

Whitley Parish Council – Ref 2/2013

(Minute numbers should be preceded by the above reference prefix)

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2013 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.32 p.m. by the Chairman.
2. **Present.** Cllr S Humphrey– Chair, Cllrs. F Blackburn, S White, K Walton, J Davie & J Watson. Also present was D Cllr S Ryder
3. **Apologies:** – Cllr Gerrard- Approved
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – None declared.
- 5 **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - 5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 8th January 2013 were taken as read and agreed as being a true record. The chairman then signed the minutes.
- 6 **Matters Arising**
 - 6.1 Common Land boundary. The clerk reported that our solicitor has not received any response from the Monaghan Mushrooms solicitor despite sending letters and emails to them. There followed a short discussion about the lack of any progress in this matter. At present it appears that all development at the site has stopped well short of the common boundary as set out by our surveyor. The clerk agreed to contact our solicitor to seek advice on what further action can be taken.
 - 6.2 Commemorative Bench – Cllr Watson reported on the options for siting the bench and he is now awaiting the third quote for preparation of the site and fixing. A decision will be made once all quotes are received and the costs assessed.
 - 6.3 Kellingley Incinerator Liaison Group – Cllr Humphrey reported that he had attended a meeting of the group today and minutes for the meetings will be made available via a web link. The group is looking to put in a planning application in spring 2013. He also reported that waste material may be brought in by rail but HGVs will transport most of this. The latest estimate on vehicle movements is 22 lorries per hour, 6 days per week for 52 weeks in the year. Also involved in the liaison group are representatives from Beal and Eggborough parish councils. A short discussion followed with particular focus on the likely effects on traffic in Whitley.
 - 6.4 Harron Homes- Unfinished footpaths. Cllr Watson reported that he had been in contact with Hazel Walsh (SDC Compliance) but no action at the site to-date. He said that he would contact Hazel again after this meeting to check on the action that they propose to take. The councillors agreed that it was essential to get the work done before Harron vacate the site.

6.5 Daffodil Park – Mining subsidence. Following the January meeting when it was agreed to investigate claims for damage caused by UK Coal mining, the clerk reported that he has asked Michael Townend of Goole to act on behalf of the council. He will prepare and submit the necessary claims for damage to the site to UK Coal Ltd.

Open Public Forum. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to give their views and ask questions.

Mr John White raised the following points:

- ◆ He asked for clarification about the Kellingley vehicle movements estimated to be 144 per day. Cllr Humphrey explained that this is the high estimate and in reality it is likely to be less than this figure.
- ◆ Fuel Buying Syndicates in Whitley – He explained that he has been investigating the setting-up of fuel buying syndicates in Whitley and he has also approached Northern Gas Network to discuss the possibility of mains gas being brought to the village. There followed a short discussion about this and the likely costs to each household for mains gas to be installed.
- ◆ He mentioned that the bench at the end of Silver St requires painting.
- ◆ The allotment AGM takes place on 16/3/2013 at the church. The allotments need hard surfacing laying down the centre of the plots. Is the parish council able to help with funds?
- ◆ John is involved with Speed Awareness Project and has been out on the A19 with the speed gun. He thinks that the matrix signs are in the wrong position and the “slow down” signs are too small. He thinks that further 30mph signs should be installed along the A19 through the village. A short discussion followed on the signs and the legal position with regard to extra 30mph signs.

Mrs Joy Flavell raised the following points:

- ◆ Food, cans and other litter discarded by Monaghan Farm employees on Gravelhill Lane.
- ◆ HGVs using Gravelhill Lane to and from the mushroom farm. New route should be used.
- ◆ Employees leaving Monaghan’s in early hours of morning and causing disturbance to residents.
- ◆ -Guy Poskitt’s employees working on the fields adjacent to GHM are leaving mud on the road and destroying the grass verges.
- ◆ Query as to why no planning notice was displayed adjacent to the land that Mr Downes is developing.

The councillors noted the above and the clerk agreed write to David Walker of Monaghan and Guy Poskitt about these matters.

7 Correspondence received. (Items for comment/information.)

7.1 No items for this meeting

8. Finance & Administration

8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 12/2/2013 as being **Current Accounts**. - A & L £19,188.75, Co-op Bank - £4,084.24. **Total Current Accounts is £23,272.99**

(Approx. £15,105 of this is now earmarked for the final payment on Daffodil Park work, Bovis Playarea and other ring fenced funds).

Deposit Accounts - Ringfenced for play-area maintenance – A & L £33,731.79, Co-op Bank Deposit Account £50,000 - **Total Deposit Accounts £83,731.79.**

i) The following accounts were approved for payment: - Retrospective approval – H Rimmer re Christmas Tree £60, J Dickinson – Contribution re fence £100. Other accounts due: EPAC – Third party funding re grant for Daffodil Field - £2045, K Leppingwell – Speed gun for Speed Awareness Group - £111.85.

9 Changes to Council Tax Base.

9.1 The clerk reported on a meeting that he attended at SDC offices concerning the changes to the way that the 2013/14 Schedule D council tax base for Whitley will be calculated. The implications of these changes had not been available prior to December 2012, and most councils would have prepared and submitted their precept in November or early December 2012. At the meeting SDC officers indicated that the 2013/14 Schedule D Equivalent Properties for Whitley would be cut from 373 in 2012/13 to 363.19 in 2013/14. This has the effect of increasing the charge made to each household for the parish council element of the total council tax bill.

9.2 The effect of this would also have been to reduce our requested 2013/14 precept from £10,500 to £9,830 but SDC have provided a one-off grant of £670 to cover this shortfall. Because there is the possibility of a 2% cap being applied to precepts beyond 2013/2014 parish council will now be allowed to request a revised 2013/2014 precept to overcome possible future funding difficulties. Revised request must be submitted by 18th February 2013.

9.3 Following a short discussion and a review of the position it was resolved that the parish council would not submit a revised precept request and that the original 2013/14 request for £10,500 stands.

10 Recreational Open Space.

10.1 Daffodil Field Maintenance Contract. - Cllr Watson reported that he had requested three contract tenders. - Carl Frogatt, Jim Taylor and SNM Landscapes. Only two tenders were submitted –SNM Landscapes did not respond - and he requested councillors to consider the tenders he had received from Jim Taylor and Carl Frogatt. The tender results were circulated and it was resolved to award the maintenance contract to Jim Taylor. Appropriate letters will be sent to Mr Frogatt and Mr Taylor.

10.2 Groundwork NY – Planned meeting has been postponed at the request of Groundwork due to illness and further internal review of their own records and internal correspondence.

10.3 Waste Bins for Daffodil Park. Cllr Watson reported that there is increase activity in the park and the single bin in the child playarea is neither adequate nor in a suitable position. A request for two new litterbins for the park was approved and Cllr Watson will order two bins at an estimated cost of no more than £300.

11. Speed Awareness Scheme

11.1 Cllr Watson reported that a speed gun has now been purchased at a cost of £112 and he and John White have had several sessions testing the gun. He reported that he has contacted PC Morton to inform him about the Speed Awareness project and the purchase of the speed gun. The next stage is to recruit project volunteers, purchase two hi-vis vests and contact Selby Post for project publicity.

12. Chairman's and Members' Reports.

12.1 Cllr Humphrey reported on his recent attendance at the Incinerator Liaison group meeting.

12.2 Cllr Walton – OF - Reported on the opening of Tuck Shops at all the locations where the youth clubs are operating.

12.3 Cllr White reported that she had contacted the agent acting for the Leslie Knowles site about the site development. She contacted them in relation to a Community Building being provided as part of the development and possibly linking this with the use of part of the George & Dragon site. The agent agreed to contact his client and the owners of the pub in order to discuss what might be possible.

12.4 Cllr Davie said that Whitley residents required bus shelter on the east side of the A19 through Whitley. He also noted that a glass pane was missing on the shelter nearest to Silver St. The clerk will write to NYCC requesting two new shelters for Whitley and repairs to existing shelters.

13. A.O.B

13.1 Cllr Watson raised the matter of a permanent Christmas tree in the village. He believes that Eggborough PC have provided their own tree and he will discuss with them what arrangements are involved.

13.2 Cllr Watson raised the matter of a war memorial. In Eggborough they have a simple stone base with a brass plate attached. Darrington Quarries are willing to provide a stone but the PC will have to pay for transport to the site and installation. He agreed to report back to the next meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.23 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date.