

Whitstone Parish

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 20th April 7.30pm

Welcome.

10 people attended.

Cllrs Collins, Adamson and Horn sent their apologies

1. Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 13th May 2015

The Minutes were confirmed as a correct record on the 10th June 2015

Cllr Furse summarised 2015 minutes.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Sutton noted that the stile at cherry cross was going to be replaced by a kissing gate. CC delivered it but it hasn't been installed by the landowners yet

Cllr Sutton noted that following the update to the Parish plan, he was working on a strategy document; not been finished. The potential CB for the parish has meant a complete change in thinking, he was waiting to see how the CB panned out. Now is the time to redo the document.

3. Chairman's Report on 2015-16

Cllr Furse noted the receipt of the £50,000 lump sum, and of regular £4000 yearly instalments from renewable energy projects has transformed the potential to do things in the village. PC doesn't want to spend it on frivolous projects – waiting for the right ones. PC has spent the year putting in procedures to ensure audit trails and adequate system of control. Clubs and organisations have applied but we're not spending the budgeted amounts!

Paradise Park. No progress since the last open meeting. No response from Kivells. Appears to be some sort of willingness to do something at but the cumbersome system between professionals is slowing the process down. Feels like we're banging our head against a wall

Planning review; renewable energy applications have tailed off; although some have built changing. Changing tariffs affecting viability of projects. Residential development – noticeable inconsistency with the planning officers' decisions – frustrating. As a Consultee PC has very few powers.

Parish Plan expectations can be raised, and brought forward in the next 12 months. Meadowside parking – a difficult nut to crack; there were anti-social parking issues that seem to have been successfully resolves following a letter from the PC. Physical lack of parking is the problem; the whole of the CB couldn't make a difference, amicable residents is what is required to solve the problem..

4. Footpaths.

Cllr Sutton noted no changes, continuing to carry out clearance work around the stiles and gates, and now includes the 3 historic milestones. He's still Perusing CC to get the 3 blockages resolved – they are talking with landowners, but no progress this year – CC blaming lack of resources. PC has to rely on CC to carry out is legal duty as the PC has no powers. No other issues reported to the PC. He noted that the driveway to Trelawne, alongside the Parish Hall, is not a Public Right of Way – please do not use it..

5. Grants

Cllr Hopper noted that 4 Grants were requested and paid out in 2015. PC responsible for a large sum of money that will be of great benefit to the village. 2 different grant application forms, small projects up to £500, large grant scheme over £500. Small projects can be considered at any PC meeting as long as they are received by the Clerk in the week before the meeting. Large grants are considered twice yearly – November and May. Forms can be downloaded from the website or via the Clerk and Councillors. Grants received by: Acorns pre-school for a playhouse. Benefiting the pre-school and the reception children; Whitstone Waddlers encouraged new children to join; Methodist Church grass cutting; and a wonderful Christmas carols service organised by Margaret Stanbury & volunteers – CB funded the tree and decorations. Funding will bring the community together for other events such as the Queen’s Birthday Party. This also being underwritten by the CB Fund.

Grant recipients were invited to review the grants procedure and process:

Liz Uglow representing Acorns spoke about initial problems because they were the first applicants and were in a rush to get the form in on time. Once they realised they need to apply with a specific item and project detailed – no issues. Cllr Furse noted that fundraising brings the community together; so PC does like to see an element of match funding on the larger grants. Liz noted that they just did a Easter egg hunt, wine tasting, and a car treasure hunt last year – fundraising is ongoing for Acorns. Justin Uglow and Keith Bailey will be putting the playhouse in the coming month. Emily Medland representing Waddlers. When the current committee took over last year, the numbers attending were dropping considerably; so toys were sorted and cleaned. Toys also needed modernising and the Waddlers aspired to buy new toys. Grant opportunity came along at the right time. Process wasn’t too onerous. They bought soft play items, sensory trays, and organised a launch open morning to attract new members – 25 kids attended. 17 this Tuesday. Been able to advertise with brightly coloured toys to attract new people. Few babies starting to come too. All the paperwork 1 grant per year per organisation. New financial year – potentially £10,000 per year income. Needs to be everything that folk want.

6. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Chopak feels like she spent most of 2015 reporting bad news from CC. her time has mainly be spent on potholes and planning. None of which have had entirely satisfactory results. NPPF could be open season for developers if we are not careful. A Neighbourhood Plan would tell CC and developers where the parish do and don’t want development. On the back burner for the time being as the PC has just updated the Parish Plan. The local CC plan nearly signed off, Whitstone might think about starting one and joining with additional parishes over the next few years. Potholes a huge problem – took them 3 weeks to fix one in Meadowside and East Balsdon Lane is ongoing. Highways they do seem to take ages to do run of the mill repairs. Parking at Meadowside is ongoing – tried to get a residents Association together but they couldn’t agree how to move forward. There has been an easing of the problems as folk have become aware of the issue, but will not be resolved without additional land. Cllr Chopak has also found the planning system frustrating – she tries to support local housing and the planners refuses it!. She doesn’t ask for applications to go into committee unless it has to be. The substation a bug bear for a lot of people – can’t understand how that happened but it now has a beach hut look. A little bit sour about how it was done. Owners were assuming that they would have to put lots of power through from renewable – that didn’t materialise. Flood lighting problem seems to have been resolved. Big Field wind turbine appeal – 11 turbines proposed by Good Energy. Starts 10am Launceston 26th April. All hoping that it’ll be refused.

7. Emergency Planning.

Cllr Sutton is encouraging all to contribute to the community emergency plan. He quoted the CC website: “ It’s hard to imagine the horror of flood, severe weather or another emergency without our blue light services, but at the very beginning of an emergency, communities are alone. The local people at the scene of an incident will always be there first and may have to cope until help arrives. After the emergency services arrive, various community resources can help them deal with the problem and its aftermath. And sometimes there are events that don’t seem like an emergency, such as winter snowfall, that can put vulnerable members of the community at risk.

A **Community Emergency Plan (CEP)** can help a community prepare for an emergency and reduce its impact.”

Cllr Sutton this will help the Community become resilient, but can take a long time to get here. In stormy weather the emergency services maybe elsewhere. Reasons why we are being encouraged to do an EP. Help the community to take the basic steps to have resources and knowledge. Where to

evacuate to shelter, four by four owners, volunteers, equipment and time. Looking for people with first aid training, tractors, temporary evacuation shelter – Chapel at the moment – is this the best place. Communications equipment. Road salt bins – volunteers to shovel it out. Need information as to where are the hazard hot spots? Hopefully we will get people coming forward – 3 people at the moment willing to collate the information and make a plan. All depends on getting the volunteers, equipment and information. If that isn't forthcoming can't be done. Please get the word out that we are trying to get the information together. Contact details are in the whistler and on the website. At the moment some things happens automatically for example when there is a tree down someone from the community comes along with a chainsaw – but an EP would ensure that you know who to call..

8. Questions & Observations from the Public

What is the current situation on the parking at Oak Lane? Cllr Chopak reported the issue to CC - Head of Highways – they sat outside the school one morning to observe the situation. Resident who had been putting out all the cones was sent a letter, and has had a visit from CC requested that the cones be removed. CC legal department is now involved and the cones have now spread further down the road as other residents have started doing it. From the observation session they noted that the self-controlled one way system seems to work quite well. However there was some inconsideration – one parent double parked, staff are parking on the road all day, sometimes in positions that make it difficult for residents to get out of their drives. One resident noted that the cones are placed for health and safety reasons – so pedestrians don't get knocked over. Cllr Chopak also observed that not all parents need to drive to school, however is cycling or walking considered too dangerous? – there is a lack of path on one side. Cllr Medland and others noted that delivery lorries and tractors have problems getting through. Suggestions to help solve the problems included: car sharing for parents and teachers. Using the Parish Hall car park as a collection point for a 'walking bus' to school. Perhaps parking in the school for its' staff could be reviewed. If even 6 of the cars parked elsewhere (perhaps at the Parish Hall), then congestion would be greatly reduced.

Meeting closed at 2050hrs with thanks from Cllr Furse to those that attended and to his fellow Councillors for their ongoing hard work.