

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM 7.00PM ON MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2023 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

SPEAKER ON SANDLEHEATH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Richardson from Sandleheath Parish Council said many Sandleheath residents had expressed concerns about speeding traffic at a village meeting. The Parish Council has set up a sub-group to address this. They are working on an innovative plan to enhance the quality of life of village residents. They have agreed this should not be a start/stop situation like other traffic calming schemes. Chicanes detract from the smooth flow. Instead they want 'villagerisation' to make the area within the village seem different and change the driver psychology. White lines and uncut hedges make drivers feel safe and therefore drive faster.

The sub-group want to celebrate the **past** so are looking at the brickmaking history of the village. For the **present**, they are taking account of key hazards and the major buildings, such as the Village Hall. HCC have provided some options for the **future**, such as changing the crossroads and removing signage. It should be clearer where the village starts. Previous Sandleheath Speedwatch groups have found that around 28% of drivers exceed the speed limit.

Cllr Dominey spoke about the Whitsbury traffic calming proposals. Mr Richardson said Whitsbury already feels more like a village, but it is not clear where the village starts and finishes.

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chair), Cllr C Harper, Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr S Husher

Apologies: Cllr E Heron (HCC)

In Attendance: Cllr J Richards (NFDC), Mrs Ellicott, Mrs J Kinsey, Mrs C Thompson, Mrs Dominey, Mr Cobb-Smith, Mr A Foreman, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: None

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 31st July 2023

Accepted as a true record. The Chairman signed the previous minutes to confirm this.

3. Items raised by Members of the Public.

None

4. Report by NFDC Cllr Richards

CIL Funding. Cllr Richards said organisations are now able to bid for Community Infrastructure Levy funds as NFDC has released £1m for this financial year. The bidding window is open until 8th December. Money is to fund infrastructure to support new development in the area and could be used to fund traffic calming measures.

Community Energy. A workshop has been organised on 3rd November to discuss community energy projects in the New Forest. Cllr Richards will attend and give feedback.

NFDC October Full Council Meeting. The new Medium Term Financial Plan was approved which is predicted to mean a £3.5m deficit by 2027/28. Parking charges will increase, including clocks. A motion to support the current Climate and Ecology bill was not supported by the majority group.

5. Financial Reports and Payments

The Clerk said the current total in the two accounts is £14,359.81. Cllr Husher had requested a cheque for £87.34 for printing the latest Newsletter. NFDC have asked for £75.00 as the cost of the uncontested election. These were both approved. Since the meeting, Mr S Colborne has asked for £225.00 for cutting the open space from August to October.

6. Planning Applications

No recent planning applications.

Tree Applications. Paddock Lodge has applied to reduce a silver birch and a prunus.

Racehorse Training Changes. Cllr Harper said there will be no more training from Majors Farm and all training will take place at Manor Farm. This will mean the horses don't go on the road to reach the gallops. The buildings at Majors Farm will be converted to accommodation for staff so there will be applications to alter the buildings, but no changes to the front of Majors Farm. The new accommodation will be for staff and no properties will be sold.

7. Parish Liaison Meeting

Cllrs Thompson and Husher attended the meeting at Damerham on 16th October. There were some useful discussions about issues facing the villages. All have concerns about increased housing in Fordingbridge. Damerham has issues with the NFDC cost for emptying village bins.

8. Jim Dyer Legacy

There had been a meeting to discuss the options for spending the bequest from Mr Dyer. There were over 20 suggestions for spending this fund and the Parish Council needs to reduce the options. The Chairman asked each Councillor to give their preferred option:

Cllr Sutton. Improvements to mobile phone coverage.

Cllr Dominey. Improve routes for pedestrians in the village.

Cllr Husher. Better community space facilities. This could be at the Open Space or more central.

Cllr Harper. Funding to replace tiles on north side of the Church. This could cost the full £20,000.

Cllr Husher. Second option would be for a Village Hall projector. The cost would be around £3,500.

Cllr Thompson. Annual Jim Dyer Supper. Similar to Coronation BBQ. Annually until funds used up.

Cllr Thompson said most villagers like the Church to be there even if they don't attend services. Cllr Harper said the current residents should ensure the Church remains for future villagers to enjoy.

Cllr Dominey said the cost of providing more footpaths would be way above the funds available. Cllr Thompson said this would mean the roads would be exclusively for cars, which he did not support.

Councillors discussed the option of a community space at the back of the Village Hall car park as this is more central. Cllr Thompson will prepare a summary of all the options.

9. Village Plan

Cllr Husher gave some updates:

Welcome Sheet. An updated sheet was issued with the latest Newsletter.

Police Engagement. The local policeman wrote a section for the Newsletter.

Green Bins. A new NFDC policy has been issued.

10. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey asked for approval of the latest design from HCC. All Councillors agreed. It was also agreed to ask Cllr Heron if he would contribute to the costs, as he had offered previously.

Whitsbury World, Broadband, Correspondence, and Any Other Business

No updates.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday 8th January 2024.

The 2024 meetings will be on Mondays 25th March, 20th May, 29th July, and 28th October.

This meeting closed at 8.25pm