

# WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 29TH JULY 2024 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

### **1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.**

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

Apologies: Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr E Heron (HCC)

In Attendance: Cllr J Richards (NFDC), Mr C Cobb-Smith, Mrs C Manning, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th May 2024**

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

Items relating to the Lengthsman and cherry tree will be discussed later

### **3. Items raised by Members of the Public**

The Chairman said he had been asked about rubbish sacks, which will be discussed later

### **4. Report by NFDC Cllr Richards**

Cllr J Richards said much District Council work had been delayed during the election campaign.

She said there would be opportunities to apply for CIL payments again but applications need to be submitted during a set time. Councillors hoped this could be used to fund the speed reduction plans

### **5. Financial Reports and Payments**

The total in the Parish Council bank accounts is currently £14,432.08.

The Clerk asked for approval of payments of £125.00 to Mr J Bonello for auditing the 2023-24 accounts and £240.00 to the Clerk for duties from January to July 2024 inclusive. He also said there would be an invoice from Mr S Colborne for grass cutting soon. These were all approved

### **6. Planning Applications**

No current applications showing for Whitsbury.

Cllr Husher gave a presentation about the training he had attended at Fordingbridge recently. This was intended to help Councillors understand their role in the planning process. This country has a plan-lead system where policies are set by the Government and passed down to councils at different levels. Some documents have legal standing and must be taken into account when planning decisions are made. Village Plans are not in the hierarchy but could be given as a reason for reaching a decision. Permissions can be decided for particular reasons, such as to resolve a long-standing issue, but an application cannot be refused just because it has a large number of objections. Parish Councils are statutory consultees which is intended to ensure community involvement in the process. Most applications are decided by Planning Officers without being reviewed by the local Planning Committee. It is good for local Councils to have a working relationship with their local Planning Officer.

The Chairman asked about progress on the application for the training Yard. Cllr Harper said the team is currently preparing all the necessary documents, such as a bat survey

### **7. Jim Dyer Legacy**

The Chairman said the Village BBQ had been a success and would be paid for from the Legacy.

Other options for the funds are still being considered. Cllr Harper was asked to arrange a quote to repair the footpath to the Church. Cllr Husher is investigating options to improve mobile reception.

He said the Chalke Valley used a specialist to provide a solution, which involved installing boxes on buildings to boost signals. There is also an option for community Wi-Fis which use an antenna on strategic buildings. Cllr Husher will continue to pursue, and report on progress and solutions

### **8. Village Plan**

The village BBQ had addressed the item which suggested more village social events. The issue of improved mobile and Wi-Fi reception may be resolved using the Jim Dyer Legacy. There are also proposals to address the concerns about speeding traffic

### **9. Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

There was discussion about the previous path cutting, and it was agreed to arrange more work when another date is available. The footpaths to be cut back should be Nos 2, 3, and 4

### **10. Speed Reduction**

Cllr Dominey had provided an update which includes feedback from HCC on the proposals. HCC have indicated that they would not support the relocation of the 30mph sign to the crossroads. Councillors agreed the village entrance signs should be relocated to the crossroads with the intention to move the 30mph sign at a later date

### **11. Broadband**

Some residents have reported their Wi-Fi calling was not working, and this is being resolved

### **12. Correspondence**

The Clerk has received an invitation for Councillors to attend a meeting with the NFDC Chief Executive on Tuesday 1st October at 10am. Please let him know if you would like to attend. There have been notifications about the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan, which was approved by Ringwood residents recently and must be considered in future planning decisions

### **13. Any Other Business**

The Chairman had been asked what could be done about rubbish sacks being torn apart if put out on Thursday evenings for Friday collections. Cllr Richards confirmed that wheelie bins will be provided from May 2025. As the collection is not until after 9am, bags don't need to be put out until Friday mornings. This will be suggested to residents.

Cllr Harper said the current Hall Caretaker is leaving so the role will be advertised

Cllr Husher reported that an HCC Problem Report had been raised about the dead cherry tree and this had been shown as passed to the Arboreal Team for their consideration. It has now been with them for while so he will seek a progress statement

### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

7pm on Monday 28th October. The meeting closed at 7.45pm

### **Parish Council Accounts**

Balance at 1st April 2024			13,703.13
Income	Precept		+1,100.00
Expenditure	Training	40.00	
	Insurance	168.62	
	Grass Cutting	90.00	
	Printing	<u>80.61</u>	<u>-379.23</u>
Current balance			<u>14,423.90</u>