

**MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE WVCA HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Cllrs N Kirk (Chair), S Bangham, S Bryant, R Chandler, J Fox-Bowen, C Lewis, M Dury, P O’Leary, V Perry, S Dyer (Clerk), District Councillor Paul May, John White & Edward Downing from Arena Global Management & 3 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2023/62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John White, CEO of Arena Global Management spoke for three minutes regarding planning application No. 23/02922/OUT and asked the Village Council members to support the application.

Councillors asked him several questions regarding the application which he answered.

A member of the public advised the Council that Whitchurch Cricket Club’s first team have gained promotion to the Senior League next season and a Councillor stated that they have a new ladies section this year.

The Chair congratulated the cricket club on behalf of the Village Council on both of these achievements.

A Councillor brought up the speed of traffic along Staunton Lane which is getting worse. Paul May agreed to take this up with B&NES traffic department again to try to get something done. This will be put on the agenda again next month for further discussion.

2023/63 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk gave an apology for Councillor P Orchard, who is unable to attend due to family commitments, this apology and reason for non- attendance was accepted by all present.

**2023/64 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH
VILLAGE COUNCIL’S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)**

Cllr M Dury declared an interest in agenda item 11 c) Application No. 23/02922/OUT

**2023/65 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS
(FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)**

None received.

**2023/66 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 9th AUGUST 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2023, previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk – Chair.

**2023/67 TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO CO-OPT TO FILL THE COUNCILLOR
VACANCY**

Alexandra Currie attended the last Village Council meeting to see how the meetings are run and has completed the relevant application form. It was resolved to co-opt Alexandra onto the Village Council, she signed the relevant Declaration of Acceptance of Office and subsequently joined the meeting as a new Councillor.

**2023/68 TO REVIEW AND AGREE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCILLOR
PRIVACY NOTICE & SECURITY CHECKLIST**

It was resolved that no amendments are required to either documents and that they will both be reviewed again in a years’ time.

2023/69 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON POPPIES TO BE PLACED IN THE MILLENNIUM GARDEN FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Clerk advised that she has met up with Caroline Luckhurst from the URC Knit & Natter group, who have been knitting and crocheting poppies to be incorporated onto a large shaped poppy to be placed in the Millennium garden for Remembrance Day.

This year there will be one big poppy and they will work on another for next year.

There are several options on where the poppy can be placed in the garden. It should be ready around mid-October. Councillors were delighted with this fantastic effort from the group and look forward to seeing the finished poppy.

2023/70 TO AGREE A DATE FOR A COMMUNITY CLEAN UP EVENT

It was agreed that the next Community Clean Up will be held on Saturday 14th October starting at 10am. Cllr Steve Bangham will advise the 107th Bristol (Whitchurch) Scout group of the date and hopefully they will be able to help too.

The Clerk will send a message around to all Councillors to see who is able to help.

2023/71 TO CONSIDER FURTHER COMPLAINTS RECEIVED REGARDING WASTE OUTSIDE WHITCHURCH MEWS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Further complaints have been received from residents regarding the state of the rubbish, bins etc. outside Whitchurch Mews and on the surrounding pavements. B&NES Environmental Services have advised that their enforcement team have been in touch with the management company and asked them to clear the excess waste. The management company are going to supplement the domestic collections with large commercial bins to try and prevent the issue recurring.

It was agreed that although these bins have been in place for several weeks the rubbish/black bags are still piled high and not stored in the bin store provided.

Environmental Services to be advised of this and asked to take further action, as it is becoming a health issue for local residents.

2023/72 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 providing Councillors with lanyards to identify themselves when making site visits to properties with planning applications pending

It was agreed that it would be a good idea for all Councillors and staff to have lanyards to identify themselves which will include a photo. When visiting a property at least two Councillors will attend together & which two will be decided when the Clerk sends the planning application out to Councillors.

The Clerk to purchase the lanyards and arrange for photos to be taken.

Cllr M Dury left the room

c) To consider and agree a response to the following planning applications:-

Application No. 23/02922/OUT – Mr & Mrs Andrew, Oaklea, Sleep Lane, BS14 0QN
Erection of 9 Residential Dwellings (Use Class C3) with all matters reserved except for access.

After consideration it was resolved to Object to this application for the same reasons as the last application:-

Outside the Housing Development boundary, inappropriate development in the Green Belt, which does not demonstrate any special circumstance, infilling in the Green Belt is defined as the building of one or two houses therefore the application for nine dwellings does not meet this criteria.

Land in Whitchurch Village has already been removed from the Green Belt in exceptional circumstances to meet RA5 strategic site for development. There is therefore no need for further development on Green Belt land within Whitchurch Village.

Application No. 23/03175/FUL – Mrs Debbie Cousins, 82A Bristol Road, BS14 0QW
Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension to facilitate full house renovation to provide additional living accommodation.

After consideration it was resolved to Support this application which is within the Housing Development boundary.

One member of the public and two representatives from Arena Global Management left the meeting.

Cllr M Dury returned to the meeting.

2023/73 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the landline is now up and running, BT sorted it out on the Friday after the last meeting, so the phone was only off for a day or so. The Clerk has contacted BT again as this month's phone bill for August is incorrect, it may be adjusted this month or if not it will be next month.

Fly tipping has been reported outside the Playpark today and also the bin was full.

A clear up of the Millennium garden has been arranged for Saturday 9th September at 10am.

Bob Sharples from the British Legion phoned to say they are holding a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 29th September from 9.30am – 12 noon and everyone is welcome.

Meetings

The next Chew Valley Forum meeting is on Weds 27th September at 6pm in Chew Valley School.

A Finance Committee meeting has been arranged for Weds 27th September at 7.30pm in the WVCA small hall.

The Keynsham Area Forum meeting is on Thursday 28th September at 6pm in the Community Space, Keynsham.

ALCA AGM will be held on Saturday 7th October via zoom from 10.30 – 12.00

2023/74 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES

Further to the Somer Valley consultation Paul stated that the Village Council sent in an excellent response, there was no evidence that the bus lane would save time or the right turn, the proposed plans would bring HGV's closer to properties in the village and take away the few parking spaces there are.

He has been speaking to the relevant people, the logic of the proposals have been challenged, and they have accepted the reasons and are listening to us.

B&NES Council are holding early budget meetings regarding the budget, children's services are hugely over budget so it is going to be a difficult task.

The Chairman thanked Paul for his update.

2023/75 FIELD, CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)

a) To consider and agree recommendations made from the Playfield/Cemetery/Allotment Committee meeting held on 16th August 2023 & discuss the way forward with the allotment site.

Paul O'Leary the Chairman of this committee gave an update on the meeting held with a list of maintenance recommendations for the cemetery, two new 'no dogs beyond this point' signs for the playpark & maintenance jobs at the allotment site.

It was agreed to go ahead with all the recommendations made.

He stated how disappointing it was to visit the allotment site as most plots were very overgrown, although there was still some great produce being grown and it is quite understandable due to the amount of rain we have experienced recently. It was agreed the Clerk will send an email to the allotment holders asking them to work on their plots over the next couple of weeks and then the site will be inspected again and individual letters sent out if required.

A long discussion was then held on how the allotment site can be improved. Colette Lewis said that the Council should be proud of the allotment site and invest in it.

As the site was managed for many years by Tony Griffin who has now left and given up his allotment it now needs more input from the Council and existing plot holders. It was resolved that an e-mail will be sent to all allotment holders asking them for their views/suggestions on how the site can be improved. Also to ask if anyone would like to be a point of contact between the allotment holders and the Council.

Paul May left the meeting at 8.52pm.

b) To consider whether to grant permission for a bolder shaped headstone at the cemetery.

An application has been received for a bolder shaped headstone on grave No. A113 at the cemetery. Members of the Field/Cemetery/Allotment Committee looked at the area where the headstone could be installed and as it is on the old side of the cemetery where there are several bolder style headstones they recommend that this is allowed as an exception. This was agreed by all Councillors at the meeting.

2023/76 FINANCE

a) To note and ratify the payment of accounts dated 6th September 2023

The schedule of payments dated 6th September as listed in Appendix B, which have previously been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed and will be authorised online by Cllrs S Bangham & P O'Leary.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th October 2023

Appendix A

PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 6th September 2023

APPLICATIONS

18/08/2022 22/03284/FUL	Mr John Maddocks Rudgeworth, Woollard Lane, Whitchurch, BS14 0QR Erection of bungalow following demolition of 3no. existing equestrian stables (Resubmission) REFUSED APPEAL REF: 22/03284/FUL
22/08/2023	
15/03/2023 23/00782/FUL	RCIH Developments 18 Churchways, Whitchurch, BS14 0PL Proposed attached self-contained dwelling house OBJECT - The increased use of the cul-de-sac turning head together with the generation of conflicting traffic movements, resulting from the proposed development, would be prejudicial to highway safety. Contrary to Policy T.24 of the BANES Local Plan.
15/05/2023 23/01535/PIP	Mr Trought Strathmore, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, BS14 0QL Permission in Principle Planning Application for the erection of 1no. dwelling and associated works. OBJECT – the proposed development is outside of the Housing Development boundary and is within designated green belt land, there are no special circumstance 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 in the Green Belt. Refer to the application on this site in 2017 which Highways objected to, what has changed since this date?
28/06/2023 23/02340/VAR	Bristol Barbarians RFC Norton Lane, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0BT Variation of condition 4 (Plans List (Compliance)) of application 17/02398/FUL (Erection of new club house, facilities and associated works) SUPPORT - Whitchurch Village Council are happy for the variation of condition 4 but feel that a new condition should be made that the existing club house is demolished within a set time frame of the new one being built.
06/07/2023 23/02345/FUL	Mr A Knight 26 Church Road, Whitchurch, BS14 0PP Erection of single storey extension (Regularisation) SUPPORT – this application which is within the Housing Development Boundary
20/07/2023 23/01965/FUL	Miss Angela Evans Stables & Paddock, Hursley Hill, BS14 0QZ Erection of two additional stables SUPPORT – this application with a condition that as the stables are within the Green Belt they are used solely as stables and are not for residential use.

16/08/2023
23/02922/OUT
Mr & Mrs Andrews
Oaklea, Sleep Lane, BS14 0QN
Erection of 9 Residential Dwellings (Use Class C3) with All Matters Reserved Except for Access

29/08/2023
23/03175/FUL
Mrs Debbie Cousins
82A Bristol Road, Whitchurch, BS14 0QW
Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension to facilitate full house renovation to provide additional living accommodation.

RESULTS

24/05/2023
23/01591/FUL
Mr Tweedy
4 Staunton Manor Courtyard, Maes Knoll Drive, Whitchurch
Erection of a small-scale porch at the entrance to the property
SUPPORT – this application as long as in keeping with the building and of a size applicable for a porch

04/08/2023
PERMITTED

24/05/2023
23/01592/LBA
Mr Tweedy – Listed Building Consent
4 Staunton Manor Courtyard, Maes Knoll Drive, Whitchurch
Erection of a small-scale porch at the entrance to the property
SUPPORT – this application as long as in keeping with the building and of a size applicable for a porch

04/08/2023
CONSENT GRANTED

15/06/2023
23/02183/FUL
Mr Alan Greenwood
Melverley, 88 Bristol Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0QW
Erection of outbuilding/garden room
SUPPORT this application

17/08/2023
PERMITTED

Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DATE: 6th September 2023

D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	94.86	15.81
D/D	SSE	Electric Clock – August	46.56	2.21
DR	Unity Trust	Bank charge	18.00	
BT	Various	Salaries, mileage, postage, work phone	1,974.94	
BT	WVCA	Rent & meeting – August	202.50	
BT	Your Solution	Maintenance	1,368.00	
BT	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	435.86	
BT	H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NIC August	315.37	
BT	Batemans Skips (Already paid on 07/08/23)	Skip @ cemetery – April	353.10	58.85
BT	Batemans Skips	Skip @ cemetery – August	353.10	58.85
BT	Open spaces	Subscription	45.00	
BT	Mrs J Britten	Printing NP survey	36.00	
BT	Scottish & Southern Electricity Energy	Christmas lights	100.49	4.79
		Total Payments	£5,343.78	£140.51