

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

Present: Cllrs N Kirk (Chair), S Bangham, R Chandler, M Dury, J Fox-Bowen, C Lewis, P O'Leary, V Perry, S Dyer (Clerk), District Councillor Paul May & 5 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2023/92 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Councillor stated that vehicles have been broken into in Staunton Way with cash stolen & other attempted break-ins have occurred in Staunton Fields. The Police have been advised and are logging the incidents.

Grant funding was given to the following groups:-

St Nicholas Pre-school, 107th Bristol (Whitchurch) Scout Group & Age UK B&NES.

Representatives from each group accepted the funds and explained what the money will be spent on, all thanked the Village Council for the donations.

Four members of the public left the meeting.

2023/93 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk gave apologies for Councillors S Bryant, who is unwell, A Currie & P Orchard who have other family commitments this evening, these apologies and the reasons for non- attendance were accepted by all present.

**2023/94 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH
VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)**

None given.

**2023/95 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS
(FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)**

None received.

**2023/96 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 4th OCTOBER 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2023, previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk – Chair.

**2023/97 TO NOTE RECEIPT OF TWO HAND MADE POPPIES FROM THE KNIT &
NATTER GROUP**

Caroline Luckhurst from the Knit & Natter Group presented two large hand knitted/crocheted poppies to the Village Council. These have been installed in the Millennium Garden, several positive comments have already been received saying how good they look.

The Knit & Natter group have claimed very minimal expenses for the poppies, it was agreed to donate a suitable hamper to the group to say thank you for all their hard work, Cllr Colette Lewis will co-ordinate this.

2023/98 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Around 17 representatives from 107th Bristol (Whitchurch) Scout Group joined Councillors and other volunteers, on Saturday 14th October, to collect around 20 bags of rubbish from the pavements, footpaths and open spaces around the Village.

Refreshments were then provided with fantastic homemade cake made by Ann Leach. The Chairman thanked all those involved in making this another successful clean up event.

2023/99 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON ESSENTIAL COUNCILLORS TRAINING ATTENDED

Unfortunately Councillor Alex Currie who attended this training was not at the meeting to give a report.

2023/100 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PARISHES LIAISON MEETING

The Clerk gave a report on this meeting which included details on improvements made to Fix My Street, Public Transport responsibilities & an updated Parish Information pack.

We then broke out into groups to receive updates and discuss Westlink, Nature Plans, Pollinator Project, Rural funding, and Forest of Avon funding opportunities.

2023/101 TO AGREE ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN A NEWSLETTER

It was resolved to include details on the new 'Bleed Kit' installed next to the defibrillator, the Community Clean Up, plans for the Christmas Lights 'switch on' event & competition, welcome to new Councillor Alex Currie, grant awards, poppies & a write up from Whitchurch Short Mat Bowls club.

2023/102 TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 'SWITCH ON' EVENT AND AGREE ANY FURTHER ACTIONS INCLUDING THE DATE FOR JUDGING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

Plans are going well, Matt Donovan & John Pearce are both happy to help on the evening. John has already spoken to the Head teacher of Whitchurch Primary School who will arrange for pupils to come along and sing as usual and he has checked the snow machine is working. Westin care home are happy for us to use their car park again, A PSCO and hopefully another colleague will attend, the barriers have been ordered.

It was resolved that a run through event will take place on Monday 20th November at 6.30p.m. meeting outside St Nicholas Church.

After a discussion it was agreed that the Christmas Lights Competition this year will just be for residential homes and not businesses.

Homes will need to be decorated by 10th December ready for judging.

2023/103 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 and agree a response to the following planning application:-

23/03873/FUL – 40 Church Road, Whitchurch

Erection of porch to front elevation, two storey side extension & single storey rear extension

It was resolved to support this application which is within the Housing Development boundary.

c) To note the reply regarding VAS in Staunton Lane and discuss an alternative recommendation

B&NES have replied to day they no longer install VAS signs at new sites even if the Village Council pay for them. They suggest an alternative which is the use of Mobile Speed Indicator Devices. These are battery-powered signs that display an approaching vehicle's speed. The Clerk has asked for more information on this.

The Clerk will also chase the Police traffic safety division who were monitoring the speed of traffic along Staunton/Stockwood Lane.

A reply has also been received from the Liveable Neighbourhood Senior Project Manager explaining that they are looking at which measures will be included in a full business case to be submitted to WECA in Winter 2023/24. This was noted and it was resolved to advise that the safe crossing and other measures for the A37 which were promised earlier in the year are of utmost priority.

2023/104 CLERKS REPORT

Two blocked drains along Staunton Lane were reported to B&NES & have been dealt with. A visit has been made to the plant nursery in Bath & plants ordered to replant the Millennium garden and planters.

Three new trees have been ordered and when received will be delivered together with the plants and the replanted winter hanging baskets.

Meetings

The Whitchurch & Pensford Royal British Legion will be holding their usual wreath laying service on Sunday 12th November at 10.45am. Nick Kirk – Chairman will lay a wreath on behalf of the council at this remembrance ceremony.

B&NES Council have advised that a Hicks Gate Area workshop is being held on Thursday 16th November from 16.30 – 16.00 in Keynsham Civic Centre. The potential opportunities for development in the Hicks Gate area will be discussed and explored.

The Clean & Green Team invite all volunteers who supported them with litter picking/weed removal to a Thank You event on Tuesday 28th November from 5.45 to 7pm in Keynsham Community Space.

2023/105 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES

Paul explained that he has recently met with the planners in B&NES to discuss the Local Plan Update options, some of which were highly unpleasant. If they plan to build on the Green Belt they will need to justify this, it is a 20 year plan, the options will be made public in early 2024.

Paul has also seen Taylor Wimpey's development plans, which are very nicely designed but the road access is in Bristol and it would be an urban extension of Bristol.

So we may have a fight on our hands again regarding development plans in and around the village.

Paul has written to the Secretary of State to ask for single use vaps to be banned.

WECA will provide care leavers aged 18-24 with free bus travel.

Paul attended a suicide event which different bodies attended and show cased how they can help reduce suicide rates, as the figure in B&NES is quite high.

The Chairman thanked Paul for his report.

2023/106 FIELD, CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)

a) To receive updates on the Allotment site and any agree any further actions required

The Clerk & Paul O'Leary – Chair of this committee visited the allotment site on 16th October, it was much better kept than on our last visit. Four allotment holders will be sent letters to remind them how the plots should be cleared and kept tidy. One other plot holder has since given up their allotment plot.

To date 5 replies have been received from Allotments holders in response to the questionnaire sent to them asking what improvements they think could be made to the site. The closing date for comments is Monday 6th November.

2023/107 FINANCE

a) To note and ratify the payment of accounts dated 1st November 2023

The schedule of payments dated 1st November as listed in Appendix B, which have previously been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed and will be authorised online by Cllrs S Bangham & J Fox-Bowen.

b) To consider the grant application received from Whitchurch Village Short Mat Bowls Club

A grant application has been received from the Bowls Club requesting £5,000.00 towards a the cost of a bowls mat electric winding machine. The representatives explained last month how much this would help the group.

After consideration it was agreed to grant £5,000.00 which will be paid from CiL funds held.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

Appendix A
PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 1st NOVEMBER 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.
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.
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 OBJECT – for the following reasons:- The proposed development would be inappropriate development within the Green Belt. No special circumstances are demonstrated to outweigh this and it is therefore contrary to Policy GB2 Development in Green Belt Villages & Core Policy CP8. Infilling as defined in the NPPF is limited to 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. The proposed development is outside the Housing Development Boundary and is therefore contrary to Policy RA1 of the Bath & North East Somerset Council Core Strategy & Policy WV 2.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan as it would increase the density of development within existing curtilages.

24/10/2023
23/03873/FUL

Mr Dan Bartley
40 Church Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 0PP
Erection of porch to front elevation, two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

RESULTS

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.

PERMITTED

19/10/2023
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.

PERMITTED

Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DATE: 1st November 2023

D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	53.94	8.99
D/D	Water business	Water supply - Cemetery	61.69	
D/D	Water business	Water supply – Allotments	39.48	
D/D	CPRE	Membership fee	60.00	
DR	Unity Trust	Multipay card set up fee	50.00	
BT	St Nicholas Pre-School	Grant	500.00	
BT	107 th Bristol (Whitchurch) Scout Group	Grant	500.00	
BT	Age UK – B&NES	Grant	250.00	
BT	Various	Salaies & sundry items	1,850.15	
BT	WVCA	Rent & meeting – Oct	198.00	
BT	Your Solution	Maintenance	1,461.50	
BT	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	435.86	
BT	H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NIC October	304.17	
BT	B&NES Council	Road Closure charge	177.00	
BT	ICCM	Membership	95.00	
BT	C Luckhurst	Poppy expenses	43.10	
BT	S Bartlett	Refund allotment key Deposit	10.00	
BT	Nibra signs	New ‘no dog’ signs	24.00	4.00
		Total Payments	£6,113.89	£12.99