

WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council
Held at 19:00 on Wednesday 11 May 2022

Present:

Councillor T Munro (Chair)
Councillor H Green
Councillor L Roberts

Councillor K Austin
Councillor F Raspin
County Cllr M Yates

Councillor D Ellis
Councillor J Raspin
6 Members of Public

1. Election of Chair

One nomination was received and seconded, that of Cllr T Munro. Cllr T Munro was duly elected as Chairman.

2. To receive and Accept Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Maiden.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

One nomination was received and seconded, that of Cllr F Raspin, who was duly elected.

4. Declaration of Councillors' and Chairman's Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code

The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Proper Officer and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

5. Election to Other Groups/Bodies

It was **resolved** to elect the following:-

Footpaths/Hedgerows – All Councillors

Internal Audit Committee – Cllr D Ellis, Cllr S Maiden and Cllr T Munro

Playscheme Committee – Cllr H Green, Cllr S Maiden and Cllr J Raspin

Website Monitors /General I.T. Working Group – Cllr K Austin, Cllr D Ellis, Cllr S Maiden and Cllr F Raspin

Joint Cemetery Management Committee – Cllr D Ellis, Cllr S Maiden, Cllr T Munro and Cllr F Raspin (Cllr L Roberts reserve) + 2 Cllrs from H&BPC

Initiatives/Funding Working Group – All Councillors

Allotments Working Group – Cllr T Munro, Cllr H Green and Cllr F Raspin

Climate Action Working Group – All Councillors (at least 3 to be in attendance)

Whitwell Community Centre Management Committee – All Councillors

Staffing Committee – All Councillors

Whitwell Quarry Liaison Committee - Cllr F Raspin

Parish Council Liaison Meeting with BDC - Cllr T Munro/Clerk

Community Rail Partnership – Cllr T Munro

6. To record declarations of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests from members on any items to be discussed – None.

7. To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (forms to be completed before the meeting) – None.

8. Public Participation Session - to allow members of the public to speak to the meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session).

MOP's were in attendance to raise their concerns that BDC had boarded-off access to what are know as the "Jubilee Steps" without notice, with the fencing subsequently being removed overnight. It was reported that

these are used regularly (some numbers were provided) and residents were inconvenienced by their closure, missing buses etc., due to having to walk further – this would also have an impact on accessing a defibrillator if required and use of the steps as an emergency exit. There is also a historic value, with the access being maintained by residents; up to 67 people have recently commented about them on social media. The residents are aware of safety issues but hoped that it could become a designated PROW, perhaps with a disclaimer. Cllr T Munro informed that the Parish Council is not in a position to be able to consider a course of action and informed that the steps had been demolished by Clowne & Rural District Council following an accident around 1967-69. However, he has informed BDC that it was unacceptable to erect fencing without notice. Cllr M Yates was clear that historically it has been used as a right of way and has information on how to apply for a registered PROW, with his priority being keeping public access and making the steps safe. Cllr T Munro would be happy to help him complete the application.

A MOP thanked the Parish Council for arranging tree works to overhanging branches in the Plantation and enquired as to the timescale for erection of fencing. Cllr T Munro informed that this was subject to accessing funding, which was still in progress.

1 MOP left at 19:34

8.1. Members of the Parish Council and public to raise matters of importance with the police

P C Sinfield and PCSO Galley had sent their apologies and forwarded a report giving crime figures.

8.2. Members Members of the Parish Council and the public to raise matters of importance with the County Councillor - Cllr M Yates reported on the following:-

- DCC's bid to the Government for a combined 22 million person-sized unitary authority (Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire/Derby City/Nottingham City). This would create a 4th tier of Government as they have said they will not cut District Councils. The Mayor would live in Nottingham and take on the duties of the PCC, but it is not clear whether they will join Police Forces. Members were urged to react to the consultation on DCC's website.
- DCC have decided to close 7 care homes despite objections.
- DCC's consultation on the Closure of Adult Day Services is still ongoing.
- PCC Summit – PCC funding is available to purchase traffic speed warning signs from DCC, which also collect data.
- CCTV grant funding – speak to Shirebrook TC about their experience.
- Street Lighting works at Whitwell Common are delayed due to a metal shortage.
- White Lines response from DCC - As part of traffic calming schemes centre lines are removed on roads 5.5 metres or less to slow traffic down. Centre lines give drivers a false sense of security whilst driving, therefore by removing the line drivers will slow down and drive to the nature of the road, thus reducing collisions on the roads.
- Community Leadership Fund – he has donated £250 to Whitwell Players and £500 to Whitwell Junior FC. He has £250 left to be claimed to help with celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- He attended the Whitwell Quarry Liaison Meeting and his request for an open community meeting was well received by Tarmac, but there was no representative from L'Hoist.
- He walked around Creswell Crags with the Police SNT on 29 April after it has recently been targeted by foragers, being against the law at the SSSI site. Police are increasing patrols but he urged residents to report any further incidents.

The following issues were raised:-

- 8.2.1. Cllr T Munro reported on works to be carried out by R Woodheads on the DCC stepped footpath on BDC land between Thorpe Avenue/Sandy Lane. Following removal and replacement of a lamppost a ramp will be installed.

8.2.2. Cllr T Munro reported on feedback received from DCC regarding the Darfoulds Bridge lowering project, that the funding was still in place, with the total cost being in the region of £600,000. The project would stop HGV's from cutting through the village.

8.2.3. Cllr D Ellis reported that the Day Care Centre consultation has recently been posted on the Whitwell's Talking Facebook page and urged as many people as possible to respond.

5 MOP's & Cllr M Yates left at 19:50

8.3. Members of the public to raise matters of importance with the Councillors present

District Council

Cllr T Munro informed that BDC should have informed residents of their intention to block off the cut-through from Jubilee to Bakestone Moor. There would be huge costs to make it a useable right of way to 2022 standards. There is currently some confusion regarding ownership of the land.

The following issues were raised:-

8.3.1. Removal of the front wall at 6 Welbeck Street, which was one of the remaining walls that originally had railings. Cllr T Munro informed that BDC are not pursuing this any further, which is right on the edge of the conservation area. Clerk to write to BDC with objections on conservation grounds.

Parish Council - No issues were raised.

9. **To consider for approval the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 April 2022**

Item 19.2 – a missing 't' at the end of brought. It was then **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2022 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

10. **To consider any matters arising (for information only) from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 April 2022**

Item 4.3.2 – Cllr T Munro arranged for an officer to visit a Mill Lane resident to explain property issues in detail.

Item 4.3.4 – Network Rail have visited the quarry tunnel top to inspect with a view to granting permission to erect a beacon. Cllr T Munro has circulated a proposed village heritage trail to councillors.

Item 10 – The equipment order has been placed with Sutcliffe for Welbeck Street Recreation Ground. Cllr T Munro has spoken to BDC's Community Safety & Enforcement Manager to inform him of commencement of this project and that CAN Ranger support would be appreciated. Clerk to contact Sutcliffe to enquire about their safety measures during installation.

Item 12 – Response from Welbeck Estates that they will seek clarification from DCC and reply to WPC.

11. **Accounts for Approval and Payment – It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment: -**

Direct Bank Payments to be Authorised			
Payee	Goods/Services	Amount	Budget
Turner Hire & Sales	PPE	179.33	59
Turner Hire & Sales	PPE	76.81	59
Thorpes Building Supplies	Repairs	24.13	63
Mole Country Stores	Repairs	39.98	63
Bolsover District Council	Active Communities 2022-23	1000.00	67
Bolsover District Council	Annual Rent, Whitwell Common	5.00	65
St Lawrence Church	Flower Arrangement for Festival	50.00	72
Planterior	Tree Works, Plantation	1098.00	72
	TOTAL	2473.25	
Credit Card Payments			
Microsoft	Microsoft (Office 365) x 2 users	22.56	45
Co-op Bank	Credit Card Fee	2.00	20
	TOTAL	24.56	

12. Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation

It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Report. Cllr D Ellis signed the April bank reconciliation.

13. To Pass a Resolution to Re-affirm the Council's Eligibility to use the General Power of Competence

It was **resolved** to re-affirm the Council's eligibility to use the General Power of Competence.

14. To Review the Council's Financial Risk Assessment

It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Risk Assessment subject to reducing Payroll, Loss of Data from a probability rating of 3 to 2 resulting in a profile rating from 12 to 8. Clerk to speak to the Auditor regarding banking options.

15. To Review the Council's Fixed Asset Register

It was **resolved** to accept the council's Fixed Asset Register.

16. To Approve the Schedule of Regular Direct Payments for 2022/23

It was **resolved** to accept the Schedule of Regular Direct Payments for 2022/23. Skate Park locking/unlocking to be kept under review.

17. To consider the Climate Change Working Document (Cllr J Raspin)

Cllr J Raspin had circulated the working document to councillors. Cllr T Munro thanked Cllr J Raspin for producing the document. In respect of potential woodland planting this should be planned between October 2022-March 2023, with consideration being given to types of trees and access. It was **resolved** that the Clerk write to Chris McKinney for progress regarding lease arrangements, securing the boundary and creating access and invite him to the June meeting. Discussion took place regarding inability to enforce Woodland Trust's recommendation to plant two trees elsewhere following tree removal, which is what WPC advise and request with tree felling applications. A Working Group Meeting to be arranged for the end of September.

18. To consider Setting Criteria When Considering Bids for Unspent Covid-19 Grant Funding (Cllr T Munro)

The following requests for Covid-19 recovery assistance were considered and the following **resolved**:-

18.1. Whitwell Bowls Club (Cllr T Munro declared an interest and left the room)

It was agreed that the Bowls Club has been impacted by loss of income. Further information to be requested on how, if funding was granted, would it be used to help progress the club forward and benefit the community in terms of recovery, so that funding can be granted based on how it is going to be used. WPC's template funding form to be completed.

18.2. Whitwell Players (Cllr J Raspin declared an interest and left the room)

It was agreed that Whitwell Players have been impacted by loss of income. Benefits included providing a production, which helps maintain their production level and helps assist the future progress of the group to entertain the community, boost its morale and help maintain its reputation in Whitwell and beyond. Funding of £1,500 was granted. WPC's template funding form to be completed.

19. To consider Ways in Which WPC Could Support Ukrainian Refugees and Hosts in the Parish (Cllr J Raspin)

It was discussed whether there could be a role for WPC to play to be a conduit in supporting any Ukrainian Refugees and their Hosts in the parish. DCC and BDC to be contacted to enquire as to whether any preparations have been made.

20. To consider Improvement Works to the Drive at Mill Lane Allotments and an offer from L'Hoist to fund £3,000 towards the cost (Cllr F Raspin)

It was **resolved** to accept the offer from L'Hoist, with WPC funding the remainder of the total cost of £4,320.

21. Correspondence

It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence as follows: -

- 21.1. DALC May Newsletter – noted.
- 21.2. Nether Langwith Parish Council – EMR Petition – WPC wholeheartedly support the petition.
- 21.3. Hedgehogs R Us – Hedgehog Highway Project – agreed to purchase 1 box.
- 21.4. DCC – Response Regarding Bus Shelter Provision – noted, to be copied to resident.
- 21.5. EMR – Installation of Defibrillator at Whitwell Station – noted.

Correspondence not Listed

- 21.6. BDC – Community Protection – Agreed to invite Cllr M Dooley and M Seston to June meeting.
- 21.7. Resident – installation of a walking/jogging track/path around Welbeck Street Recreation Ground – To be considered, possibly with some exercise bars, together with funding.
- 21.8. Chatsworth Estates – possibility of land to be considered by the Cemetery Committee.

22. Planning Matters – Cllr T Munro declared an interest in this matter and took no part in decision making.

It was **resolved** to deal with planning matters as follows: -

Planning not listed

- 22.1. 22/00234/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension and loft conversion with dormer to rear, 6 Claylands Road, Whitwell S80 4QE – No objections.

23. Progress Reports

Quarry Liaison Meeting

There had been a positive meeting, although L'Hoist was not present. The Quarry Manager informed the meeting that there is 7-7.5 years left of minerals to extract then the quarry will be filled with mining soil, not imports; what happens then is determined by the Minerals Authority. L'Hoist is responsible for the kilns, which are the most up to date in the UK. It may be considered to re-open a mothballed quarry in Durham with materials transported to Whitwell to be processed, but WPC would want this to happen via a definitive rail link. A public open meeting would be good to keep the community informed – Clerk to contact the Quarry Manager and Plant Manager regarding setting up a public meeting.

Allotments – Cllr F Raspin reported on his meeting with the Quarry Manager, Planterior and some plot holders yesterday regarding flooding issues at the Bakestone Moor allotment site. There were some interesting discussions including the height of the land and possibility of making a pond. The planning department may have to be consulted and some consideration on the effect to residents. The Quarry Manager was open to having discussions regarding installing drainage pipes. The Working Group should meet to discuss implementation of the non-cultivation policy.

Playscheme – Cllr J Raspin reported on re-advertisement of vacancies. Cllr H Green informed that the Leader is trying to access local resources and mentioned a climbing wall to Cllr Ellis, who, due to the logistics and requirements for the Scouts' wall, suggested contacting BDC. The next meeting will be held on Monday.

Newsletter – the Clerical Assistant has been provided with information for the next newsletter. Clerk to inform her of date of public meeting.

24. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 7.00 pm.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 July at 7.00 pm.

25. Fifteen minute public session for members of the public to comment on items discussed at this meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session) - No members of public

26. **To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**
No items.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22:15.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

List of Resolutions

13/2022-23 Item 19.2 – a missing ‘t’ at the end of brought. It was then **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2022 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

14/2022-23 It was **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment.

15/2022-23 It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Report. Cllr D Ellis signed the April bank reconciliation.

16/2022-23 It was **resolved** to re-affirm the Council’s eligibility to use the General Power of Competence.

17/2021-23 It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Risk Assessment subject to reducing Payroll, Loss of Data from a probability rating of 3 to 2 with a profile rating from 12 to 8. Clerk to speak to the Auditor re banking options.

18/2022-23 It was **resolved** to accept the council’s Fixed Asset Register.

19/2022-23 It was **resolved** to accept the Schedule of Regular Direct Payments for 2022/23

20/2022-23 It was **resolved** that the Clerk write to Chris McKinney for progress regarding lease arrangements, securing the boundary and creating access to the land at Claylands and invite him to the June meeting.

21/2022-23 It was **resolved** to request further information from Whitwell Bowls Club on how, if Covid-19 recovery funding was granted, would the group use it to help progress the club forward and benefit the community in terms of recovery. Funding of £1,500 was granted to Whitwell Players.

22/2022-23 It was **resolved** that DCC and BDC be contacted to enquire as to whether any preparations have been made to support Ukrainian refugees and hosts.

23/2022-23 It was **resolved** to accept the offer of £3,000 from L’Hoist towards improvement works to the drive at Mill Lane allotments, with WPC funding the remainder of the total cost of £4,320.

24/2022-23 It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence as follows: -

- DALC May Newsletter – noted.
- Nether Langwith Parish Council – EMR Petition – WPC wholeheartedly support the petition.
- Hedgehogs R Us – Hedgehog Highway Project – agreed to purchase 1 box.
- DCC – Response Regarding Bus Shelter Provision – noted, ensure resident is copied.
- EMR – Installation of Defibrillator at Whitwell Station – noted.
- **Correspondence not Listed**
- BDC – Community Protection – Agreed to invite Cllr M Dooley and M Seston to June meeting.
- Resident – installation of a walking/jogging track/path around Welbeck Street Recreation Ground – To be considered, possibly with some exercise bars, together with funding.
- Chatsworth Estates – possibility of land to be considered by the Cemetery Committee.

25/2022-23 It was **resolved** to deal with planning matters not listed as follows: -

26.1. 22/00234/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension and loft conversion with dormer to rear, 6 Claylands Road, Whitwell S80 4QE – No objections.

Abbreviations Used:

AGAR – Annual Governance & Accountability Review

ASB – Anti-social behaviour

DET – Derbyshire Environmental Trust

BDC – Bolsover District Council

BILD – Buildings, Infrastructure, Leisure, Developments

CLLR – Councillor

CST – Community Safety Team

DALC – Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

DCC – Derbyshire County Council

EMR – East Midlands Railway

FIT – Fields in Trust

SNT – Safer Neighbourhood Team

FP – Footpath

H&BPC – Hodthorpe & Belp Parish Council

LGPS – Local Government Pension Scheme

NAS – National Allotment Society

MMA – Minor Maintenance Allowance

CREST Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support

MOP – Member of Public

PC – Police Constable

PCC – Police & Crime Commissioner

CAN – Community Action Network

PIMS – Playground Insp. & Maintenance Service

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

PROW – Public Right of Way

LSW – Louise Smalley Walk

SO – Standing Order

STWA – Severn Trent Water Authority

WCC – Whitwell Community Centre

WPC – Whitwell Parish Council