

WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF WHITCHURCH HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2024 IN THE WVCA HALL

Present: Cllrs: N Kirk (Chairman), S Bangham, S Bryant, M Dury, C Lewis, Mrs S Dyer (Clerk), a representative from Whitchurch History Society and one member of the public.

2024/01 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Nick Kirk – Village Council Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2024/02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 5th APRIL 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2023, were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting by Mr N Kirk - (Chairman)

2024/03 UPDATE OF VILLAGE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Chair gave an update on the progress the Village Council is making to help make the village a safer and better place to live and work.

Including the following: -

Allotment site improvements

The Village Council asked allotment holders for suggestions on how the site could be improved and one of the suggestions was new pathways. These have recently been installed making it much easier to define the different plots and to get around. A new First Aid kit has been placed in the allotment container together with a new light.

Lights on the cycle track

Residents have expressed their concerns on the safety of using the cycle path for cycling and walking after dark. The Bristol section of the path has lighting so the Village Council have started investigating whether some kind of lighting can be installed along the cycle path from Staunton Lane to where it meets the path in Bristol.

B&NES have advised us that there are ecological impacts with the installation of lights so we are looking into how these can be overcome and the costs involved in obtaining an ecological report.

Speed Indicator Devices

Due to the dangerous speed of traffic being reported regularly along Staunton Lane the Village Council have obtained quotes to install two Speed Indicator devices along a section of the lane to help slow down the traffic. A meeting has recently been arranged with the Traffic & Safety officer, B&NES Council to find out more about the devices and where they could be installed.

Gym Equipment at Playpark

Further improvements to the Playpark are planned by adding some gym equipment. Quotes are being sought for three or four pieces of equipment to be installed to enhance the facilities already there.

Plans for the D-Day 80th Anniversary

There are plans to light the beacon at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June 2024 to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day landings. A family picnic will be held on the same evening starting at 6pm with a bouncy castle, games, face painting, football in the Muga and table tennis. Soft drinks and sweets will be provided and everyone encouraged to bring their own picnics along.

The Deputy Lieutenant has confirmed attendance for the beacon lighting and the British Legion have confirmed the piper and flag bearers will attend. The local scout group are also keen to be involved, and the cricket club facilities will be open for everyone to use.

2024/04 POLICE REPORT

No one was available to attend from the Hengrove/Whitchurch area, but a report has been received which the Clerk read out.

'On the whole Whitchurch Village is a very safe place to live and visit. We have run for the past 9 weeks MINI POLICE at Whitchurch Primary School, engaging with a small group of youths at the school. This included mini medics, crime scene lessons and a community project.

In relation to crime, we have had reports of attempted break ins/ car theft on the new development/old Horseworld site.

ASB with youths kicking doors and running off causing damage, this is also on the old Horseworld site.'

2024/05 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM GEOFF GARDINER FROM WHITCHURCH HISTORY SOCIETY

Geoff Gardiner gave a report on the History Society which was formed in 1978 and hold monthly meetings with speakers and presentations on all aspects of history.

They have research groups who look into different aspects of history in the village and publish books on their findings, new book is being published very soon. They have around thirty members but have seen a decline in membership over the last few years and recruiting new members is becoming a challenge.

Members suggested details of the meetings could be advertised in the Village Council's next newsletter and also that they could have a table at the D-Day Anniversary event to sale the books.

It was a very interesting presentation, the Chairman thanked Geoff Gardiner for attending.

Cllr R Chandler & District Councillor Paul May joined the meeting at 7.25p.m.

2024/06 QUESTIONS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

Meeting Closed at 7.30p.m.