

**WHITESHILL & RUSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Mrs Julie Shirley, 60 Hawk Close, Abbeydale, Gloucester, GL4 4WE Tel: 07941 171805

Email: [clerk@wrpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wrpc.org.uk)

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7.30pm at Whiteshill Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors John Rogers (Chairman), Rebecca Charley, Louise Scott, Peter Hood, John Mutton, Greg Dance, Chris Newport, Julie Shirley (Parish Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillor Steve Tomkins (working)

**Members of the Public Present:** 2 residents for part of the meeting

**162/03/10 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda - None.**

**163/03/10 Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**164/03/10 Chair's announcements**

None.

**165/03/10 Report from County Councillor**

Councillor Tony Blackburn gave a brief update on progress with Gloucestershire Highways. Cllr Blackburn noted that Gloucestershire Police are supporting a 20mph limit in Hardwicke.

**166/03/10 Report from District Councillor**

Councillor Philip Booth congratulated the parish council for arranging a meeting the previous week on housing that attracted nearly 100 members of public. Cllr Booth gave a brief update on items he is currently involved.

Chairman proposed moving agenda items Planning and Public Rights of Way up the agenda to discuss now. This was agreed.

**167/03/10 Public Rights of Way Working Party – footpaths and highways**

Receive an update from the Public Rights of Way Working Party

No update.

Response to GCC regarding 20 is Plenty signage

The meeting discussed the draft response that the Chairman had written. Cllr Booth highlighted the need for speed tests to be carried out before the signs were potentially removed so that a valid comparison could be made, and volunteered to help with the speed surveys.

Cllr Hood proposed that the letter be sent to GCC. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk** to send the letter to John Kay at Gloucestershire Highways and copy to the Chairman.

Cllr Dance mentioned an idea about baseball caps with the slogan "20 is Plenty" for the school children. Cllr Mutton agreed to ask the school.

## 168/03/10 Planning and Environment Committee

There were no Planning Applications for review

### Response to SDC Core Strategy Consultation “Your District Your Future”

Cllr Charley outlined the response document that was put together at the parish public meeting. The responses are based on national planning strategies and guidelines. The response supports a big development of 1-2000 houses in the correct location. The correct location is not one of the options that SDC is putting forward. Out of the designated sites, only Cam can fit 2000 houses and congestion of getting onto the motorway at that point is already bad.

The only sites the parish is aware that could accommodate that size is the Brownfield sites at Sharpness Docks and Aston Down. Cllr Booth noted that these sites were not considered as developers had not put them forward.

It was agreed that Cllr Charley would circulate the draft response for comment. The deadline for sending responses to SDC is 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Sustainable Housing Land Availability Assessment

The meeting discussed the response from SDC and the draft letter that the Chairman had written in reply. It was agreed to send the letter to SDC and copy to Councillor Blackburn. **Action: Clerk.**

## 169/03/10 Receive and consider reports from the Officer of the Council

### Report on important correspondence

- Whiteshill Guide & Scouts Supporters Association. Noted.
- GRCC – Parish Plans. Noted.
- GAPTC – future of Update magazine. Meeting agreed that a quarterly electronic edition was preferred.
- SHLAA response from SDC. Discussed under Planning.

As no response had been received to the letter sent to Down to Earth regarding the outstanding planter work, it was agreed by the meeting to cancel the order. **Action: Clerk** to write to DTE.

## 170/03/10 Finance and formal notices

It was resolved to pay the following in accordance with the budget:

### Cheques:

1.	Steve Marshall	Village Maintenance	£88.00
2.	John Rogers	Clerk Advert	£124.08

### Direct Debit / Standing Order:

1.	Village Hall	Rent of venue	£24.00
2.	Inland Revenue	PAYE (February)	£72.52
3.	Julie Shirley	Clerk (March)	£290.08

Total: £598.68.

### Report on current financial position

The Clerk circulated the balance sheet and bank reconciliation as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The Clerk confirmed that the new account with Lloyds TSB was fully open and the precept would be going into that account in April. The authorised signatories are Cllrs Rogers, Kimber, Tomkins and Dance.

Additional signatories would be authorised after the elections. A letter to Triodos Bank was signed to cancel the monthly standing order to the Village Hall. The Clerk will prepare a letter to Lloyds TSB to set up a similar standing order from the new bank account.

#### Annual Footpath Clearance Contract

The meeting considered the quotes received for the annual footpath clearance and agreed to award the contract to Steve Marshall.

#### Village Caretaker Contract

The meeting considered the quotes received for the village caretaker work and agreed to award the contract for 2010/11 to Steve Marshall.

The meeting also considered the quotes received for the maintenance on the War Memorial. It was agreed to ask Omar L Cottle to repaint the inscriptions on the World War II plaques and request that he appraise the cross part of the memorial and provide a quote for remedial action.

The meeting agreed to ask Geoff Lavis to audit the annual accounts.

#### **171/03/10 Crime and Disorder Report**

Cllr Hood recently attended the KINS meeting. The Police had sent questionnaires to public bodies for areas that need attention; anti-social behaviour appears to be the main problem.

#### **172/03/10 Playing Field Working Party**

There is an issue with a tree that has been cut in the playing field. Cllr Hood will provide further information so that a letter can be sent. Cllr Hood suggested that the councillors have ID to show that they are parish councillors. Cllr Charley suggested asking SDC if they would produce IDs for the parish council. It was agreed to ask SDC after the elections.

There was a discussion about a car that appears to be abandoned in the car park. Councillors will note the phone number displayed in the windscreen and telephone the owner to ask them to remove.

A Playing Field working party meeting is to be arranged.

Cllr Mutton left during this item due to a family commitment.

Cllr Charley mentioned wild grass verges and entering a competition. The information was circulated to members present. The Chairman suggested this could be done as a project identified in the parish plan.

#### **173/03/10 Parish Plan**

This item will be discussed as part of the Planning Committee meeting being held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. All parish councillors invited to attend.

#### **174/03/10 Emergency Plan**

This item will be discussed as part of the Planning Committee meeting being held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. All parish councillors invited to attend.

#### **175/03/10 Allotments**

The land lease has been signed. A Mission Statement and set of rules had also been drafted for the ploholders.

The meeting discussed the funding application. It was agreed to submit the application minus the clearance work, **Action: Clerk**. Cllr Dance will measure the land and provide the information to the Clerk so that a layout of the plots can be drafted. **Action: Cllr Dance**.

It was agreed to ask MJ Fletcher to clear the land within the next 2 weeks. If Mr Fletcher was unable then the Clerk was to refer back to the parish council. **Action: Clerk**.

Clerk to make sure that the Public Liability insurance covers the newly leased land. **Action: Clerk**.

It was agreed to hold a public meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the village hall to discuss with the next steps with the potential plot holders. **Action: Clerk** to book the village hall and email the plottolders.

An allotment work day was planned for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**176/03/10 Report from the Whiteshill School Governor**

No new update as a governors meeting hadn't been held since the last parish council meeting. The School would like to give a talk to the parish council at the July meeting as usual.

**177/03/10 Clerk Recruitment**

The meeting received an update on the Clerk recruitment. Cllrs Rogers, Kimber and Charley will form the interview panel.

**178/03/10 Consider attendance at forthcoming external meetings for which the clerk has received details**

Circulated to councillors.

**179/03/10 Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Planning Committee meeting to discuss the Parish Plan and Emergency Plan – all councillors invited to attend.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Full Council Meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding publicity, and the offer from the Star Inn to forward on agendas and parish newsletter to the people on their email distribution list. It was agreed to send agenda, approved minutes and the newsletter to the Star Inn, with a line in the email asking people to register their email addresses with the parish council in order to receive the items direct.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.