

MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE WVCA HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2023

Present: Cllrs N Kirk (Chairman), M Dury (Vice-Chairman), S Bangham, S Bryant, R Chandler, J Fox-Bowen, C Lewis, P O'Leary, P Orchard, V Perry, S Dyer (Clerk) & District Councillor Paul May and one member of the public.

2023/140 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr S Bryant has received complaints from residents of Saltwell Avenue on the quality of work carried out on the recently repaired potholes and stating the road now looks a total mess. Paul May promised to follow this up and send an e-mail to the appropriate team responsible for this in B&NES.

The speed of traffic along Staunton Lane was again brought up by another Councillor. Trees have been cut back on the verges of the A37, a concerned resident has contacted a Councillor as they were not advised of this and it is on their boundary. The Clerk explained that B&NES Council are cutting down lots of trees with Ash die back along the A37 so this may be the reason.

2023/141 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk gave apologies for Councillor T Griffin, this apology was accepted by all present.

2023/142 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)

None received.

2023/143 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS (FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)

None received.

2023/144 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2023, previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk - Chairman.

2023/145 TO REVIEW AND AGREE ANY CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were reviewed and it was resolved that changes will be made to the procurement threshold figures to bring it in line with the recent guidance from NALC.

2023/146 TO REVIEW AND AGREE ANY CHANGES TO THE RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT POLICY

The policy was reviewed and it was agreed that one slight alteration on Risk 4, Mitigation Measures, be amended to read 'A minimum of 40 inspections per annum made by WVC/Contractor' the rest of the policy was found to be in order.

2023/147 TO REVIEW THE PROCESS REGARDING ELECTRONIC MINUTES AND AGREE ANY AMENDMENTS

This process was reviewed and it was agreed no amendments are required.

2023/148 TO NOTE THE DATE FOR THE CLEAN & GREEN ACTION WEEK AND THE DATE FOR A LITTER PICK

Further to last month's meeting a date of Monday 13th March was agreed for a litter pick to take place around the village, unfortunately the Clean & Green team from B&NES cannot

help us with this now. It was resolved to go ahead with our own litter pick, six Councillors are able to help, the Clerk will organise this.

2023/149 TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON THE CHEW VALLEY & KEYNSHAM FORUM MEETINGS

Cllr Mark Dury attended the Chew Valley meeting via zoom, which he gave a report on & requested that the Clerk asks why the meetings are not being held face to face now. A local Policing report was given with crime in the area decreasing which is good news. Cllr Joe Fox-Bowen attended the Keynsham meeting, which he also gave a report on. The new bus service being launched by WECA due to start in April was discussed at both meetings but we still await the final details of how this will work in practice. Information on Voter ID was also discussed, as there is help available for those without the appropriate ID.

2023/150 TO AGREE THE CONTENTS OF A NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to include, the King's Coronation Event, news regarding the new crossing on the A37, ask for ideas to improve the village, tree planting & details of the up and coming elections.

2023/151 TO DISCUSS A KINGS CORONATION EVENT IN MAY AND AGREE ACTIONS REGARDING THIS

After further discussion it was agreed to hold an event in the community centre to include using the outside grass space, if allowed. Free refreshments will be available, a toast will be made, crafts for children, a bouncy castle, music etc. It was resolved to arrange a separate working party meeting on Monday 27th March at 7.30pm to discuss the arrangements in more detail.

2023/152 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 receive any updates on the B&NES Local Plan

As requested the Clerk has forwarded the Village Council's list of evidence to Alice Nunn, Senior Planning Officer B&NES who in turn has sent a copy to the consultants Aecom. They will then have the details as they continue to produce the initial Place Assessment for the area.

c) To receive an update on the shortlist for Whitchurch Village and Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhood Area plans

Informal consultation has been received on the A37 Whitchurch Toucan crossing, a reply has been sent stating that the report has the full support of members of Whitchurch Village Council who are happy for these proposals to progress to Public Consultation. It is hoped that work on the crossing will start this year.

2023/153 CLERKS REPORT

Just to remind everyone resurfacing works is being carried out in Dene Road & the Witheys from Monday 6th March.

B&NES have confirmed that they do not have the capacity to empty any new waste bins even if the Village Council pay for them, although a larger bin was requested outside the Playpark and this has already been installed.

Two prospective allotment holders were shown the available plots this week and have picked their plots, there are two more to show around.

New lights have been installed in the light above the defibrillator and in the Millennium Clock.

A new Demand Responsive Transport scheme is being launched from April and it is stated that many journeys will be possible using this service. We have received confirmation from WECA that concessionary passes will be valid with this service, with the same restrictions as on a conventional bus service.

A reminder that the Local Government Elections are on Thursday 4th May, nominations start on 21st March and the deadline is 4th April 2023. Please confirm if you would like a pack printed off for you.

The Knit & Natter group are happy to knit something to be put up in the Millennium Garden for Remembrance Sunday, they will design something and advise us of the costs. They are also knitting an Easter display and Coronation topper for the letter box in the village. The group appreciated the letter thanking them for their amazing work from the Village Council.

Meetings this month

There is a SLCC Somerset Branch meeting in Taunton on Friday 3rd March.

Wednesday 15th March – Parish Liaison meeting at 6.30pm in Somerdale Pavilion, Keynsham.

2023/154 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES

Paul gave an update on the public meeting he held, which four Councillors also attended, the attendance figures were a bit disappointing.

He explained how he thinks the changes to the NPPF will be advantageous to the Village. It will include advisory housing numbers only and student housing can be included in these, which will be good for B&NES Council. He is not sure yet whether the New Local Plan will be able to use the new version it will depend on when the proposed changes are agreed. The Plan will run from 2024/25 for 20 years.

There will be a general consultation in June/July 2023 with options by the end of the year. We know that developers have interests in lots of the land around the village.

B&NES have suggested putting planters outside houses on Bristol Road to stop Lorries parking there but they will need to be maintained either by the residents or the Village Council.

The Chairman thanked Paul for the updates.

A member of the public left the meeting at 9.05.p.m.

2023/155 FIELD CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)

a) To Grant Exclusive Rights of Burial

Philip Edmondson Plot No. H193A Deed No. 1475

Ref: (Gretal Edmondson)

M Dury proposed, J Fox-Bowen seconded and the meeting duly passed the Exclusive Rights of Burial.

b) To receive an update on tree planting around the village

Last month B&NES stated they did not have the capacity to progress with the tree planting project in Whitchurch at present, since this update Sally Crudge, Tree & Woodland Delivery Manager, B&NES has been in touch to say she can now proceed with the project. We have therefore met with her to mark out the exact location where the fifteen trees will be planted and they will be planted in the next couple of weeks. B&NES will plant the trees but the Village Council will then be responsible for their maintenance, including watering. There will be funding from the S106 agreement for this, which they will send through.

2023/156 FINANCE

a) To note and agree the payment of accounts dated 1st March 2023

The schedule of payments dated 1st March 2023, as listed in Appendix B were agreed, Cllrs P Orchard & S Bryant will authorise the online payments.

2023/157 TO CONSIDER A PERSONNEL REQUEST FROM A MEMBER OF STAFF

A request was made by a member of staff asking if they could carry over three weeks holiday to next year for personal reasons. It was resolved that two days could be carried over but no more than two weeks holiday can be taken at any one time.

The meeting ended at 9.30.p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th April 2023, this will also be the date of the Annual meeting of the Parish of Whitchurch.

Appendix A

09/02/2022
22/00238/PIP

Chapel Hill Homes Ltd
Woodland Area, Ridgeway Gardens, Whitchurch,
Permission in Principle to construct 5no. dwellings
OBJECT to this application, see detailed objection comments.

15/03/2022
08/06/2022

REFUSED
APPEAL REF: 3296575

19/10/2022
22/04117/FUL

Mr Smart
Tyning House, Hursley Hill, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0QZ
Erection of detached dwelling following demolition of existing HMO property (Resubmission).
SUPPORT 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.
NO COMMENT

Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS			DATE: 1 st MARCH 2023	
D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	51.31	8.55
D/D	SSE	Electric Clock – February	42.38	2.01
BT	Various	Salaries, travel expenses, postage	1,835.00	
BT	WVCA	Rent & meetings – Feb	202.50	
BT	Your Solution	Maintenance	100.00	
BT	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	461.18	
BT	H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NIC	293.17	
BT	Mr N J Coffin	Replace bulb in clock	105.00	
BT	M & J Dury	Allotment key deposit refund	10.00	
BT	Bateman Skips	Skip at cemetery	330.00	55.00
Total Payments			£3,430.54	£65.56