

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Ward Councillor Stuart Bingham, Andrew Ingleby.

Members of the Council present: Cllr Rayner (Chair), Cllr Leech, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Cotterill, Cllr Baldini, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Campbell.

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllr Heath - Work

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023. 1457/23 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 13th November 2023

3.1 updates noted as follows:

- Road safety A54 – informed imminent, but we have been told that for months.
- Date for Whitegate Lane speed limit reduction scheduled for 15th December.
- Cassia Lane D-restricted - no update.
- Zigzag lines – no update, clerk to enquire what the delay is and how much cost. Ask PCSO attend in New Year to remind parents about parking.
- Planning – Cllr Rayner wrote again to head of planning but did not receive a reply, Cllr Bingham has responded regarding a recent application decision. We raised a number of issues about enforcement, gave a good example about over development, creep which was recently approved despite the PC demonstrating a strong case against it. Cllr Bingham suggested there continues to be a lack of staff, which may have been reason for the lack of response.
- Rushmere lodge – informed after 14 weeks planning would take enforcement action. Cllr Bingham will enquire with a member of staff for further action, appeal out of time, awaiting if inspectorate would accept appeal.
- Tree planting – Cllr Baldini has ordered them for collection next week, they are hedging height, possibly plant on Saturday, will correspond.
- Cllr Baldin has not yet been to speak to landowners regarding footpath overgrown and difficult to navigate. The footpath officer knows about it too. The new footpath officer has six actions and these will be reviewed every six months.
- Cheque for poppy wreath signed and to be delivered tonight
- Cllr Rayner enquired about the 'What three words' it was explained it helps emergency services locate quickly. Agreed to find out the unique words for our parish defibrillators and include in our newsletter and display words in defib. box. Action: Clerk, KR, VC

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda. Noted resident's frustrations regarding parking outside school.

5. Planning

5.1 1458/23 resolved the following planning application responses:

23/03510/FUL	41 Beauty Bank	Single storey front porch extension to replace existing canopy	No objection
23/03750/LBC	1 Abbots Barn	Retrospective application for the retention of new entrance door and side panels.	No objection

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints: It was noted the application at Rushmere lodge the fence has missed the appeal deadline, awaiting confirmation if the appeal will be considered.

5.3 Updates Granted/declined/public speaking/enforcement No updates.

The following applications were refused: None

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements: Lloyds account showed a balance remaining of £61,085.81. The Barclays account balance is £16,186.08 (£78,572.80 including savings accounts).

There were the following payments to be made **1459/23 agreed**:

Reimbursements to Val Cotterill for refreshments £61

Reimbursements to Chris Leech for Christmas Trees £150

Pay clerks salary £1060 and reimbursement of expenses £134.58

Pay HMRC £265

Pay Quay payroll invoice £15

Pay website hosting fee £225

6.2 Forms handed to Cllr Matthews to change signatories at Barclays Bank online banking (previous forms were declined due to order of signatories).

6.3 Discussed budget shared prior to meeting and agreed for 2024/25 £37,935 with precept of £19500. This includes budget for road safety improvements, and the beeches, which is subject to legal issue with highways regarding the adopted highway. Cllr Rayner asked for Chief officer at ChALC, Jackie Weaver to intervene with CWAC, also Ward Cllr Gina Lewis has been taking the issue forward. We will leave this for a couple of months with JW and GL and follow up later next year.

8. Road Safety update

8.1 To discuss general road safety updates / speed limits objectives around parish:

Discussed above progress on actions above. Noted a crash on Whitegate Road, it was reported that accident was due to drunk driver, lady travelling in opposite direction was injured and we understand will spend quite some time in hospital due to the injuries sustained. There was considerable congestion and Cllr Matthews, mentioned that due to the diverted traffic that Cassia Lane is covered in mud, agreed this should be reported to highways using the report it tool.

Action: RM

So far nine responses have been received to the road safety survey, this will be reviewed at our January meeting. A parent enquired why this was not open to school parents to complete, Clerk responded to say the Parish Councils responsibility is to the residents of the parish who pay the precept, and is open to those residents to complete.

9. Parish Issues

9.1 United Utilities (UU) no update, the contractors no longer engaged in project, so we have no other contact to find out what is happening. Agreed to leave on the agenda as a watching brief.

9.2 Discuss any general parish issues: Home watch – Bill Wharton was our home watch co-ordinator for many year, until he passed away. He used to be the correspondent for Whitegate and regularly gave updates in the PCC magazine for residents. He liaised with the police and gave crime updates such as burglaries in the parish. Resident possibly interested in taking this on, he is currently looking at the level of involvement needed. There are lots of resources available from the national association. PC suggested a key concern in our parish is rural crime. Resident to further investigate and will let the PC know if this is something he would like to take on. Cllr Rayner suggested if this was something he wanted to pursue, he could use the annual assembly in April as an opportunity to share with the parish.

9.3 Litter, footpaths, styles – to set a date at the January meeting for our annual litter pick.

Cllr Haigh enquired if the PC should consider registering the Beeches as a permissive path, we have until 2031 to register. No action at present, await outcome from highways.

9.4 Tree planting (and reimbursement as required) – discussed above

9.5 DDay celebrations – 80 years anniversary – 6th June 2024, discuss what we might do? The Recreation Room are lighting a peace lamp at 9.15pm. Cllr Rayner suggested a working group and enquire with WI and PCC. Clerk to include in newsletter. Action: LC, KR, VC, Clerk

9.2 General parish issues – None

10. Items for information and discussion only.

None

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.49pm

Signed by the Chairman Dated

Outstanding actions (if removed they are complete)

Ref	Date	Action Log	Responsible
3.2	ongoing	Road safety - A54 speed limit reduction (40mph) PENDING/ Whitegate Lane (50mph) PENDING/ Speed limit 40mph Cassia Lane PENDING Clerk to ask GL to chase progress	Pending implementation
7.4	Feb 23	Add RM to bank signatory for Barclays A/c – completed online awaiting confirmation and receipt of paperwork/card/reader	RM
8.1	June 23	Take forward school action regarding zig zag lines with Highways following confirmation no planning required - Oct 23 Clerk chased twice, Dec emailed again regarding progress and cost	Clerk
5	Oct 23	Ward Cllr Bingham to liaise with planning regarding our concerns and lack of response from planning manager	SB
8.1	Oct 23	Purchase trees for planting – plant 16/12	PB
8.1	Oct 23	Speak to landowners regarding PROW and respond to walkers	PB
9.2	Nov 23	Include What 3 words on newsletter for defib locations	Clerk
3.1	Dec 23	Clerk chase zigzag above and ask PCSO to visit school Jan to remind parents	Clerk
8.1	Dec 23	Report mud on road Cassia Lane	RM
9.5	Dec 23	D-day commemoration – liaise with community groups WI, PCC and include in report	Clerk, LC, VC, KR

Agenda Call forward

Ref	Call forward date	Description
	Tbc	VRA re gritting, nuns grave

Notes: