

WHITESHILL & RUSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 8th October 2009 at 7.00pm at Whiteshill Village Hall**

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

Apologies: Councillor Louise Scott (family commitments)

Members of the Public Present: Parents and pupils of Whiteshill School present for the school presentation only

Six pupils attended from Whiteshill School along with Diane Banebridge, deputy head of the school. The pupils gave a presentation to the parish council on things they would like improved within the parish. These included the following items:

- Clearing up at the play area and removing the nettles and installing a bench.
- Clean up the bus stops, replace with transparent shelters with a bench and bin for rubbish.
- 20mph speed limit by the school, from the church up to Kitesnest.
- Improved lighting on the footpath from the scout hut to the school.
- Install a see-saw in the play area and removal of the graffiti on the roof of the multi-play.
- Clear away the overgrowth by the bike ramps and reduce the height of the ones that are too steep.

Mrs Banebridge went on to explain about a project called "Tell me" which will run from November to Christmas and pupils will be interviewing anyone with memories of the parish during World War 2. The interviews will be uploaded onto a secure website and produced into a book.

The parish council thanked the pupils for their presentation.

There was a refreshment break before the council meeting commenced.

087/10/09 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

088/10/09 Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2009

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September were approved and signed by the Chairman.

089/10/09 Chair's announcements

None.

090/10/09 Parishioners' ten minutes

No parishioners present.

091/10/09 Report from County Councillor

Councillor Tony Blackburn has contacted the highways department to get confirmation that the proposed No Waiting Restrictions would not inhibit the 20mph request and school crossing.

Councillor Blackburn read out list of outstanding highway works for the parish which included road repairs that are needed. ACTION: Clerk to write to Highways to request that the trench across Lower Kitesnest Road is made a priority please.

There are 13 potential waste sites for consultation. The deadline is 30th November for comments.

092/10/09 Report from District Councillor

Councillor Philip Booth talked about a planning questionnaire that was coming out soon. Clerk to put on the November meeting agenda for discussion.

Ruscombe Brook Action Group recently held their AGM. Puckshole will be getting a grill. The Water Forum has been set up.

The Energy Monitors project has been launched and monitors are available from the library.

There is one street light in The Close that does not work – County Councillor Blackburn made note and would take this up on our behalf.

093/10/09 Receive and consider reports from the Officer of the Council

Report on important correspondence

Letter from Pitchcombe Parish Council requesting support in reducing A4173 and A46 to a 40mph limit. It was proposed by Councillor Kimber and seconded by Councillor Dance that we support the proposal; all in favour. ACTION: Clerk to write to Highways and support the 40mph limit.

Email from BBC Radio Gloucestershire for Good News from the Parishes. ACTION: Clerk to respond and add the parish council to the mailing list for the monthly email.

Thank you letter from Whiteshill & Paganhill PCC. Noted.

Thank you email from Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau. Noted.

Pay Settlement 2009 – 1% agreed by NALC backdated to 1st April 2009. Clerk requested that this be put into effect from 1st April 2010 and not backdated – the council agreed.

Letter from Big Lottery Fund confirming grant application being assessed. Noted.

NALC Consultation – deadline 27th October. The meeting discussed the consultation and agreed that the jargon makes it difficult to understand and unhelpful and needs to be presented in a more realistic format. The meeting agreed that Councillor Charley will make a response on behalf of the parish council and report back at the next meeting.

Potential waste sites for consultation from GCC. There are no sites near the parish so the meeting had no comment

094/10/09 Finance and formal notices

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

Cheques:

1.	Steve Marshall	Village Maintenance	£132.00
2.	Julie Shirley	Publicity Expenses	£111.70
3.	Moore Stephens	External Audit	£155.25

Direct Debit / Standing Order:

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

The Clerk read out the report from the external auditor which highlighted 2 items that was also in the internal auditors report. These 2 items were noted and review of Financial Regulations to be put on the next Finance Committee meeting agenda.

The Clerk gave out forms from Lloyds TSB bank so that all the councillors can become authorised signatories on the new account.

Report on current financial position

The Clerk circulated the balance sheet and bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2009.

The council was reminded about the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting on 22nd October and invited councillors to make suggestions for expenditure for 2010/11.

095/10/09 Crime and Disorder Report

Councillor Charley reported that vehicles parked near Primrose Hill have been broken into.

There is also a house in Ruscombe that is having its window repeatedly damaged. Clerk to report to PCSO White.

There is still an abandoned car in car park that SDC are arranging to remove. Clerk to forward the last email from SDC to Councillor Booth for follow up.

Cars for sale are being parked in the playing field car park. SDC will enforce once more details are provided; councillors to let the Clerk have details.

096/10/09 Playing Field Working Party

The next Working Party day is planned for Friday 30th October. The Party will look at work needed on the bike ramps and will trim back the shrubs and branches that are growing into the play area.

The Clerk will order the sign needed for the car park at a cost of £22.

Councillor Tomkins is available to collect the basketball hoop on Friday 16th October; Clerk to arrange.

The hedge around the playing field is in need of cutting; Councillor Charley to organise a contractor.

097/10/09 Public Rights of Way Working Party - footpaths and highways

Clerk to request a new speed survey to test the effectiveness of the "20 is plenty" campaign.

All councillors are requested to let the Clerk know any details of traffic incidents in the parish in the past 2 years.

Councillors Tomkins and Rogers arranged to meet on Friday 16th October to put new grit bins in place.

Down to Earth is requesting that the subsoil in the village green planter is removed prior to planting up. Councillors Tomkins and Rogers will look at the planter on Friday 16th October and let the Clerk know what action to be taken.

098/10/09 Planning and Environment Committee

Planning Applications for review:

S.09/1540/HHOLD – Gough Cottage, Ferndale Road, Whiteshill – revised plans.

OBJECT – original comments still stand.

Planning Applications approved by SDC:

S.09/1351/HHOLD – Glenville, Ludlow Green – erection of a two storey extension to side of house.

S.09/1345/VAR – Sunnyside, Lower Street – Variation of condition 7 of permission S.96/1253.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Methodology Scoping Report

Councillor Charley updated the meeting on the Gladwish fields. Under the Article 4 notice no fences or walls are allowed to be erected but hedges are permitted. Somebody has recently been seen in the Gladwish fields planting hedges.

Gladwish fields are amongst other sites listed in the SHLAA. There are 4 sites in total that the meeting wished to object to. The sites are inappropriate for development and affect the rural nature of the area and are also in the AONB. The sites are also habitat for known protected species in the area. These sites also form green space which divides parishes and conservation of green spaces was in the original SDC Local Plan. None of the sites have adequate site access. Land at Kitesnest has been subject to planning applications in the past and rejected by Highways because of insufficient highway access. Councillor Rogers will produce a statement for each piece of land; councillors to review the statements and provide feedback to the Clerk by Monday 12th October. Clerk to send the collated comments to SDC.

The 4 sites objected to are:

- RTPI 65 Land at Mount Farm Randwick
- RTPI 87 Land behind Farmhill Rd Stroud
- RTPID 121 Land off Kitesnest Lane Whiteshill
- RTID 148 Land south of Callowell Farm

099/10/09 Report from the Whiteshill School Governor

No update as the Governors meeting is set for 12th October. Councillor Mutton will pass on the thanks of the council to the school for tonight's presentation.

100/10/09 Consider attendance at forthcoming external meetings for which the clerk has received details

Meeting dates circulated on the Clerk report.

101/10/09 Dates of next meetings

Councillor Hood is attending the next KINS meeting on 14th October.

Thursday 22nd October, 8pm Planning Committee meeting followed by Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee will be looking at the budget and precept for 2010-11; all councillors are invited to attend. Any ideas for expenditure to be communicated to the committee.

Thursday 12th November, 7.30pm Full Council meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.