

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

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: None

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

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Cllr Harper proposed Cllr Thompson as Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Husher. All in favour
Cllr Thompson thanked the other Councillors but said this will be his last year as Chairman.

Cllr Harper proposed Cllr Dominey as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Sutton. All in favour

3. Minutes of Meetings held on 9th January and 25th March 2024

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

4. Items raised by Members of the Public

None

5. Report by NFDC Cllr Richards

Cllr Richards said NFDC has declared a climate emergency and issued a new Corporate Plan covering this. The Plan does not set any measureable targets which some Councillors asked for, but were overruled by the majority party. The Corporate Plan covers the reduction of the impact of heating council buildings and other uses of power. There are proposals to improve insulation in council houses and install solar panels. Cllr Richards proposed reductions in pollution from council vehicles but this was not supported by the majority of other members

NFDC has introduced wheelie bins for garden waste, and wheelie bins for other collections will be brought in from May to November. Bins must be taken to the roadside unless residents apply for back-door collections. Mrs Manning asked if NFDC would increase the type of materials which can be recycled and Cllr Richards said they hope to take more plastics from 2025. Cllr Thompson asked if there will be a chance to visit a recycling centre as he had asked before, which Cllr Richards will try to arrange

6. Approval of 2023-24 Accounts and Payments

The total in the Parish Council bank accounts is currently £13,703.13

2023-24 Accounts. The Clerk asked for approval of the 2023-24 accounts which had been presented at the Parish Assembly, and asked for these figures to be used in submissions to the External Auditors. This was approved and the Chairman signed the Financial Return on that basis

Payments. The Clerk asked for approval of payments of £168.62 to Zurich for annual insurance, £90.00 to Mr S Colborne for April grass cutting, and £80.61 to Cllr Husher for newsletter copying. These were all approved

7. Planning Applications

No current applications showing for Whitsbury

8. Village Plan

Cllr Husher gave an update on the Village Plan actions which included:

Digital Connectivity. This is progressing well with the Wessex broadband installation. There are still concerns about mobile reception and the only solution would be a mast closer to the village. Cllr Husher will investigate the cost of installing a repeater mast and if the costs could be shared with other villages. Cllr Thompson said the Jim Dyer legacy could be used to fund this

Community Engagement. There are plans for a summer barbeque

Welcome Sheet for new Villagers. This is being delivered to new residents

Police Liaison. The local officer keeps in contact using the local WhatsApp group

Road Maintenance. Cllr Husher has been reporting issues on FixMyStreet but issues are often bounced between HCC and NFDC. He will continue to log any issues reported to Whitsbury Admin

9. Whitsbury World

No items to report

10. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey reported there had been eight responses to the consultation on the latest proposals. Residents are concerned about moving the Whitsbury signs further out unless the speed signs are also moved. There is a larger expense for this as it requires additional legal approval. Cllr Thompson said the residents of Whitsbury Cross have offered to pay for this as it will benefit them. Councillors agreed to support this and Cllr Thompson will follow up on the funding. Cllr Richards said the other work could be funded from developers CIL contributions, but this funding is only available in October and the work cannot be carried out in advance. Cllr Dominey will investigate this

11. Broadband

See update under Item 8

12. Correspondence

The Clerk has been offered the Lengthsman for Friday 14th June and asked Councillors what work should be arranged for then. It was agreed to ask for footpaths 3 and 5 to be cleared, and also the bottom of footpath 4. The Clerk will submit the worksheet for this

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Harper asked about funding repairs to the Church footpath as the existing gravel has been washed away. He said some of the Jim Dyer legacy could be used to pay for this. He has a quote of £5,000 maximum to replace the gravel with tar planings.

Councillors discussed options for the Jim Dyer legacy and it was agreed it could fund one barbeque but there should be more investigation into the Church path repairs and for improving mobile phone reception before more funds were spent.

There was discussion about replacing the dead cherry tree. It was agreed this could be dedicated to Jim Dyer, but it was thought NFDC had planted the previous tree so should be asked to provide the replacement tree first. Cllr Husher agreed to investigate this

14. Future Meetings

7pm on Mondays 29th July and 28th October

This meeting closed at 8.10pm