

**At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 19:30 Hrs.**

**Democratic Period/ Question Time:** Only one member of the public was present, the candidate for co-option. She made no comment at this stage.

**2012.96 Attendance.**

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

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk.

Apologies: C.A. Smith. District & County Councillor R.C. Adams, pcso Ben Allchurch

The Chairman formally noted the resignation of Ann Lodge. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no request for an election, and that the casual vacancy had been advertised.

**2012.97 Declarations of Interest 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.
- c. Ethical Matters. The Clerk reminded Members of their personal responsibility to complete a new Register of Interests form and to keep their entries up to date. He also informed members of the Monitoring Officer's advice re the new register of Interests which it was proposed to publish on the WDC website during November 2012, and that therefore Whittington PC could not publish its register on its website, nor provide a link to the WDC site.

**2012.98 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012 having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SLB/PJW) without amendment.

**2012.99 Co-option of Members to fill vacancies on the Council.**

The Chairman invited the candidate Mrs Jean Chamberlain to address the Council (which she did) before nominating her for co-option. Being seconded by P.J. Wood she was elected unanimously and then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat.

**2012.100 Planning.**

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: None
- b. Previous consultations.  
Application Number: W/12/01514/PN-Non-householder planning application  
Location: Crookbarrow Farm, Whittington Road, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RW  
Proposal: New agricultural access track.  
Applicant: The Berkeley and Spetchley Estate  
Response: On the basis of WDC advice that this is purely an agricultural access track, "No objection & no comment" sent 13/8/2012
- c. Planning Decisions: W/12/01514/PN - (as above) Approved STC (time, tree & hedge preservation measures).
- d. Other Planning Consultations:  
**SWDP:** Members noted the proposed significant changes to the SWDP affecting Whittington and had no comment
- e. Other Planning Matters:  
**Uffnells Farm development:** The Clerk & Chairman reported on the meeting with Developers & Agents on 25/7/2012. No Planning Application had been received, although one had been expected.

**2012.101 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.**

None

**2012.102 Finance.**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a Receipts: since the last meeting: WCC re. Lengthsman - £138.50 & £184.80 re June & July, 2012; HSBC Interest c22p/month;
- b Payments: a list of invoices and requests for payment totalling £586.73 was submitted. These included the renewal premium for the Council's insurances which the Clerk reported and indicated (as RFO) his satisfaction with. Payment was approved (SLB/SM).
- c Proposals for Expenditure. None. A suggestion to consider provision of "No parking on the verge" signs at the Swan Access Road was withdrawn pending the installation of the proposed "gatings"
- d Other Finance Matters:  
**Audit** The Clerk reported on the status of the audit of the Annual Return which Clement Keys had advised was completed except for signature by the relevant partner.  
The Clerk advised Members that the Audit Commission had confirmed the appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as the External Auditor to audit the WPC Annual Return for 2012/13 for 5 years.  
**Quarterly Accounts Report to 30/6/2012** - Having previously been sent to Members this was approved (SLB/PJW).

## **2012.103 Highways & Byways.**

### **a. Highways Matters:**

General: None

Swan Roundabout Improvements: Complaints had been received by Councillors from Members of the Public relating to:

- a. "Box junction" markings: Whilst the original arrangement for yellow "box junction" cross hatching was agreed, the Council was unhappy with the later proposed arrangement. No such marking, was yet installed. Some was essential if cars were to get out of Whittington village during rush hours.
- b. The Road markings on the approach to the roundabout up Crookbarrow Way which indicated that the "M5" was straight ahead (a parallel was drawn with the roundabout outside the hospital which had subsequently been re-marked) leading to vehicles erroneously entering the village.
- c. The approach lanes to the island from J7 were insufficiently clearly marked so that drivers
  - (i) failed to give way as they used the "slip lane" on to Crookbarrow Way;
  - (ii) used the central lane to turn left into Crookbarrow Way. (Thus exacerbating the problem at (i) above.)Road markings/signage to emphasise the need to SLOW DOWN and to GIVE WAY was essential
- d. The lane configuration of the "slip lane" from Crookbarrow Way towards Worcester (frequently at excessive speed), and the reduction of two lanes on the Whittington road into one and subsequent requirement to merge with traffic using the "slip lane" were confusing and engendered a mild panic reaction in drivers: pedestrians using the pelican crossing had found themselves at risk as drivers were unable to stop in time. The situation was worsened when a vehicle stopped at the nearby bus stop. Instructions to SLOW DOWN and to MERGE on the Crookbarrow Way "Slip Lane" would help
- e. The visibility splay to the right (towards Worcester) from the Swan Access Road - it was felt that this was inadequate to allow approaching traffic - even if travelling at 40 m.p.h. in accordance with the speed limit - to stop if a vehicle was entering the roundabout from the village.
- f. Removal of trees - considered unnecessary - on the verge on the "Swan Inn" side of the access road
- g. Failure to provide lane markings, as promised, on the approach to the J7 traffic island.
- h. Failure to install gating at the Swan Access Road as promised.
- i. Failure to respond to the Parish Council's request to use its DFS on Crookbarrow Way and Whittington Road.
- j. The Council noted the change to the approach to the Norton roundabout on Crookbarrow Way but felt that a "solid" double white line should replace the one dotted/one continuous one as vehicles were still overtaking as they left the roundabout towards Whittington precluding the "splitting" of traffic on the approach from Whittington. The lanes needed to be marked as to direction as frequently persons approaching from Whittington direction used the outer lane intending to proceed on the ring road.

Members resolved (SLB/PJW) that the Clerk raise these matters with the Highway Authority and seek a meeting of representatives of the Highway Authority with members of the Parish Council to try to resolve them

M5 Noise: None

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None specifically. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the overgrown hedges on the East side of Church Lane between the bend at Whittington Lodge and the entrance to Church Farm to be cut back, but indicated that this was not something to be delegated to the lengthsman being the property owners' responsibility. He was to seek action with the owners/Highway Authority

Previous Matters:

B 4084/M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: repair work to the pavement had not been undertaken - the Clerk to raise with the Highway Authority

Drains along Church Lane: the sunken drains had been levelled. The Clerk was to pass the Council's thanks to the manager concerned.

New Matters:

It was requested that a Grit Bin be provided at the junction of Walkers Lane with Swinesherd Way where there was a slope down to the dual carriageway, which had iced over last winter.

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: Speed limit placed on agenda (queue) by WCC.

WCC was taking a second look at pedestrian/cycle route over island

Speed enforcement B4084. No progress

Village Gatings: "Ordered" but not provided yet, even though the "Swan Roundabout Improvements" seemed to be largely complete.

Enforcement of Access Only Order: Letter from WMP 3/8/2012 circulated by e-mail 6/8/2012. Promised further response circulated 13/8/2012. The Chairman had responded

Yellow box junction markings at Swan Roundabout - no response from WCC see above

New Matters: None

DFS: Latest reports in Circulation file.

**b. Byways Matters:**

General: None

Bridleways: The Clerk was asked to request that WCC for clearance & surface reinstatement as necessary of bridleway 523 in the vicinity of GR 388700 252450 so that it will not be necessary to walk through the adjacent cornfield.

Footpaths: None

**2012.104 Training.**

Details of training offered by CALC had been sent to Members. It was agreed that details be passed to J. Chamberlain and that her attendance be arranged should she so request.

**2012.105 Whittington Parish Council Code of Conduct & Standing Orders.**

It was confirmed that a copy of the Council's Code had been sent to WDC Monitoring Officer.

Members having been sent a draft of the consequent revisions to the Council's Standing Orders and further revisions to the Code of Conduct approved (SLB/SM) both revised documents unanimously.

**2012.106 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan.**

The Clerk reported on the steps necessary now to progress with this matter following attendance at the WDC "Front Runners" seminar.

The Chairman indicated a degree of disenchantment based on experience of other Councils, the longevity of the project (dependent on SWDP being in place), the expense, the failure of WDC to make funds available from the grants they had received, and the current Government's attitude to planning - in particular the relaxations proposed.

In the light of this it was agreed that the Clerk should endeavour to set up an informal meeting with Fred Davies of WDC to review the options.

**2012.107 Parish Council Entry on Facebook.**

In the absence of Carl Smith PJW reported that he had indicated that further research would be necessary in the light of changes being considered to the "Facebook" regime (including possible charges).

In the light of this it was agreed that the item be removed from future agenda until requested by Member/s.

**2012.108 Wychavon Youth Bus.**

Members noted advices from Rob Mace ( e-mail 4/9/2012) to the effect that having only had 3 youngsters attend the deployment of the Youth Bus to Whittington could not be justified until a higher level of demand was established.

Contact details of: the Wychavon Youth Bus group on Facebook were to be disseminated via the Parish Magazine and the Council's "Include me" contact list.

**2012.109 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.**

County and District Councillor Adams was not present.

**2012.110 Police Report - For Information.**

No representative present.

**2012.111 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.**

a. Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies.

West Wychavon PACT: Council's representative C. Smith was due to attend a meeting later in the month.

Whittington School: Council's representative S.L. Brooker was to meet with the Head Teacher Gary Richards later in the month.

Whittington Village Hall: Council's representative P.J. Wood reported a meeting would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September. He hoped to attend but might be unable for family reasons.

b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. None

c. Specific items for a future agenda. Trees on Crookbarrow Hill.

**2012.112 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.**

Items to be included this month included co-option of Jean Chamberlain to the Council, Youth Bus, comments re Swan Roundabout Improvements and St Basil's homing initiative.

**2012.113 Correspondence.**

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

**2012.114 Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, at Whittington Village Hall.

**The Meeting closed at 21:45 Hrs.**