

**WHITESHILL & RUSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Mrs Helen Dunn. 23 Tennyson Road, Dursley, Glos, GL11 4PZ Tel: 07941 171805

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7.30pm at Whiteshill Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors John Rogers (Chairman), Rebecca Charley, Gerri Kimber, Peter Hood, John Mutton, Steve Tomkins, Greg Dance, Chris Newport, Helen Dunn (Parish Clerk), Julie Shirley (retiring Parish Clerk), District Councillor Philip Booth, County Councillor Tony Blackburn

**Apologies:** Councillor Louise Scott

**Members of the Public Present:** 1 resident for part of the meeting

One resident was present to complain about the lack of people's responsibility when it comes to walking their dogs and poop scooping. There is a sign which Gloucestershire Highways fitted asking dog owners to keep to the path and keep their dogs under control, this has been vandalised. Pedestrians are coming off the path and using the fields for games and not cleaning up after their dogs. Parishioner would like support from WRPC. Discussion took place regarding the need for educating dog walkers through liaising with other parties i.e. dog wardens. WRPC have authorised the purchase of a dog bin to be placed at the entrance of the footpath, awaiting confirmation that the proposed site will be suitable for SDC to empty – it was discussed that perhaps two be purchased for each end of the footpath. Cllr J Mutton proposed a letter be sent to GCC and all were in favour. Clerk to chase up Natasha Anderson from Stroud District Council regarding location sites.

**Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**199/05/10 To receive any declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

There were none

**200/05/10 To approve of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010 had been previously distributed and were accepted and signed as a true record

**201/05/10 Chair's announcements**

Cllr J Rogers thanked all the Cllrs for their work over the last 4 years as this will be the last meeting of this current Council. Achievements over the last four years include the WaRbler newsletter, Website, Play area, Village Green refurbishment, overflow drain in children's play area, renewal of salt bins, '20 is plenty' signs – a recent survey has proved that traffic has decreased it's overall speed, planting of an orchard and the allotments. The Village has also survived being disconnected of water and being snowed in. Many of these items have been achieved by the hard work of the retiring Clerk Julie Shirley and the Council would like to thank her for all her work. Council presented Julie

with a leaving gift. Cllr J Rogers introduced the new Clerk Helen Dunn, and congratulated District Cllr Philip Booth on being re-elected.

**202/05/10 Report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn**

Cllr T Blackburn reported on the campaign of '20 is Plenty' and that he is fighting to keep the signs up and hoping to get some answers from Gloucestershire Highways and the Police. Potholes also continue to be an issue with some being fixed and others left due to not being urgent enough.

**203/05/10 Report from District Councillor Philip Booth**

Cllr P Booth welcomed the new Clerk and was sorry to see Julie go and wished her well. An e-mail sent to the Clerk this week was mentioned regarding holding a street party in Bread Street and would the WRPC consider donating towards the costs of the road closure. Also Victory Road was considering a party too and maybe the WRPC would consider assistance there too. Cllr P Booth had been visiting a resident with disabilities living in the bungalows on the Main Road who are having problems with getting out of the house due to safety issues with the road – the speed of the traffic is a concern as the resident uses a mobility scooter and there is not enough space to get out of the drive without pulling out into the road. It has become such an issue they are considering having to move house. Discussions were held querying if there is any obligation for Highways to provide access as these bungalows are for people with disabilities. Clerk to write to Glos Highways to enquire.

**Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**204/05/10 To receive and consider reports from the Officer of the Council**

- The internal auditor had reported back with recommendations which had mostly been resolved with Julie. One item which needs looking at is an update of both the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. This can be an item on the agenda for the Finance Committee with the newly elected Council.
- Basket ball hoop. This is still being lengthened and the backboard is still being seen to. Cllr S Tomkins will chase this up. A net was suggested and authorisation was given to Cllr R Charley to purchase one to be fitted before the post gets erected.  
**Action: S Tomkins/R Charley 13/05/10**
- The proposed street light for the footpath between the school and the shop was discussed. The Clerk had received an e-mail regarding costing £1,800 of which the WRPC would be asked for payment of £900
- Bell Pitch retaining wall. Correspondence has been received with concerns to Bell Pitch retaining wall that it is looking in danger of collapsing. Cllr S Tomkins has reported this to Stroud District Council and they are looking into it, it has been logged with them since March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- E-mails from Cllr P Booth regarding Bread Street street party. Cllr G Kimber proposed this to be supported and all were in favour.
- Also an e-mail from Cllr P Booth regarding a bench on Laburnum Green could do with being re painted. Cllr R Charley will look at it and take photos for review at the next meeting.  
**Action: R Charley 13/05/10**

**205/05/10 Finance and formal notices**

- It was resolved to pay the following payments:

Cheques:

1.	Steve Marshall	Village Maintenance	£144.00
2.	Julie Shirley	Clerk (May)	£290.08
3.	Julie Shirley	Office costs	£88.58
4.	Post Office	PAYE (April for Julie)	£72.52
5.	Post Office	PAYE (May for Julie)	£72.52
6.	Geoff Lavis	Internal Audit	£180.00
7.	Helen Dunn	Clerk (May)	£291.90
8.	T.W.Hawkins and sons	Overmarking football pitch	£112.80

Direct Debit / Standing Order:

1.	Village Hall	Rent of venue	£24.00
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**Total: £1276.40**

- It was resolved that the Annual Accounts were approved. This was proposed by Cllr J Mutton and seconded by Cllr G Dance. Chairman and Julie Shirley signed. Clerk to send off at the end of the month. **Action: Clerk 13/05/10**
- After looking at the two insurance quotes received – Aon £1090.86 and Community First £ 790.57, it was resolved to change insurance company to Community First. A cheque was written for £790.57, bringing the above month's expenditure to £2066.97. Clerk to post off the cheque. **Action: Clerk 13/05/10**  
It was also requested that Steve Marshall be asked for a copy of his Public Liability insurance. **Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**206/05/10 To receive updates on the Village Gateway**

The Clerk had received an e-mail from John Kay stating that a request for a gateway would not score highly on its own merit with regards to reducing speed. However should the '20 is Plenty' campaign be successful then a gateway would be beneficial to highlighting the speed limit on entrance to the village. Cllr T Blackburn would like a copy of this e-mail so as to follow up. It was also noted that Cllr T Blackburn is on the Environment Scrutiny Committee where issues regarding the '20 is Plenty' signs around the school zone will be being brought to attention.

**207/05/10 To receive Crime and Disorder report**

A small number of thefts had taken place from garages of tools and lawnmowers

**208/05/10 To receive an update from the Playing Field Working Party**

Cllr R Charley to e-mail the minutes to the Clerk. Quotes were to be obtained to move the gates forward so as to prevent cars parking on the grass. All Cllrs in favour and these will be obtained for the next meeting. There is a Boules event occurring on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the school are having visitors from Kenya and an idea to host a game of Boules with them was suggested. Also with regards to the proposed lamp post on the footpath between the School and the Shop, it was suggested that a member of the council be present to ensure the position was correct. It had been noticed that TW Hawkins had cut the bank of the football pitch and this was suggested that this be only cut once a year – the same time as the Orchard to allow for natural wildlife to occur. Clerk to contact TW Hawkins to mention. It was noted that the police are having a match on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. **Action: Playing Field Working Party/Clerk 13/05/10**

**209/05/10 To discuss the on-going use of the football pitch**

Following the recent request from Painswick football team to use Whiteshill pitch for their

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matches a discussion was held regarding the implications of this. It was decided that a charging system would have to be introduced where all teams would be charged for usage of the field to pay towards the grass cutting and line marking of the pitch. It was also discussed that consultation with the residents backing onto the field should be considered. Concerns were raised around traffic consumption and noise for the residents of Whiteshill and Ruscombe on a weekend. It was decided to write to both Painswick and Whiteshill football clubs to ask about their fixtures list for the coming season, how many matches they propose playing at Whiteshill, the times and the amount of vehicles used to transport players and supporters, and also where in the community there players are from.

**Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**210/05/10 To receive an update from PROW working party**

It had been noticed the footpath (MWH/34/1) by the chicane needs clearing and tidying up. Clerk to contact Steve Marshall.

**Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

Footpath at bottom of Playing field (MWH/17/2) is quite slippery – suggestion of a working party getting together to clear it back a bit.

Footpath MWH/15/1 needs attention as a rain pipe has become exposed. Suggestion of Stroud Projects being able to refill it, Cllr G Dance will forward the details of contact to J Rogers to enquire.

**Action: G Dance/J Rogers 13/05/10**

Footpath MWH/33/1 had become less used since an electric fence had been put around the field ensuring that parishioners kept to the Public Right of Way. Where suggested earlier 2 dog bins to be purchased it were now suggested only the one at the Stokenhill Lane side of the footpath.

**211/05/10 To discuss the Lightwood Lane wall collapse**

It has been brought to attention that the retaining wall of Lightwood Lane is collapsing and can only be seen from the parishioner's garden. Jaci Harris has from Public Rights of Way has been to see it and has stated that the owner must fix it. The parishioner has asked that a member of the WRPC looks at it and has asked for assistance as the parishioner is disabled, and if the wall collapses it will restrict the use of the bridleway as it will collapse onto it. It was suggested that WRPC write to PROW to ask for assistance considering the circumstances.

**Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**212/05/10 To review planning applications**

None

**213/05/10 To discuss arrangements for Parish Plan Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Flyers had been distributed of which some of the comments had caused concern to residents. Cllr J Rogers will bring the refreshments, and all Cllrs will play a part in promoting current objectives of the village and encouraging forming a working party from the parishioners that attend. A list of parishioners attending the meeting will need to be done on the day.

**Action: All Cllrs 13/05/10**

**214/05/10 To receive an update from the Allotment association**

Chippings have arrived for the allotments; discussions regarding a water pump are taking place with an adjacent neighbour; spraying of the site is due to take place; the laying of the paths around the allotments soon to take place – plot holders may do this?

WRPC congratulated the achievements of the Allotment Association on all the work. Sue Dance to e-mail the Clerk a list of plot holders so as to record payments

**215/05/10 To consider the purchase of gates for the Allotments**

Quotes were being looked into by Cllr G Dance. WRPC authorised payment up to £260 on gates when the grant is confirmed.

**Action: G Dance 13/05/10**

**216/05/10 To receive update on funding application**

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Clerk to send off the application forms for a conditional grant. Clerk to e-mail Cllrs when this has been received. **Action: Clerk 13/05/10**

**217/05/10 To receive an update from school governor**

There will be a Governor's meeting next week and as Cllr J Mutton is not continuing as Cllr he will send the Governor's reports to the Clerk for the WRPC meetings if necessary

**218/05/10 To receive updates on school railings hanging flower boxes**

Cllr S Tomkins is continuing to look into this within the price range of £150 authorised at the last meeting. **Action: S Tomkins 13/05/10**

**219/05/10 Final arrangements for APM on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Julie Shirley has set the agenda, invites have been sent out and posters have been displayed. Cllr P Hood will provide refreshments. **Action: P Hood 13/05/10**

**220/05/10 To consider attendance at forthcoming meetings**

None have been received

**221/05/10 Dates of next meetings**

Parish Plan event	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	10 – 1pm
Annual Parish Meeting	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm
Parish Elections	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	All day
WRPC AGM	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30pm
Planning committee	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	8.00pm

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm**