

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: None

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

1.1 Apologise for absence.

None

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023. 1457/23 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 11th December 2023

3.1 updates noted as follows:

- Road safety A54 – informed imminent, but we have been told that for months. Cllr Heath enquired regarding timescale and given lots of excuses (gritting, flooding)
- Whitegate Lane speed limit reduction complete.
- Cassia Lane D-restricted - no update.
- Zigzag lines – Ward Councillor Gina Lewis has offered some of her members budget to progress this quickly. Also advised that gulley cleaning forms part of routine scheduled maintenance.
- Cllr Matthews visited Barclays, but was unable to resolve as it was too busy, will visit again.
- Planning – We have not received a response nor likely to receive a reply.
- Tree planting – completed, six new trees have been planted, thanked Cllr Baldini and other councillors who assisted.
- 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 mud on Cassia has been reported through the report-it tool.

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 precept form has been completed for 2024/25 and clerk has updated the bank details.

5. Planning

5.1 resolved the following planning application responses: None

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints: No updates, Clerk to email Planning enforcement for any updates.

5.3 Updates Granted/declined/public speaking/enforcement - Clerk has reviewed the planning portal and provided an updated list of application status. New Councillor commented on the number of applications which the PC objected to, with a valid reason which were subsequently approved.

The following applications were refused: None

Cllr Rayner informed the meeting he has reviewed the recently circulated NPPF updates, main changes around housing stock, nothing particularly affects us.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements: Lloyds account showed a balance remaining of £61,085.81. The Barclays account balance is £14,114.55 (£78,446.85 including savings accounts).

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

Reimbursements to Peter Baldini for trees £125.95

Also, Clerk has informed school of last time we were invoiced for rent, CWAC invoice has since been received and Clerk/KR to arrange payment of £312.

6.2 Forms handed to Cllr Matthews to change signatories at Barclays Bank online banking, Cllr Matthews attended a branch but it was too busy.

Budget has been set and includes substantial amounts for road safety and The Beeches improvements.

8. Road Safety update

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

We received 24 responses to our road safety survey. The comments were discussed and next steps. All generally agreed with our current priorities (some very strongly). Few mentioned speeding along Dalefords Lane, it was suggested that monitoring is in the wrong place, we have previously been informed that the police assess the appropriate locations and PCSO can only monitor from those locations. No activations were detected. It was suggested that the residents may wish to consider loaning mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) for different locations.

Concerns raised about residents exiting their properties on Whitegate Road, agreed to explore if a sign could be installed alerting drivers to people exiting their properties. Issues raised with parents/children crossing at the Lych gate, the sign on the pavement has worn off, explore refreshing the pavement sign. Discussed best location on Cinder Hill for an interactive sign opposite the old post office, as a reminder to slow down the hill. Cllr Heath agreed to prepare a 1-2 page summary to share with residents. Action: CH

9. Parish Issues

9.1 United Utilities (UU) no update, we are aware local residents are in dialogue with UU, but have not updated PC directly with developments.

9.2 Discuss any general parish issues: Parishioner interested in Homewatch co-ordinator role has shared some information and continues to explore if this is something he would like to pursue.

9.3 Litter, footpaths, styles – several residents have carried out litter picks along Mill Lane, Chester Lane Brook and other locations in the parish, we are very grateful for their efforts. Date agreed Sunday 24th March 2024 meeting at the Recreation Room at 9.30am.

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

9.5 DDay celebrations – 80 years anniversary – 6th June 2024, discuss what we might do? Suggested a more permanent memorial such as a parish bench, suggested location somewhere on Church Green, this would need PCC approval, Cllr Rayner to make enquiries with the PCC, or somewhere between the post box and display board. Cllr Matthews to price up a bench, in oak. Cllr Campbell to speak with the WI to see if they would be interested in supporting an event, we could have one of our senior residents unveiling a memorial. Action: LC, KR, RM

Parishioners have raised concern about the memorial bench on Whitegate Way with lots of plastic flowers and vases as well as shrubs. Clerk to contact the Ranger. Action: Clerk

The Beeches – Cllr Rayner spoke to Jackie Weaver (ChALC) at a recent seminar, she asked for a written statement and she would raise it with CWAC on our behalf. She responded to say an officer would correspond with us, to date nobody has made contact. KR to contact Jackie Weaver again. We may need to consider escalating this, we simply want to improve safety in the area, KR suggested we create a vision of what we want, agreed to put on hold until we have correspondence with CWAC. Clerk to put The Beeches back on the agenda.

We need to purchase some green/yellow spare bulbs for the Christmas tree. Agreed date for the 2024 light switch on as 7th December at 5.15pm. Put tree up 2/12. Clerk to book hall and arrange access to Mews, and circulate date to PCC, school. Action: CL / Clerk

Agreed date for our annual assembly as Monday 22nd April (we will invite parishioner interested in homewatch, would be a good date to launch if interested). Action: Clerk

10. Items for information and discussion only.

None

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 9.06pm

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) COMPLETED/ Speed limit 40mph Cassia Lane PENDING	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 / GL
8.1	Oct 23	Speak to landowners regarding PROW and respond to walkers	PB
9.5	Dec 23	D-day commemoration – liaise with community groups WI, PCC Suggest memorial bench possibly on Church Green, KR ask PCC, LC ask WI, RM price up bench.	Clerk, LC, KR, RM
5.2	Jan 24	Chase enforcement for updates	Clerk
8.1	Jan 24	Road safety summary 1-2 pages	CH
9.2	Jan 24	Memorial bench ask CWAC ranger about removal of other items	Clerk
9.4	Jan 24	Purchase replacement bulbs green/yellow for tree	Clerk
9.4	Jan 24	Book school hall for annual assembly and Christmas lights switch on and notify relevant people, an advertise	Clerk

Agenda Call forward

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

Notes: Parish Annual meal 30th Jan.