

# Whitstone Parish Council

## Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**All meetings are open to the press and public unless the Council decides otherwise**

The Meeting was opened by Chairman Cllr Furse, with 3 Councillors present; Cllrs Horn, Medland & Adamson. Esther Grieg – Clerk, 11 members of the public

### 1. Apologies for absence with reasons

Cllr Sutton – holiday, Cllr Collins – no reason for absence given to Clerk.

### 2. To put for confirmation the:

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013

It was resolved the Minutes be confirmed as a correct record

**Proposed: Cllr Horn    Seconded: Cllr Horn**

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**14/032**

### 3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Furse welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the new Clerk, Esther Grieg, to the meeting and mentioned the compliance work that she continues to undertake and update on behalf on the Council – HMRC payroll, VAT reclaims, Standing Orders, Freedom of Information, Archives, Bank Account Signatories, Insurance, Data Protection – mundane but necessary work.

#### **Summary of 2103-14**

Cllr Furse stated that the PC has limited powers but are keen to take back contracts offered by CC into the Parish. Not only do the PC cut the verges; it has now taken control of the footpath grass cutting. It wants to put back pride and set a good tone in the village. Cllr Furse also noted that the PC have underwritten the high speed broadband connection to the village hall and will continue this into 14-15. It has donated a screen and projector – it hopes that local groups will make full use of this facility. PC has opened dialogue with other local Parish Councils regarding Neighbourhood Plans, and with CC Highways department regarding improving traffic management within the village. The PC has facilitated the purchasing and installing of a Defibrillator at the Parish Hall. New progress is being made with regard to the land at Paradise Park; negotiations are underway with the land agent. Currently boundaries are being discussed: later in the year – the PC will consult the Parish as to the best use of the land. Cllr Furse thanked his fellow Councillors for all their hard work – especially Cllr Sutton. Cllr Furse has introduced Portfolio holders so that individual members are tasked with Planning, Footpaths, Localism, Parish Plan, Parish Hall liaison.

**Planning review of 2013.** Cllr Horn. WPC has seen approaching 50 planning applications of various kinds in this period. WPC has developed a Wind Turbine Policy this year in order to ensure uniformity of response to any wind turbine application. This policy has been further endorsed by parishioners during the local parish plan update. Cllr Horn explained the WTP. It should be noted that WPC is not the planning authority, just a consultee like many other public bodies who are consulted during the planning process. Support or objection from WPC does not decide whether the application is permitted but does feed an opinion into the decision making process. Cllr Horn reiterated that that he expects to see comments to applications from parishioners – and that these will be noted at the PC meetings and it will respond to applications taking these into account.

**Footpaths.** Report read out by Cllr Adamson on behalf of Cllr Sutton. Summary - The overall condition of our footpaths has been improved somewhat over the last year due to selective cutting of surface vegetation on some paths and particularly around some of the stiles and gateways which tend to get overgrown in the summer. This has been possible because the PC have entered into a Local Maintenance Partnership with CC whereby the PC out the work in return for a payment from CC. We still have several issues on some paths which have been reported to CC, some of which have been passed to their enforcement team. Some areas of the footpath network are not legally walkable at the moment and these areas cannot be inspected for problems. They say they will progress these issues when resources are available but tell us that that there has been little progress this year due to budget cuts and the recent workload to repair damage to the Southwest Coast Path, which will swallow most



handed over then the Parish and Residents of Paradise Park can decide what to do with it – in their deeds it is stated that this will become a recreation area.

**AGM meeting time** – attendees fed back that an earlier start time than 2030 might have enabled more people to attend.

War Memorial – One member of the public felt that the corner of Oak Lane was totally the wrong place for the memorial – could lead to serious health and safety issues. He felt that it should be in a more quiet and contemplative location – a churchyard or behind the Parish Hall. He objects to that current position.

**Meeting closed at 2150hrs with thanks from Cllr Horn to those who attended.**