

# WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 IN THE WVCA HALL

Present: Cllrs: N Kirk (Chairman), S Bangham, S Bryant, M Dury, T Griffin, C Lewis, P O'Leary, Mrs S Dyer (Clerk) & two members of the public.

### **2023/01 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Nick Kirk – Village Council Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2023/02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting by Mr N Kirk - (Chairman)

### **2023/03 UPDATE OF VILLAGE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Chairman gave an update on the progress the Village Council has made during the last twelve months to help make the village a better place to live and work.

Including the following:-

#### **Benches/Wildflower area**

Two new benches were placed on the grassed area of Sleep Lane/Bristol Road for residents to use and admire the two newly planted wildflower areas. These provide very popular and the council will continue promoting biodiversity in the village.

#### **Gateway Sign**

A new gateway sign, on Whitchurch Green leading into the village, has been installed, welcoming people to the village.

#### **Millennium Garden/planters**

The members of the Village Council and other volunteers continue to maintain the Millennium Garden and the seven planters around the village. These are filled with seasonal plants and perennials to bring colour and vibrancy to the communal areas and well received by residents.

#### **Hanging Baskets**

For the first time eight hanging baskets were located on lamp posts around the centre of the village. These were planted with summer annuals and later on winter/spring bulbs and flowers.

#### **Fencing**

New fencing has been installed between the playpark and allotment site to protect the allotments from encroachment and stray balls.

#### **HRH Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee event**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 a very successful Jubilee Tea Party was held for the older residents of the village. Refreshments and entertainment brought residents together to share memories and celebrate this unique occasion. Volunteers, councillors and uniformed organisations gave up their time to help make this a special afternoon for the 54 residents who attended.

#### **Tree planting**

Fifteen trees have recently been planted around the village after funds were secured from Bath and North East Somerset Council. Mainly native trees including Silver Birch and Scots Pine were situated near the benches to provide shade at the

playpark, a celebratory English Oak was placed at the entrance to the park and other trees were sited at the cemetery and Sleep Lane.

#### **2023/04 PLANS FOR THE CORONATION BIG LUNCH ON SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

The Clerk explained that to date there are 99 residents signed up for the lunch, including 21 children, so we are nearly at capacity, plans are going well.

#### **2023/05 POLICE REPORT**

No report was received from the Hengrove/Whitchurch area but the Police report from the Chew Valley Area Forum meeting in February was available, this covers the rural areas of the village.

#### **2023/06 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM BRIAN EDWARDS – HIDDEN HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH**

Local resident Brian Edwards introduced himself, he is a member of Whitchurch History Society and has lived in the community for the past forty years. He is also a member of Whitchurch Metal Detection Club and has started gaining permission from local land owners to search their land to see what ancient artefacts can be found. He showed some pictures of items which had already been found locally.

It was a very interesting presentation, the Chairman thanked Mr Edwards for attending and he promised to keep the Council informed of any further interesting finds he makes.

Cllr R Chandler joined the meeting.

#### **2023/07 QUESTIONS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public stated there should be a crossing from the Black Lion pub to the Estate Agents on the opposite side of the road in the centre of the village.

Another member stated that recent hedges which have been cut back along A37 have made a real mess of the pavement.

Meeting Closed at 7.30p.m.

One member of the public left the meeting.