie Pardoe Police Community Support Officer reported that they had received a report on the 18th December from a property on the B4084 near to the motorway. It was reported that a number of garden power tools had been stolen from the shed. **Noted.**

7) Highways & Byways. An abandoned car in Church Lane had been reported to WDC. The Chairman asked Cllr Adams about advanced notice on road works within the parish as it had a direct impact on the village. The Clerk had circulated an email from WCC which invited stakeholders to an information meeting to manage stakeholder issues during the delivery phase of the new station Parkway Station at Norton to be held on the 16 January 2017 at WCC as the authority was on the verge of signing a contract with the contractor who would deliver the works. Following discussion the Council were very disappointed that the meeting was to be held during the day and not in the evening and that the invitation was sent out with very short notice. Due to the working commitments of the Councillors coupled with the very short notice of the meeting it was agreed that the Clerk write to WCC to send WPC apologies and request notes/minutes of the meeting, it was noted that Cllr Adams would be in attendance.

8) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Guy circulated at the meeting information leaflet from WCC on how they could help with the Neighbourhood Plan.

9) Training, meetings and seminars. The Chairman advised the Council that she, Cllr Guy and the Clerk attended the Calc meeting at County Hall, she had advised that there was no update on the Parkway Station which had been put the agenda, Members and Clerk were very disappointed and thought this meeting was not motivational. The Clerk reported that she had attended an allotment training course.

10) District and County Councillors' Report. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rob Adams to the meeting he updated the Council on the new homes bonus which was now calculated over 4 year not 6 years. He confirmed that he had seen Kieran Hemstock at Worcestershire County Council with regards to a new DFS for Church Lane, Cllr Adams said he would follow up. He also reported that a parishioner had complained about being given a parking ticket to which the Council had no knowledge of this. The Chairman thanked Cllr Adams for his attendance.

11) 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.

<u>WPC staffing Committee:</u>	Staff appraisal meeting to be arranged.
<u>Worcestershire CALC:</u>	All emails from CALC had been forwarded
<u>Whittington School:</u>	None.

Whittington Village Hall: The Chairman reported that the interim Management Committee were in place and would be holding a meeting on 24th January at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. She also reported that a team of volunteers had thoroughly cleaned the Village Hall before Christmas, following this, a contract cleaner had been shown around the VH and would be happy to give a quote for cleaning once all the redecorating/repair work had been done. The Chairman also reported on a meeting with a building consultant who was shocked at the poor state of disrepair that the VH was in, the Consultant advised that once it was established what the parishioners want the VH to accommodate, he would be happy to organise the project. The Chairman also reported that the a new lock had been put on the back door as this door was never locked it was just jammed shut, also new locks had been fitted to the front door. Following discussion the Council thanked the Chairman for the update, it was also agreed that the Council would hold a Trustee meeting in February to discuss the way forward. Cllr Guy reported that Waitrose would refer events to WVH which were unsuitable for Waitrose Community Room.

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a second request from Freedom Infrastructure Services who were acting on behalf of Western Power Distribution (West Midlands plc) they had requested permission to relocate/move a electricity post onto the land of Whittington Village Hall. The original response which was emailed to Freedom Infrastructure plc on 21 September 2016 was also attached for Members information, following discussion it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that WPC did not want the electricity post moved onto the VH land.

PACT/Neighbourhood Watch: **None.**

Whittington Church: **None.**

12) Correspondence & Council Consultation. None.

13) IT - Facebook & Communication None.

14) Enhancement None.

15) Community None.

16) Date of Next Meeting. None.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at Whittington Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Councillor S Macleod
Chairman