

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council on Monday 11 September 2017 at 7.30pm in the St Johns Hall

Present: Chairman Ashley Bond
Vice Chairman Charlotte Lincoln
Councillor David Meakin
Councillor Mark Parrott
Councillor Paul Alderman
Councillor Sue Ford
Councillor Caroline Heron

County Councillor Netta Glover
Plus 28 Residents

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from District Councillor Janet Blake.
- 2. Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: to declare any interests and agree any dispensation requests - Chairman Ashley Bond declared his interest as Members of the AVDC Strategic Development Control Group and also the Development Management Committee
- 3. Open Forum: (under adjournment)** – A resident reported that the streetlight to the outside of 22 Ashgrove Gardens had gone out again. The Clerk would report. **ACTION: AMD**

The same resident also raised her concerns about the installation of the gym equipment at the Recreation Ground. The Chairman thanked her for her comment and said it would be taken into consideration under discussion item 6b.

A further resident asked if anything could be done about the road condition at Little London and with the junction at The Firs. Following discussion with County Councillor Netta Glover the Clerk was asked to report this issue for the Local Area Technician to inspect. **ACTION: AMD**

A member of the audience asked if the Parish Council had any further update on the planning application for Newman's Close. The Clerk was asked to contact AVDC. **ACTION: AMD**

Chris Wilkie from Ecom addressed the group to give an update on the installation of fibre optic ducting in the Parish. He thanked the Parish Council for their permission to install at The Meadows. This was now in place and the next step would be to install between Newman's Close and Market Hill. He indicated that there would be a delay to this because permission had not yet been received from a local landowner. If this could not be achieved, the impact could be a delay of up to six months and a further cost reaching up to £10k. When pressed by the audience Chris Wilkie replied the only option would then be to go down the Communications Act route which would override the landowner decision.

Councillor Charlotte Lincoln asked if the Digital Infrastructure Fund could assist with this project. Chris Wilkie doubted whether this fund could help as from his experience it was very much geared towards the likes of Openreach and very difficult for small companies to access this funding, however he committed to looking into it. A resident asked if the Parish Council could do anything to remove this delay as they felt it was a necessary 'utility' in order to support residents and businesses in the village. Councillor Charlotte Lincoln stated that maybe Ecom could consider partnering with the Aylesbury Vale Broadband group and use their utility permissions to push forward with the delay. He agreed to look into this option.

To receive updates from Bucks County Council and AVDC Councillors. County Councillor Netta Glover gave a verbal update to the group.

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

4. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Monday 14 August 2017 – The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
5. **To update on matters arising** – The Clerk updated the group on matters still outstanding. She reported that VAHT had finally accepted responsibility for the Sandpath and would be looking to clear shortly. She said she had contacted the Clerk at Stoke Hammond to ask about borrowing their siding out machine, only to find out it was not owned by them, but their contractor and this would attract a cost. She asked Councillor Caroline Heron if the verges at Swan Close still needed attention, and if so would she let her know. Councillor Caroline Heron would check and report back.
ACTION: CH

The Clerk asked for an update on the website. Councillor Lincoln reported that minutes and agendas were now being loaded and it would be up and running very soon. A website administrator was still being sought. At this point Councillor Charlotte Lincoln handed the signed Wayleave Agreement to the Clerk for safekeeping.

6. **To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting.**

- a) To receive an update from Councillor Heron in regard to forming a WPAG group – Councillor Heron reported that the RIPPL group would be visiting Whitchurch in 2018. At that time they would be repairing stiles, and inspecting footpaths and gates. Following that, they would send a report through to Councillor Heron. In the meantime, she intended to continue with the work of the Whitchurch Action Group and would look to install a gate to the rear of Bolbec House which should make the footpath more accessible.
- b) To confirm the positioning of the outdoor gym equipment – A site visit by Councillors had taken place prior to this meeting to look at the where the outdoor gym equipment would be installed in the Recreation Ground. This visit was made following the realisation that further s.106 funding could become available and Councillor Lincoln had requested the visit to verify the site to ensure that it would not preclude other projects going forward. The previously agreed siting was confirmed. A member of the audience was allowed to speak and she raised the concern of potential noise from the gym users. Councillors appreciated her concerns, said that there was no other real alternative site they could look at and hoped the trees immediately behind the equipment would act as a natural blockage to most noise. Councillor Heron agreed to meet with the resident to show her the agreed siting.

ACTION: CH

Councillor Ford wanted it noted that, with her experience of working in Sports and Leisure and Green Spaces, she felt this site was unsuitable.

- c) To consider the request for funding from Whitchurch Cricket Club towards pavilion improvements - Following the decision from AVDC to withdraw the s.106 funding from the Cricket Club due to them being unable to secure a 25 year lease from the landowner, the Cricket Club made a further approach to the Parish Council for assistance. Councillors were concerned that any funding options could come up against the same reason for refusal and suggested that we a) approach WCCA to see if they could fund raise in association with the Cricket Club and b) ask the Cricket Club to obtain quotes for a temporary building such as a portacabin which could easily be removed and used elsewhere in the future should the landowner want to reclaim the land for other purposes. The Parish Council could then consider putting funds towards this option. The Clerk was asked to contact WCCA and the Cricket Club.
ACTION: AMD
- d) To consider the request to either fund double yellow lines or a crossing patroller to assist with parking issues at the school – A lengthy discussion which involved the audience ensued. The Parish Council had previously agreed to allocate £1000 towards the installation of double yellow lines with the Local Area Forum picking up the remaining 50% of the £2000 total. TFB then indicated costs would be in excess of £9000 and the Local Area Forum

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

terms were that they would only fund 50% of any scheme and £4500 was too much for the Parish Council to use from parish funds. Sponsorship of a crossing patroller was then discussed. The annual salary was in the region of £2500 and training and clothing costs were approximately a further £700-£1000. It was acknowledged that clothing and equipment was already available so the more likely cost would be in the region of £2500 per annum. Whilst all Councillors were in agreement that they wanted to assist the school they also asked that in the first instance this was taken back to the school PTA to consider. Parish Council funds were spent in full each year and this additional cost would have to be met by an increase in precept. The Clerk would bring this back to the Parish Council when the next precept needed to be set. The Council were conscious that not all residents would be in agreement with this as not all had children at the school and it also had to be noted that over 50% of attendees at the school did not reside in the village. The Clerk was asked to advise the school of this decision. **ACTION: AMD**

7. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

17/02965/APP – Whitchurch Service Station, High Street, Bucks, HP22 4JU – First floor extension to provide a one bedroom flat and staff office – The Council resolved to **OPPOSE** this planning application on the grounds that allowing this development will create a dominating 2 storey structure on the High Street of a Conservation area, which would sit above the canopy of the existing petrol station and have a devastating visual impact on the streetscene in a rural village. The modern style of the proposed building is inappropriate in the setting for the same reasons. Accepting that there is nothing rural about a Petrol Station and Convenience store, allowing this extension is over-development and will exacerbate the intrusion into the streetscene. There will also be a negative impact on the light and amenity of the neighbouring properties especially the commercial building behind the site. Further, the existing building does not appear to be structurally sufficient to support a second story. We also dispute the assertion in the Application that the site is not contaminated, as being a petrol station surely there are some environmental concerns for the site.

17/02232/ALB – 67 High Street, Whitchurch, Bucks, HP22 4JA - Movement of interior wall currently separating cloakroom and storage shed of about 1 metre, to enable cloakroom to be converted into a shower room. Works to include addition of a roof light as currently the cloakroom is windowless – The Council resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS** to this planning application.

17/03384/AOP – Land adjacent to Bushmead Road, Whitchurch Buckinghamshire – Outline application for a residential development of 23 dwellings and formation of new access – The Council resolved to **OPPOSE** this planning application on the grounds previously stated plus additional information. If residents require further detail they can contact the Clerk on annmariedavies55@gmail.com

17/02946/AGN – Land at the Gutters, Manor Farm, Buckingham Road, Whitchurch, Bucks, HP22 4RB – Erection of agricultural building for housing of livestock, storage of fodder and equipment storage – Following a site visit after the meeting, the Council resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS** to this planning application. The Clerk was asked to also remind AVDC of their continued opposition to the previous proposal for this site under planning application 16/01964/APP which was for the provision of digestate storage lagoons.

17/02729/PREAPP – Manor Farm, Buckingham Road, Whitchurch, Bucks, HP22 4RB – THIS APPLICATION WAS NOT DISCUSSED AS IT WAS SENT BY AVDC TO THE PARISH COUNCIL IN ERROR. IT IS ONLY AT THE PRE-APPLICATION STAGE AND IS NOT YET A PLANNING APPLICATION.

The Clerk asked Councillors to note that she had received notification from AVDC that the planning applicant from The Old Vicarage White Horse Lane had appealed the decision to refuse

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

the replacement of some single glazed sashes to double glazed sashes within the existing window frames.

The Clerk had not received any detail for the planning application 17/03292/APP – Land adjacent to Wayside, Oving Road, Whitchurch as AVDC had mistakenly put it for the attention of Oving Parish Council. She would contact AVDC to advise and ask for an extension so that it may be considered at the October meeting. **ACTION: AMD**

8. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Councillor Lincoln had received a request from a resident asking for the Parish Council for help in pruning large trees from The Meadows to the Orchard. Councillors discussed this issue and resolved that there were too many trees to consider pruning all of them but that they would welcome householders to take action themselves to prune sympathetically and to also clear the debris. The Chairman agreed to ask Reg Porter to trim the brambles that are round the back of the Orchard. **ACTION: AB**
- b) To receive an update on the improvements to the wall adjacent to the bus stop in the High Street – Following the walk round with the Local Area Technician it was agreed that revealing more of the wall would be beneficial, but also costly. The Chairman would continue to seek further expert advice. **ACTION: AB**
- c) To update on the village walkround with the Local Area Technician (LAT) on Wednesday 16 August – Councillors agreed this had been a useful exercise. Councillors had learnt that, the weeds etc. that are building up on the footpath, alongside property boundaries are actually the Parish Council's responsibility under the devolved contract. In turn, if the weeds are between the footway and the road, they are Highways responsibility, but likely to be a low priority. All footpaths on private land are the responsibility of the property owner, and all communications should go through the BCC Rights Of Way Team. The Clerk was asked to contact UKPN to notify them of the several branches that are already impinging on the overhead lines in Weir Lane. **ACTION: AMD**

9. Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – please see Open Forum for details.

10. Finance

- a) To agree the accounts for the month ending July 2017 – The accounts were agreed as a correct record.
- b) To draw cheques

The Council resolved to draw the following cheques:

Aylesbury Mains Ltd	chq 610	£52.08
Mazars LLP	chq 611	£240.00
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 612	£397.80
Robin & Heather Moore	chq 613	£420.00
PCC Whitchurch	chq 614	£16.00
Lynch Garden Services	chq 615	£215.00

11. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Winslow Local Area Forum – Not attended.

12. **Recreation Ground** – The Clerk had received the latest monthly checklist from Paul Foot which indicated the cable runway was in need of retensioning and the toddler swing and multiplay items were starting to turn green. The Chairman agreed to deal with both issues. **ACTION: AB**

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

Councillor Heron asked for a new padlock in order to lock the gate. The Chairman agreed to source one. **ACTION: AB**

Councillor Parrott asked on behalf of WCCA if the arrangements for the Firework Night had all been taken care of in terms of insurance cover and footway closures. The Clerk advised all was in hand and that she had been in dialogue with Jeremy Sampson from WCCA.

13. To agree the date of the next meeting – The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 9 October at 7.30pm in the St Johns Hall.

Prior to closing the meeting, The Chairman offered his personal thanks and that of his colleagues on the Council to Councillor David Meakin who had recently stood down from his post as Whitchurch Councillor.

Signed:

Date