

# Whitley Parish Council – Ref 2/2010

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

## Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 23rd February 2010 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 p.m. by the Chairman.
2. **Present.** Cllr Humphrey – Chair, Cllrs. F Blackburn, S White, K Walton, and J Watson.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr Davie, and Cllr Gerrard – business. D. Cllr Ivey also sent her apologies.
4. **Declaration of Interests** – Item on allotments – Cllrs White and Watson declared an interest.

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

- 5.1 The minutes of the meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were agreed as being a true record.  
Proposed by Cllr. Watson, seconded by Cllr. Blackburn and signed by the chairman.

### 6 Matters Arising.

- 6.1 Allotments – Response to our offer to buy land. Cllr White summarised the current position as follows: 1. The offer of £6000 was rejected but Austin Huddlestone would sell the land for £10,000. 2. Payment could be staged with £1000 deposit, £4000 on exchange of contracts and the balance of £5000 payable 12 months after the exchange of contracts. 3. The seller would pay all legal fees. At the moment there are 23 residents wanting to take an allotment and at an annual rent of say £40, the expected income per year should be in excess of £900. Following a discussion by councillors it was proposed by Cllr Blackburn and seconded by Cllr Watson that the parish council purchase the land for £10,000 subject to there being adequate access via the Coal UK land or a dropped kerb access from Whitefield Bungalows. Resolved that the clerk be asked write to both NYCC and UK Coal about possible access and also inform Tim Marlow of the decision to purchase the land, subject to the issue of access being resolved.
- 6.2 The clerk reported that he has written to Alan Hardy of the Gale Common Moto-X Club enclosing a copy of the conditions of the planning approval. He also invited him to the March 2010 parish council meeting to inform the councillors about the progress that has been made on implementing the works on the land and supplying SDC with the required information.
- 6.3 Volunteers/ Working Party re Daffodil Field – Cllr White said that there had been no further progress on this. Agenda item for the March meeting.
- 6.4 The Oaks Playarea – Quotes for tree/shrub maintenance. Cllr Walton reported that she had obtained two quotes and opted for the cheaper one from Neil Dobson. The work has now been done. Cllr White volunteered to carry out the play equipment inspections and this offer was accepted.

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

- ◆ Michael Coney reported that the previously mention problem in Whitley Wood is now resolved.
- ◆ Howard Rimmer spoke of his disappointment with the CEF meeting that he attended in that they talk about the problems but do very little to actually resolve them. The first meeting he attended was positive but the follow-up meetings less so. There is a meeting at SDC offices to discuss the CEF meetings, the agenda and the effectiveness of the follow-up action. There followed a general discussion about the traffic speeds in Whitley, obtaining data logger information from the Fire Service and the formation of an action group. Gary Lumb from NYCC highways has offered to walk the village to see the problem areas.

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

7.1 The clerk produced the consultation document issued by SDC on Draft Core Strategy and a response is required by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. After a short discussion Cllr White agreed to examine the documents and CD and report back. Agenda item for the next meeting.

## **8. Finance & Administration**

- 8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 23/2/10 as being **Current Account** £4933.41. **Deposit Accounts** - Ringfenced for play-area maintenance £87,365.08. Other earmarked funds – Land Purchase £2,021. 91.
- 8.2 The following accounts were presented for payment: - Neil Dobson – The Oaks maintenance £160 Petty Cash Imprest £50.47 The above items were approved for payment.

## **9. Recreational Open Space in Whitley.**

- 9.1 Cllr Walton reported that Peter Murphy has asked for letters of support for the project from John Grogan MP, Osgoldcross Forum, W & E School, Whitley Wolves and the local branch of the Womens' National Register. The planning application for change of use of the Daffodil Field has now been submitted.
- 9.2 Cllr Walton also reported that OF were applying for grants to provide a youth shelter for the field. There was a short discussion about the need and desirability of a youth shelter for this project.
- 9.3 The chairman produced and read out a letter from a resident who lives close to the field, which expressed concerns about parking on the A19 by those using the field. The chairman will reply to the writer.

## **10. Review of Standing Orders.**

- 10.1 The clerk explained that the new model standing orders circulated to councillors is a revision of the NALC version adopted by Whitley PC in 2003 and revised in 2005. The clerk said that it is considered to be good practice to review the standing orders periodically and that with the new issue by NALC, this would be a good time to adopt the new model SO.
- 10.2 Cllr White explained that she has spent some time examining the document and felt that some of the clauses should be less restrictive about what can be done and what can be debated. She felt that both the public and councillors would benefit from changes to the SO. There followed a short discussion on the matter.
- 10.3 Resolved – That the new model standing orders be adopted in full and be subject to periodic review by a sub-committee formed for the purpose. Members of the sub-committee shall be the chairman, Cllr White and the parish clerk. This was carried by a show of hands.

## **11. A19 Traffic Speed.**

- 11.1 Cllr Watson reported that he was having some difficulty in obtaining the A19 traffic data from Cecil Pugh, of NY Fire and Accident. He feels that pressure from a local action group and the parish council might help in getting the data released.
- 11.2 The next stage in the formation of an action group is to collate information on residents who are willing to join an action group. This might involve a meeting in the George & Dragon or signing up member by door to door canvassing. On the question of additional road signs, these must be legal.
- 11.3 Cllr Watson continued by saying that Whitley is viewed by the NYCC and police, as low priority for any improvements to the A19 road infrastructure and there followed a short discussion about this matter and how the public might be motivated to demand action to improve the situation. Is our lobbying too weak, should leafleting and meetings be arranged?
- 11.4 What about the cost of CIDs and is the parish council willing to take them on board? Cllr Watson will gather information on residents who might be willing to join an action group and Howard Rimmer agreed to supply information about his own contacts on the issue of the A19 traffic.

## **12.Litter & need for additional waste bins**

- 12.1 The clerk reported that there seems to be an increase in the amount of litter in the village with the problems in Learning Lane, Whitefield Lane, along the west side of the A19 and Gravelhill Lane. It was resolved that the clerk should enquire about providing additional bins and located as appropriate. The clerk also reported on fly tipping on Whitefield Lane, Whitley Common and the area around the mushroom farm. He has already written to the mushroom farm about the problem and he will ask SDC if they will organise a litter-pick and collect the fly tipping debris.

### **13. Planning**

13.1 The clerk reported non-compliance in respect of the refusal of a retrospective planning application on Templar Close. In addition, a number of signs have been erected in the village without the appropriate planning permission. After a short discussion by the councillors it was resolved that the clerk write to SDC planning officers. The also clerk reported that SDC were holding a cash sum from Daniel Gath Ltd the developers in Gravelhill Lane. This was a contribution for offsite ROS and the sum just over £3000.

### **14. Chairman's and members' reports.**

14.1 Cllr Humphrey reported on his attendance at the last CEF meeting.

14.2 Cllr Walton attended the O/F Youth Board meeting.

14.3 Cllr Walton reported that the police had informed her that a local person has volunteered his services following a request from them for a resident to act as a contact for profiling the village. The intention was that the parish council would be involved in nominating an individual. The chairman will discuss the matter with the individual involved and report back.

### **15. A.O.B**

15.1 The clerk reported that he had arranged repairs to the single street lamp owned by the parish council. Cost is likely to be less than £100.

15.2 Cllr Blackburn reported that the chairman of O/F has had a meeting with the company responsible for the biomass power generator planned at Pollington airfield. He stated that the company will contribute about £100,000 per annum for various projects in local communities. He also added that the company operating the incinerator at Ferrybridge would also make a contribution to local community projects.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 p.m.

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Date.**