



WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitfield Parish Council held on 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Cranleigh Drive, Whitfield.

Present

Councillor J. Goodsell (Chair)
Councillor W. Bowman
Councillor K. Gowland
Councillor J. Cummings
Councillor J. Hudson

Apologies: Councillor J. Gould, Councillor K. Colyer and Councillor C. Moore

Reasons for Absence: Accepted by the Council

In Attendance: Mrs J. Matcham (Parish Clerk), Mrs G Hubbard (Deputy Clerk).
PCSO's Megan and Carl, KCC Councillor D. Beaney and DDC Councillor J. Back were in attendance for part of the Meeting.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming Councillor John Hudson to his first Meeting as a Whitfield Parish Councillor.

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

115. MINUTES

The Council considered the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, which took place on 25th January 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th January 2022 be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

116. FINANCE

The Council considered the Parish Council Finance Report for the period ending January 2022.

The Council noted the latest Bank Reconciliation (to the end of January) of the Parish Council's Current Bank Account and Petty Cash.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Finance Report to the end of January 2022 be, accepted and signed by the Chair.

2) That the bank reconciliation for the 2no. Parish Accounts are noted and accepted.

117. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Council noted the planning applications received to 28th February 2022 and received a short update from the Chair of the Planning Committee.

There were no other matters for note or discussion in respect of Planning Committee matters.

118. RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Council noted the written report in respect of the Recreation Committee Meeting, which was scheduled to take place on 22nd February 2022, but did not proceed as there were insufficient Councillors present to meet the required quorum.

119. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk gave an update on the following matters:

- That the replacement Speed Indicator Device has been ordered. There is an 8-12 week lead time for delivery.
- That the Clerk has been gathering further information in respect of engaging with Royal Mail for the distribution of the Parish Council Newsletter. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this will achieve the Parish Council objectives for coverage and logistically is quite complex. The Clerk suggests that the way forward is to prepare a Newsletter and engage a leaflet distribution company for delivery. The Clerk and Chair will liaise further in respect of this.
- That attendance by the BT Openreach Surveyor is awaited in respect of the phone line on the Recreation Ground.
- That the Pavilion and Buildings now have a Satisfactory ECIR Electrical Inspection Certificate Report.
- That the Biffa bin is now in situ and seems to be being serviced regularly.
- That the building revaluation has now been completed.
- That the Asbestos Survey has been completed – no asbestos has been identified.
- That should the Parish Council wish to provide an Afternoon Tea for Litter Picker Volunteers, they will be approximately 20 in number.

120. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has received the following correspondence in the preceding period:

- One public contact in respect of the PSPO Consultation (dogs on leads).
- An update from McDonalds in respect of Community Engagement.

121. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk welcomed the new PCSO's for Whitfield and introduced them to the Council. PCSO's Megan and Carl gave a short verbal update report to the Council in respect of recent matters relating to the Parish, including a rise in Anti Social Behaviour which has resulted in the imposing of 'Special Dispersal Orders' for specific times, durations and locations.

An empty property in Archers Court Road has been placed on the ASB list and any reports of incidents to that area are duly escalated, along with more regular patrols of the location.

122. DOVER DISTRICT AND KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Dover District Councillor J. Back was in attendance and gave an update report on the following matters:

- That the 2021 planning application for the construction of 63 properties to land behind Archers Court Road was refused by DDC Planning Committee last week. This site has a long history of planning applications for varying numbers of properties. DDC Councillor Back thanked Councillor Goodsell, the Whitfield PC Chair, for his detailed and relevant arguments against the planning application.
- That he is going to – again - request that KCC Highways undertake a full resurfacing of Archers Court Road. Despite having been requested before, they have only patch repaired which is not sufficient and barely lasts a week. Following a further request, Highways have confirmed that the 'Keep Clear' markings at the junction of Sandwich Road and Archers Court Road shall be remarked for further clarity.
- That concerns in respect of increased HGV traffic have been raised with Highways particularly with the proposed IBF, DeFRA and Willesden Road HGV facilities. Traffic levels will be monitored.
- Cllr Back also responded to a question raised in respect of upgrades to the Whitfield roundabout and Jubilee Way. Current information suggests that the roundabout will be upgraded in 2025 with the Jubilee Way upgrade expected for 2026.

Kent County Councillor D. Beaney was in attendance later in the Meeting and gave an update report on the following matters:

- That the DDC budget has been agreed for 2022/2023 which includes a capital programme of £75million, this is allocated for projects such as the Maison Dieu refurbishment, Fastrack, Market Square and Tides. It will result in an increase of 2.5% or £4.95 Band D equivalent. There has also been an agreement to increase DDC parking charges within the District.
- That any applications for road closure to facilitate the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations must be submitted to KCC by 25th March.
- That KCC has launched a tree consultation and proposes to plant 30,000 trees across the County in 2022/2023. Each KCC Councillor has been allocated 350 trees for their ward.
- That information suggests that 95% of young people have been granted one of their 4 choices for secondary school allocation. The remaining 5% may challenge the decision with KCC should they so wish.
- That KCC is launching a Speed Awareness Campaign. Data suggests that there were 140 traffic incidents due to speed in Kent, resulting in 170 deaths. KCC aim to have no deaths on the county roads, due to speed by 2050.
- That KCC has made a budget reduction from £6million to £4 million to the supported bus services. There is a current consultation for routes that will be reduced or removed. The WPC Chair questioned whether the future bus service for Whitfield may be overshadowed by Fastrack, which could result in the 'old' village losing bus services and routes. This however, is an unknown at present.
- The WPC Chair also raised the matter of the speed limit along Sandwich Road. The Parish Council has been trying for some years to get the Sandwich Road speed limit reduced from 60mph to 40mph and 40 mph to 30mph to align with the expansion of the village. In the coming months the Parish Council will compile a report for submission to KCC and the Joint Transport Board for consideration.

123. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor J. Cummings reported that she continues to check the defibrillators in the Parish. Pads were replaced recently and all of the device pads now have the same expiration date.

There were no other Reports from Representatives for note / consideration.

124. **GRANTS / DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Council considered the renewal of the Parish Council's Membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) at a cost of £90.00 for 2022/2023.

The Council considered the renewal of the Clerks membership of SLCC for 2022 at a cost of £186.00.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That the Parish Council will renew its membership of ACRK in the sum of £90.00 for the 2022/2023 year.
 - 2) That the Parish Council will renew the Clerks membership to SLCC for 2022/2023 at a cost of £186.00.

125. **BENCHES**

The Council confirmed its choice of bench for placing at the War Memorial Island as 'The Queens Jubilee Bench 5ft – ASA Forces Charity'. The cost of the bench (£850.00 + £80.00 delivery) was already resolved at the January Meeting of the Parish Council.

This item was to confirm the Parish Council's choice of bench only.

126. **PSPO CONSULTATION**

The Council considered a response to the DDC PSPO Consultation, particularly in respect of the proposed 'Dogs on leads for Whitfield Parish Council Recreation Ground'.

- RESOLVED:** That the Chair will compose a response in support of the proposal for dogs to be kept on leads on the Whitfield Recreation Ground. It will confirm the Parish Council reasoning for the proposal, such as control of dogs and dog waste.

127. **FRESHAIR FITNESS**

The Council considered / confirmed the expenditure of £838.08 for the repair of the Childs Air Skier and service of all FreshAir Fitness gym equipment on the Recreation Ground.

- RESOLVED:** That the sum of £838.08 for repair of one item and service of all remaining items is agreed.

128. PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIR / MAINTENANCE

The Council considered the quotes received for repair / maintenance of items following the annual RoSPA play area inspection, which took place in July, as follows: To repair the roundabout (bearings require service and adjust ground clearance), To replace basketball backboards, to investigate uneven ramps on the BMX track and to replace end caps on footrest of Kompan sit up bench.

Quote 1: £2944.50, Quote 2: £2683.50 (quote 2 does not include investigation to BMX track) Quote 3: Declined to quote for works.

RESOLVED: That Quote 1, which includes investigation to the BMX track, shall be accepted in the sum of £2944.50.

129. STAFFING UPDATE

The Clerk updated the Council in respect of changes to the Grounds Maintenance staff hours of work. The changes have been agreed by the Finance Committee, they do not result in any increases in allocated funds for Grounds Maintenance staffing budget.

The Clerk also advised the Council that notification has now been received from NALC that the salary scale point increase due to staff from 1st April 2021 has been agreed. As the increase is to the scale points and is therefore a contractual right, the Council agrees that the increase will be implemented from 1st April 2021 resulting in arrears of pay. This will be paid to qualifying staff with March payment of salary.

130. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Clerk advised the Council that following the resumption of face to face meetings it has been noticed that the street light on the Recreation Ground is no longer working. The Clerk will instigate enquiries for repair.
- The Clerk asked the Council to consider the format for the Annual Parish Meeting for 2022. It is agreed that the Meeting shall take place in the Pavilion and will cover the necessary legislative requirements.
- The Chair enquired if there had been any approaches to the Parish Council to support Jubilee celebrations. The Clerk confirmed that no approaches had been received. The Parish Council is prepared to support applications if they are able, but it is generally agreed that the Parish Council do not have the ability to organize, nor marshal events itself.

The meeting closed at 21.20

**COUNCILLOR J. GOODSSELL
CHAIR**

Draft Minutes to be Agreed at the next Parish Council meeting