

Whitley Parish Council – Ref 9/2009

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

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2009 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 p.m. by the chairman Cllr Humphrey
2. **Present.** Cllr Humphrey– Chair, Cllrs. F Blackburn, S White, K Walton. P Gerrard and J Watson
3. **Apologies:** None - At this point the chairman welcomed Cllr Watson to his first meeting of the council following his co-option in August 2009
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – Cllrs Watson & Blackburn declared an interest in respect of Item 14 – Whitley Historical Society
- 5 **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - 5.1 The minutes of the meetings on 14th July 2009 & 6th August 2009 were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr Walton, seconded by Cllr Blackburn and signed by the chairman.
- 6 **Matters Arising.**
 - 6.1 Gale Common Moto X- Cllr Humphrey reported that the application had been withdrawn on the day of the planning committee meeting. No information was available as to why the application had been withdrawn. Cllr Blackburn queried the continued use of the site after the application was withdrawn and sought clarification of the planning rules from SDC. There was a short discussion about the continued use of the site and whether or not the site was appropriate for this type of activity.
 - 6.2 The clerk reported that additional insurance cover was needed for the play equipment on the Whitley Farm site. The cost is £45.01 for 2009/2010.
 - 6.3 Cllr Humphrey reported the latest position with regard to the outdoor concerts at the George & Dragon and the complaints from residents about the noise. The SDC environmental health officer has issued an abatement order following the results of noise monitoring carried out in a house near to the pub. After a short discussion it was agreed that the council supported the landlord in his efforts to make the pub a business success but account had to be taken of the right of nearby residents to enjoy the amenity of their own property.
 - 6.4 Allotments - Seventeen residents have expressed an interest in having an allotment and some of these are keen to volunteer form an allotment society. At present the land identified as possible sites are: Whitefield Lane (owned by Austin Huddleston), triangle of land in Whitley Thorpe Lane and land in Gravelhill Lane. Not all of the prospective allotment holders will want a full sized plot. There was a short discussion about all aspects of the council

owning/purchasing land for allotments and it was agreed that there were many advantages in acquiring land for allotments. There is the need for the allotment group to produce plans for organising and setting out the sites including the provision of water. Cllr White will discuss the current situation on land availability at the meeting arranged for the 9th September 2009. The clerk will re-open discussions with Tim Marlow about the purchase of the land owned by Austin Huddleston.

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

- ◆ Mr Leslie Knowles told the meeting that the Austin Huddleston is selling the Rhubarb Sheds and some adjacent farming land. This may have a bearing on any plans that the council may have to buy land for allotments.

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

7.1 Letter from Selby DC about a Planning Portal seminar on 13th October 2009 at the Civic Centre in Selby. The letter indicates that grants may be available to purchase computer and other equipment for use by the parish council for on-line planning applications. Cllrs Watson & Humphrey will attend along with the clerk.

8 Finance & Administration

- 8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 8/9/09 as being **Current Account** £5615.35, **Deposit Accounts** - Ringfenced for playarea maintenance £87,365.08 Other earmarked funds £2021.06.
- 8.2 The clerk reported that Mrs Mary Farman had carried out the audit of the parish council accounts and annual return and these had been submitted to Mazars by the due date.
- 8.3 The following accounts were presented for payment: Neil Dobson £110, Osgoldcross Forum £125, Allianz Insurance £45.01, LexisNexis £59.05, and Mary Farman £22.50. These were approved and the cheques were signed.

9. Recreational Open Space in Whitley.

9.1 Daffodil Field Progress Report – Cllr Walton reported that Peter Murphy has been on holiday and no work has been done on the project. Selby DC is nominating the project for WREN funding. It is anticipated that the project will be approved but a firm decision will be made by March 2010 with a possible grant of £50,000. It is preferred that consultation with residents should take place before a change of use planning application is submitted and Peter has agreed to attend any consultation meetings that are arranged.

9.2 It was agreed that that public consultation should take place on the project and Cllr White will arrange a meeting and for a flyer to be printed and distributed. The flyer will give detail about the project and the date of the public meeting to hear views about the proposals. The agreed time and date of the meeting is Saturday 24th October 11.00a.m. to 3.00p.m at All Saints Church

10. Open Space Management Group. The group has not yet met but as well as councillors the group needs to recruit members from the local residents. There is a need for a weekly inspection of the play areas owned by the parish council and to prepare an inspection log to record the inspection and any comments about the condition of the equipment and surfaces. The clerk said that the play areas would need an annual safety check and certification by an accredited person or firm. There are many organisations that advertise these services and arrangements for a safety inspection will be made in 2010. Cllr Humphrey agreed to draft an inspection log for council use and it was suggested that the weekly inspections by a councillor could be rotated on a monthly basis.

11. Christmas Lights in Whitley

11.1 The extent and siting of Christmas lighting was discussed and the two options appear to be:

- ◆ A joint effort with the George and Dragon
- ◆ A separate display in the Daffodil Field and a Christmas Fair..

Following a short discussion it was agreed that this matter be deferred and placed on the October meeting agenda.

12. Traffic on the A19

12.1 Speeding through the village continues to be a problem and it is hoped that the letter from Cllr McCartney suggested that various safety initiatives might be implemented in Whitley.

12.2 It was agreed that D Cllr McCartney be invited to a future meeting to discuss the traffic problem on the A19.

13. OF & Selby 4 Youth Provision.

13.1 There was a short discussion about the result of the survey produced by this group, Cllr Walton also reported on the action being taken by the OF Youth Board.

14. Whitley Historical Society

14.1 Cllr Watson explained to the meeting what was being done to publicise the Whitley Heritage Trail and produced sample documents and posters. There was a discussion on the proposed costs, locations of the display boards and the publication of leaflets about the trail. The society is seeking a letter of support from the parish council and it was agreed that the clerk should draft and send the letter to the secretary of the society.

15. Chairman's and members' reports.

- 15.1** The chairman reported that he had attended a JAG meeting and he felt that the meetings were useful and encouraged other councillors to attend future meetings. The issue of changes to the refuse bin collection schedule was raised and it is now possible that householders can obtain extra green bins. **Goole to Leeds Rail Group** – He reported that the group was pressing for a regular rail service but said that because of financial constraints, this will not happen in the next five years. **The Church Conversion Project** – There is a meeting of the parochial church council on 15/9/09 to discuss the project. OF Environmental Group was cancelled but a meeting with the Environment Agency took place at Eggborough Power Station to discuss the flooding risk in the area.
- 15.2** Cllr Walton reported on the last meeting of CIP where grants were approved to various groups including Whitley Wolves.
- 15.3** Cllr Blackburn reported on the UK Coal meeting and the minutes had been passed to the clerk.

16. A.O.B

- 16.1 The clerk reminded councillors about the YLCA training courses being held in November. Cllrs Watson, Walton, Blackburn and Humphrey expressed an interest in attending and the clerk will make the necessary arrangements.
- 16.2 The clerk reported that certain residents were leaving hedge clippings on the pavements and highways. Clerk will write to remind them that clippings should be disposed of by using the green recycling bin.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.52 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date.