

Whitton Parish Precept Meeting

16 November 2016

Present

Richard Adams (Chair), Gillian Davies (Clerk), Sue Cranston (Treasurer), Fran Ross (Heritage and Environment), Cllr Ralph Ogg, Cllr Helen Rowson, Cllr Elaine Marper, Sam Dron, Sue Dron, Maz King, Jo Stones, Nigel Spilman, Chris Stanley, Kevin Webster

Apologies

Philippa Barker

Welcome and Introduction

Gill Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that the main function of this meeting was to set the Parish Precept, to look at how our money was spent and to make any plans for public spending. This meeting was also to elect a Chair and announce the appointment of a new Clerk.

	Action
<p>1. <u>To Elect a Chair and Appointment of Clerk</u></p> <p>Gill Davies stated that Chris Stanley has been Clerk to the Whitton Parish Meeting for the past 5 years and expressed her desire to step down at the AGM in June 2015 in order to enjoy a well earned retirement. She graciously, however, said she would stay until a replacement was found. The role of Clerk was subsequently advertised in the Parish newsletter with requests for applicants made at the last Precept and AGM meetings. Unfortunately there have been no applicants for the post.</p> <p>Gill Davies informed the meeting that she had decided to resign from the role of Chair in order to take over the duties of Clerk to the Whitton Parish Meeting and had spoken to Democratic Services at North Lincs Council who advised of the correct procedure. As such the first item on the Agenda was to elect a Chair who will then chair this meeting. Chris Stanley was given thanks for her commitment, dedication and hard work over the last 5 years in the post of Clerk to Whitton Parish Meeting and was presented with a bouquet.</p> <p>Richard Adams was nominated as Chair by Sue Cranston and was seconded by Fran Ross. His appointment was unanimously agreed and he took his position on the committee. Gillian Davies was appointed Clerk.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Precept Meeting of 13 January 2016 were circulated and read by those who had been present. Sue Dron proposed that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Fran Ross seconded this and it was unanimously agreed. Matters arising were discussed during the course of the meeting.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>Sue Cranston presented her financial report and a copy is attached to these minutes. The accounts included an amount of £345 for plumbing for the village hall and a request for this amount was to be made to the Village Hall Committee as this had been a loan. The treasurer recommended that the precept remain at £2,600 for a further year ending 31st March 2018. This was seconded by Fran Ross and unanimously agreed. It has remained unchanged for 8 years.</p>	SC SC

Summary of Activity since last meeting

Gill Davies presented a summary of the Parish Meeting's activity and achievements over the last 6 months which was discussed as it was delivered.

4. Highways update

The meeting was given the latest information on Station Road per an email of 10 November from Mark Thornborough the Ward Officer.

4.1. They are no nearer to sorting the problem with the trees and need to ascertain ownership.

- Richard Adams said the owner was Martin Robinson and the Parish Meeting will make sure that Mark has this information. Jo Stones stated that the trees were now interfering with the telephone wires and branches were falling into the road.

GD

4.2. The Footpath on Station Road will be surfaced with Slurry Seal towards the end of November. Ralph Ogg confirmed that this was the case.

4.3. There are no plans to resurface Station Road C/way this year but they will put on the list again for next year.

4.4. The salt Bin has now been re-sited near the Bus Stop at the end of Ings Lane.

4.5. He has offered to erect a new Notice Board for us at the end of Ings Lane (as per a decision made at the AGM in June). GD stated that nothing had been done about the Notice Board until a decision was made on the bus stop to be discussed later.

GD

5. 2nd Whitton Apple Fest 16 October 2016

The total takings on the day were £2,750.90 plus £280 in sponsorship money. Sam Dron stated that in addition around £1200 in sponsorship prizes had been donated including 500 litres of oil from NRG who had also donated 250 litres of oil to the Village Hall, plus Rod Stewart tickets and hampers. Expenses of around £450 were to be deducted from the total. The day was a huge success in terms of funding raised, goodwill generated and it was good fun. Kevin Webster, the Apple Fest Task Force team and the residents of Whitton who contributed jams, chutneys, cakes and apple pies galore not to mention their time, were congratulated on this achievement. This was reiterated by the 3 Councillors present at the meeting. Kevin's aim of getting the community involved had worked superbly and he is already planning for next year's Apple Fest.

A flyer was posted round the village on 26 October thanking everyone who had taken part and was also sent to the sponsors. There will also be a celebratory item in the next newsletter due out the following week.

6. Village Hall

Work on the Window installation was completed on 10 November. It had resulted in an extensive cleaning job and we are taking the opportunity to sand the wooden floor and repaint the associated wall. The money raised from the Apple Fest will help towards the Village Hall's running costs and the renovation of this old building which was proving to be costly, problematic and ongoing. However, it is a valuable resource for Whitton and needs to be looked after.

Future work planned on the hall included work on the chimney, doors to the cupboard and work to the electricity box near the side door.

7. Whitton Village Hall Website

This is updated regularly by Kevin Webster and the events page is updated by Gill following bookings received in the hard copy diary by Fran.
There is now also a Whitton Residents Facebook page which contains details of the winners of the Apple Fest Art Competition, pictures and videos of the day.

8. Speeding in Whitton

Monitoring was carried out on Blacksmiths Hill, Whitton Road a 30mph speed limit road, and the location was agreed with Gill Davies and Chris Stanley at a meeting with the Highways Department representative.

The monitoring was carried out by the use of an electronic traffic monitoring device over a full seven-day period, between 17th - 23rd September 2016, positioned attached to the name plate sign near to lighting column No: 3, between Old Mill Lane and Ings Lane.

On average 430 vehicles per day were recorded using the road, travelling at an average speed of 26.0mph and with an 85th percentile speed (a more representative measure of speed than a simple average), of 30.6mph.

Of those 430 vehicles, 215 were travelling northbound into Whitton, travelling at an average speed of 25.7mph, and with an 85th percentile speed of 29.7mph.

The remaining 215 vehicles were travelling in the opposite direction out of Whitton, travelling at an average speed of 26.3mph, and with an 85th percentile speed of 30.6mph.

3.2%, being on average 14 vehicles per day exceeded 35mph (the minimum speed at which the Police prosecute at on a 30mph speed limit road, under guidance set by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)).

168 vehicles were travelling 25-30mph, 78 were 30-35mph and 12 were 35-40mph.

Over the full 7 day period, 6 vehicles were travelling 40-45mph.

Fortunately, there has been no reported personal injury recorded within Whitton within the past three years (2013 – 2015).

Unfortunately, there are no locations in Whitton which appear in the current North Lincolnshire Speed Management Strategy programme (1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017), as the overall speed offending rate is very low.

So with the breakdown now sent, all that remains is to enquire of Parish Council if they wish to pursue route of speed calming measures as done with Thealby - i.e: Road markings, Dragons Teeth - Roundels.

They are going to survey to see suitability for road markings which they will supply at no cost. GD to ensure that they are aware of the possibility of a bus stop at the entrance to the village when surveying for the road markings. The question of moving the 30 mph signs further away from the village was raised but Cllr Marper said they had to be positioned at the first property or street light in the village.

The Meeting agreed to proceed in principle to road markings but want to see the results of the survey before making a firm decision.

GD

9. Bus stop Ings Lane

When GD and CS met with the Road Safety Officer to agree the position of the speed monitoring, we mentioned the fact that the bus stop at the end of Ings Lane was vulnerable because of people speeding, vehicles turning from Ings Lane and farm vehicles turning from the field opposite. He suggested that we contact the Public Transport Office to see if we could get some road markings for the bus stop. We did this but received a response to the effect that they did not know of a bus stop here - only one at the turn which is the other end of the village. Long term residents of Whitton have subsequently stated that buses have always stopped at the end of Ings Lane, including the school bus. Gill met with the Public Transport Development Officer on 6 July to discuss this. The bus stop is unmarked and motorists may be unaware that this is an area where pedestrians will be walking and waiting. The PT Dept will looking to see if it can be made into a designated stop but unfortunately this is a slow process as they have very few staff resources. Gill had heard from them on 14 November that traffic had been asked to draw up the plans for the bus shelter. There may be some works involved in realigning the kerb which would increase the cost and they asked if there be any provision for some of the cost to be met by the Parish Council? The approximate cost is £4,200 for an enclosed shelter, then around £1500 for hard standing, £2,000 for a raised kerb and £500 for a bus stop pole, flag and case.

When asked what percentage we may be expected to contribute we were told that they: have to make people aware that there are budget restraints when we get requests for shelters and stops. Sometimes there isn't much work involved and the cost is lower for the installation of the shelter but we can't guarantee this. There is no set percentage that we ask for, it is at the parish council's discretion so any contribution is gratefully received. If there is an existing shelter that is owned by the parish then all costs are their responsibility, but where we install a shelter we become responsible for the upkeep. The budget required can have some affect on prioritisation in some cases.

Gill informed them that she would present the information at the forthcoming Precept meeting in Whitton. Meanwhile if we just want to have the bus stop recognised as such (because buses have stopped there for years) and we don't need an enclosed shelter this would make it less expensive. Would that be acceptable? The response had been: *the less works involved the cheaper it will be. We would try and ensure that as good a stop as possible could be put in but if you could ask the question as to whether a basic stop would be acceptable I can make a note and then we can see how we go.*

During discussion it was noted that there is already some hard standing at the spot so we will wait to see how much work and the costs involved in a basic stop in order that we can make an informed decision.

GD

10. Street Sport Sessions – NL Council

The 3rd Street Sports session took place on Wednesday 26th October. The costs for this were being split between Alkborough, West Halton and Whitton Parishes. Unfortunately only 1 child attended which was really disappointing. This was a child from Alkborough village. The Street Sports staff said that they had seen a significant drop in numbers at a lot of their other sessions, so maybe more people take their children on holiday in this particular half term. At their meeting earlier this month Alkborough Parish Council decided that as numbers had dropped off from 17 at the 1st session, to 7 at the 2nd, then just 1 at the 3rd session, the Street Sports will be shelved at the moment. If a demand exists in the summer months next year, then perhaps the 3 parishes can consider the possibility of trying them again. It was agreed to put a note

<p>in the next newsletter (as Alkborough has done) to say that due to lack of demand the sessions have finished, but that if people felt there was still a demand for it, then to let the Parish Meeting know.</p>	CS
<p>11. Superfast Broadband</p> <p>We received a letter from Andrew Percy MP stating that the cabinet covering Whitton should go live by September. On 10 November Gill asked NL Council to confirm if residents were now able to upgrade to superfast.</p> <p>Their response states: <i>The letter from Andrew Percy MP was the latest update we had at the time, and we also expected a go live date of September. Unfortunately there were some unforeseen circumstances which delayed the progress. I'll explain further; the final connection phase is carried out by an engineer with specialised skills (there are only 2 in our area), both these engineers were involved in a car accident, which they had to take time off for, and consequently this has caused delays.</i></p> <p><i>The good news however, I'm informed that progress has commenced again now, and I expect the cabinets to go live before the end of the month. I will be sure to feedback to you when it goes live.</i></p> <p>Sue Cranston stated that she had recently tried to upgrade her Broadband connection and had been told that it would be going live on 1 December which would give us 47-55 mgps (we get 2 at the moment).</p> <p>Cllr Marper made the point that it is worth shopping around for a deal on Broadband.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: An email from Andrew Percy MP on Monday 21 November, informs us that the cabinet in Whitton is now live meaning that residents are now able to access Superfast Broadband.</i></p>	
<p>12. Whitton Village sign update</p> <p>GD noted this topic which had been going on for some 18 months. We had been told that North Lincs Council would pay for a new village sign for Whitton which would be done to our own design – this only needed to be a rough sketch with supporting photographs and their art department would put it together. As such in September 2015 we had sent them the necessary information and resources together with a picture of Misterton village's sign which was what we would like ours to be based upon. GD had continually enquired as to the progress and had been told it was delayed due to the person responsible being in a road accident. We were told at the AGM in June that work was well underway and our sign was looking good. In September GD was asked to contact highways department about this sign because they were having problems and could only work with one image. It transpired that the Council will pay for a sign based on a template which has one small image at the top and the village name underneath. Very similar to what we already have – GD passed around a picture showing the signs that the Council had done for North Killingholme, Keadby and Yaddletorpe – all based upon a template. GD had found out the name of the company who had produced the Misterton sign and it seems that costs started at around £1,200 to £7,500. The question was do we want to go with the Council's free sign or do we pay to have our own created?</p> <p>It was decided that we should investigate the possibility of a sign being produced by a local company. FR said that there was a company called MD signs in Barton, 01652 634265. If we could find out how much they would charge perhaps the Council might offset their charges against it to make it cheaper for us?</p>	GD

Whitton Precept Meeting

Wednesday 16th November 2016

End of FY15/16 balance : £4279.60

Current balance as at 16.11.16 : £5707.76

Expenditure in 16/17 so far:

£104.58 streetsports

£10.10 photocopying

£12.00 ink cartridge

£23.92 planters

£5.00 Lincolnshire Fieldpaths

£60.00 VH blind

£165.00 Grass cutting

£297.60 Newsletter printing

£345 VH all plumbing

£1148.64 Clerks honorarium

Possible payments to be made.

Insurance - £380

Clerks honorarium - £200

Planters - £40

Newsletter printing £300

VH window donation : £500