

**MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE WVCA HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Present: Cllrs: S Bangham, S Bryant, R Chandler, J Fox-Bowen, P O'Leary, P Orchard, V Perry, S Dyer (Clerk), District Councillor Paul May and one member of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman & Vice-Chair it was proposed by Cllr S Bangham that Cllr J Fox-Bowen is Chairman of the meeting and this was agreed by the other Councillors present.

**2023/126 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A Councillor gave an update on a piece of land in the Village which someone wishes to put retrospective planning permission in for some work which has already taken place. It is alleged that someone is living in a caravan on the land. Cllr Paul May offered to look into this and report it to B&NES if necessary.

The Clerk gave an update on the traffic lights in the center of the Village which do not seem to be letting many vehicles out of Staunton Lane at present. A very helpful member of staff at Council Contact helped with this issue and it is now being looked into by Yunex, who are contracted to maintain the traffic lights in B&NES.

**2023/127 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Clerk gave apologies for Councillors N Kirk, M Dury, T Griffin & C Lewis, these apologies and the reasons for not attending were noted and accepted by all present.

**2023/128 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012)**

None received.

**2023/129 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS (FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)**

None received.

**2023/130 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting, by J Fox-Bowen - Chairman.

**2023/131 TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND ANY CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

The policy was reviewed and it was resolved that no amendments are required to the Social Media Policy at the present time.

**2023/132 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MAY ELECTIONS**

The Clerk attended an online briefing on the May Elections given by Aurora Loi, B&NES Council's Electoral Services Manager, which was very informative.

She explained many of the points which were raised and it was agreed the notes will be E-mailed to all Councillors.

**2023/133 TO NOTE THE DATE FOR THE CLEAN & GREEN ACTION WEEK, AGREE AREAS IN THE VILLAGE WHICH REQUIRE ATTENTION AND A DATE FOR A LITTER PICK**

It was resolved that the new footpath along Maggs Lane should be reported for attention, as the weeds are growing up through the path already. Other areas highlighted were the

green on Sleep Lane, the footpath from the bridge to the Norton Lane and along Staunton Lane.

There wasn't much response for a joint litter pick during the 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March, the date the Clean & Green team will be visiting the village, it was resolved that the Clerk will send out some Saturday dates and the Councillors will advise which dates they can help.

### **2023/134 TO DISCUSS HOW TO CELEBRATE THE KINGS CORONATION IN MAY AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD WITH THIS**

The Clerk confirmed that Whitchurch Village Community Centre halls have been booked for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 12-4pm. A long discussion was held on what ages should be catered for, whether the event should be held at the Playpark or the Community Centre. It was resolved to send a survey around to all Councillors to ask their opinions on where the event should be held, the age range, what activities etc.

This really does need to be decided before the next meeting in March, so plans can be made.

### **2022/135 PLANNING & TRAFFIC**

#### **a) To note the current Planning Application list.**

The current Planning application listed in Appendix A, previously circulated to all Councillors, and was noted.

#### **b) To consider & agree a response to planning application No. 22/04997/FUL**

Mr Jordan Franklin, Vans 365 Wilmin, Staunton Lane

Erection of a 4 bed, 7 person dwelling on land adjacent/between Wilmin & The Elms, Staunton Lane, to follow removal of caravan, garage & lean to.

After a detailed debate on this application it was resolved not to make any comment.

Cllr R Chandler left the meeting.

#### **c) To receive an update on the B&NES Local Plan meeting & workshop attended and consider contents of the draft evidence list.**

The Clerk gave an update on the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January with Simon de Beer and Alice Nunn from B&NES Council, which six Councillors attended.

It was an opportune moment to meet at the beginning of the plan to talk openly about the New Local Plan process. It was agreed to send the list of evidence, which Simon suggested, to B&NES so they have all the current and past issues which need consideration to hand.

Paul May gave an update on the workshop he attended together with Councillors R Chandler & S Bryant. It was a good workshop with the consultants, Aecom listening to the views put forward and those of the Whitchurch Action Group representatives, who also attended.

Paul also reminded everyone that he has arranged a public meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7.30pm/8pm in the Whitchurch & Pensford British Legion to update residents on the New Local Plan.

### **2022/136 CLERKS REPORT**

We have been advised by Unity Trust Bank that from 5<sup>th</sup> May we will no longer be able to deposit cash into the Post Office but can use NatWest bank.

The Week In has given us two dates for community news in their publication July & October.

The Clerk contacted the Scouts in Stockwood regarding the Christmas tree sign in Staunton Lane and they have kindly removed it.

We have now received notices of resurfacing works being carried out in Dene Road & the Witheys from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Residents are concerned about where they will be able to park during this time.

We have chased B&NES regarding the trees discussed and received an answer that they do not have the capacity to progress with the project in Whitchurch at present. They will work on our tree planting as soon as time permits.

WECA joint Committee have made decisions to cut supported bus services in the region and this includes the 636 from Whitchurch – Keynsham.

A new Demand Responsive Transport scheme is being launched from April and it is stated that many journeys will be possible using this service.

A notice has been published on our website & Facebook page to try to gauge how many residents use the 636 service at present, to date two responses have been received.

#### **2022/137 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES**

Paul has been working on B&NES budget, it is recommended that there is a 5% increase in Council Tax, which will be debated at a B&NES Council budget meeting in a couple of weeks' time. One Million has been set aside for the Clean & Green projects.

The Local Plan partial update has now been passed.

He explained that he will be sending a note around to Pensford residents to update them that the land purchased off Blackrock Lane has gone ahead and trees will be planted on the site by Avon Needs Trees. The site will be open to the public when completed and will be a great asset to the community.

The Chairman thanked Paul for the updates. Paul May left the meeting at 9.10.p.m.

#### **2022/138 FIELD CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)**

##### **a) To Grant Exclusive Rights of Burial**

David William Hale                      Plot No. G128                      Deed No. 1474

Ref: (Marlene Joyce Hale)

P Orchard proposed, V Perry seconded and the meeting duly passed the Exclusive Rights of Burial.

##### **b) To receive a report on the Playpark/Cemetery/Allotment committee meeting, & agree recommendations made including an increase in cemetery fee's and budget figures for 2023/2024**

Paul O'Leary Chair of the Committee gave an update on this meeting in which the following were recommended:- Cemetery Fee's to be increased by 5%, rounded up with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, Allotment Fee's to stay the the same and budget figures for the Cemetery, Playfield, Allotments & General Maintenance for 2023/2024 were considered and set accordingly. It was resolved to accept these recommendations.

#### **2022/139 FINANCE**

##### **a) To note and agree the payment of accounts dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

The schedule of payments dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, as listed in Appendix B were agreed, Cllrs J Fox-Bowen & P O'Leary will authorise the online payments.

##### **b) To receive a report and agree recommendations from the Finance Committee, including salary increases, reviewing the reserves policy, and budget set for 2023/2024**

In the absence of the Chairman the Clerk gave a report on this meeting.

Notification has been received from NALC that the Local Government Association have come to an agreement on the new pay scales for 2022-23 to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the new scales were noted and agreed.

The Avon Pension Fund employer contribution rate will increase from 22.4% to 23.4% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, in line with actuarial valuation summary.

The Reserves Policy was reviewed, it was resolved to increase the Cemetery & General Reserves by £10,000 each. No capital expenditure is planned for 2023/2024. .

The budget was checked to date and the amount of each item agreed for 2023/2024.

The balance of CiL funds held is £128,210.60 of which £1,651.65 needs to be spent straight away and £72,212.02 by various dates during 2023. These funds can only be spent on specific things.

**c) To agree the amount of Precept for 2023/2024**

It was resolved that the precept for 2023/2024 is increased by 5% to £42,000.00, this will mean an annual increase of £2.69 on a Band D property, 540 properties in the village are Band D and below.

**d) To consider ideas from Councillors on what CiL funds could be spent on**

Councillors were asked to come to the meeting with ideas on what CiL funds could be spent on and the following items suggested:-

A nature trail, wooden play equipment, adult gym equipment, update the table tennis surrounding to make it all weather, purchase a larger bin outside the Playpark, speed signs in Staunton Lane, new planters on the walls in the Millennium Garden, new village sign by Saltwell Avenue.

It was also agreed to add this item to the next newsletter to ask residents what additions they would like to see which will enhance the village.

The meeting ended at 9.35.p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

## Appendix A

### PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 APPLICATIONS

09/02/2022 22/00238/PIP	Chapel Hill Homes Ltd Woodland Area, Ridgeway Gardens, Whitchurch, Permission in Principle to construct 5no. dwellings <b>OBJECT</b> to this application, see detailed objection comments.
15/03/2022 08/06/2022	<b>REFUSED</b> <b>APPEAL REF: 3296575</b>
19/10/2022 22/04117/FUL	Mr Smart Tynning House, Hursley Hill, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0QZ Erection of detached dwelling following demolition of existing HMO property (Resubmission). <b>SUPPORT</b> this application - the square footage meets the following NPPF requirement of buildings in the Green Belt. 'the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces'.

There should be a condition made that the existing building is demolished before the new dwelling is built and all recommendations made by B&NES Highways should be met.

22/11/2022  
22/004414/PIP

Mr Daniel Hunt  
Greenacre, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, BS14 0QL  
Stage 1 Permission in principle application for the development of a single dwelling.

**OBJECT** to this application for the following reasons:-  
The proposed development is outside of the Housing Development boundary and is within the designated green belt. There are no special circumstances associated with the application. Policy RA5 has previously removed land from the Green Belt for a strategic site and there is no current need for any further development within the Green Belt.

25/01/2023  
22/04997/FUL

Mr Jordan Franklin  
Vans 365 Wilmin, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, BS14 0QL  
Erection of a 4 bed,7 person dwelling on land adjacent/between Wilmin & The Elms, Staunton Lane, to follow removal of existing caravan and demolition of existing garage and lean-to-structure.

## Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS			DATE: 1 <sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2023	
D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	51.31	8.55
D/D	SSE	Electric Clock – January	43.72	2.08
BT	B&NES Council	Winter plants & baskets	728.64	121.44
BT	Various	Salaries, sundry items etc.	1,877.59	
BT	WVCA	Rent & meetings – Jan	222.00	
BT	Your Solution	Maintenance	406.00	
BT	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	461.18	
BT	H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NIC	294.57	
BT	Volker Highways	Christmas lights	1,603.20	267.20
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>£5,688.21</b>	<b>£399.27</b>