

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th February 2013, at Whittington Village Hall at 19:30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: A parishioner representing the Plymouth Brethren Church at Swinesherd offered assistance with litter picking in the village. The Chairman thanked him and asked that he liaise with the Clerk. Another queried the wording of the agenda which she considered pre-judged the issue of the “Whittington Green Project”. The Chairman outlined the nature and process of the Neighbourhood Planning and the intended involvement of other interested parties, and final democratic referendum prior to adoption. Another parishioner asked if the Chairman had attended the WDC Planning Committee meeting re the Uffnells Farm Development. He had not. The matter was yet to come before the Committee. The parishioner also reported that a footpath sign on Walkers Lane had fallen over and needed to be re-set. A member of the public indicated that he would welcome the “blind” area of Spetchley Road being included in any litter picking operation, and advised that he understood that the Uffnells Farm Development was likely to come before the WDC Planning Committee at the end of March.

2013.20 Attendance.

Present: M. Baker, S.L. Brooker, S. MacLeod, C.A. Smith, P.J. Wood.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk.

Apologies: J.E. Chamberlain. R.C. Adams.

2013.21 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, and Ethical Matters.

- a. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests in items on this Agenda. S. Macleod reported that after previous discussion with the Monitoring Officer at WDC she wished to declare a non-pecuniary interest in the matter of parking restrictions proposed on Church Lane.
- c. Dispensations: There were no new applications.
- d. Ethical Matters. The Chairman reminded Members of their personal responsibility to keep their Register of Interest entries up to date; the Clerk advised that these were now under the scrutiny of the Members Conduct Committee at WDC.

2013.22 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2013 having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (CS/SM) without amendment.

2013.23 Co-option of Members to fill vacancies on the Council.

No applications had been received.

2013.24 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications:

Application Number: W/13/00046/CU

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden

Location: Land off Church Lane, Whittington

Applicant: D. Baker, The Great Redfield Trust, 28 Berkeley Close, Whittington, Worcs. WR5 2RF

Comments: Members noted that the applicant had stated in a supporting document to the application that “All through the process we have made the Parish Council aware of our plans and indeed a number of members of the council were originally part of the Trust when it was set up to purchase the field, pledging money for the auction should it have been needed. We therefore know that what we are proposing has the support of the parish and we hope that this proposal will meet with your approval too”

The Chairman sought clarification from Members as to Member involvement in the Trust; none present had any involvement and only hearsay knowledge

In the light of the notification having only recently been received by the Council (and therefore probably neighbours) the Chairman proposed that at this stage the Council decline to comment other than to set the record straight regarding the above quoted passage, and consider its views at the next (12th March) meeting. This was seconded by M. Baker and agreed.

The Clerk was to seek dispensation for the proposed late response in the light of the misinformation contained in the application; if not forthcoming an extra meeting would probably be needed.

2013.25 Urgent Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

None.

2013.26 Highways & Byways.

Highways

Parking in Church Lane - The Chairman referred to new WCC proposals. To implement a “no waiting at any time” order on both sides of Church Lane from outside Langland to the existing school “zig-zags” at the end of School Walk on the South side and from opposite Langland to and across the access to The Old Coach House and High

walls on the North side. It was also proposed that the “zig-zags” should be made enforceable between 08:00 and 16:00 hrs. on weekdays.

Members debated the issue at some length and eventually agreed to support the proposed “no waiting at any time order” but to ask that the enforcement of the “zig-zags” be omitted.

Byways: Members noted the advice about the fallen footpath sign (see “Democratic period” above). The Clerk was to action this.

2013.27 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan & “Village Centre” Planning

The Chairman outlined his thoughts regarding proceeding with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and invited members’ comments. After debate it was agreed (CS/MB) unanimously to proceed. It was agreed that the Plan should embrace the whole of the Parish. The Chairman was to draft the application for Neighbourhood Planning Authority status and consult with the Clerk before circulating it to Councillors for comment.

Having decided to proceed with the Plan, Members considered how to proceed and whether the Council should engage with the “Whittington Green Project”.

The Clerk indicated that he had made provisional arrangements for a meeting of representatives of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Management Committee, the School, the Church and the developer of the Whittington Green Project to consider the way forward and how (if thought desirable) to integrate the developer’s proposals for the “Whittington Green Project” within the Neighbourhood Planning Process. If the Council so wished this could be implemented. He suggested too that the Annual Parish Meeting (30th April) would provide a good opportunity to further publicise and consult with the public and to recruit interested parties to the body developing the Neighbourhood Plan. Members concurred.

Members considered the options and agreed that the proposed meeting should proceed, it being felt that engagement with (though not necessarily support for) the “Whittington Green Project” was desirable as it addressed many of the issues raised by Parishioners in the Parish Survey conducted in 2011.

2013.28 Annual Parish Meeting 30/4/2012.

It was agreed that the format should remain much as in previous years with reports invited from Parish representatives and institutions, followed by an open session as envisaged above.

M. Baker sought that the full implications of the proposed “Whittington Green Project” should be publicised in the notice of this meeting.

2013.29 Draft Police and Crime Plan.

For the benefit of members of the public the Chairman outlined the nature of the consultation from the Police & Crime Commissioner, and read out his proposed response, (which had previously been circulated to Members) before inviting Members to comment.

Members generally supported the views expressed by the Chairman and agreed (CS/PJW) that the Clerk should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council incorporating those views in that response.

The Chairman closed the meeting temporarily to allow public comment. There was none and so the meeting was reconvened.

2013.30 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 12th March 2013, at Whittington Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 2055 Hrs.