



On behalf of

Whitgreave Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday 9th September 2024, 07:30pm

L30/001 Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Mr Paul Stubbs (Chairman), Mr Brian Phillips (Vice Chairman), Mr Geoff Collier (Councillor), Mr Jack Rose (SBC Councillor), Miss Rebeckah Richards (Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies: Mr Steve Newbold (Councillor) and Mrs Cathy Collier (Councillor).

L30/002 Approve the minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed and signed.

L30/003 Declaration of Interest

No declaration.

L30/004 Public Participation

- **Hedges on the A34**

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council, from a member of the public, that the hedges on the footpath of the A34 are currently overgrown and are encroaching onto the path. The Parish Council confirmed that the hedges are the responsibility of the farm and that the hedgecutting ban has only just been lifted (September). If there is no improvement in the coming months, it was advised to contact the farm directly.

L30/005 Correspondence Received

- **Round 2 of the VCSE Grants (Supportive Communities and Better Health Staffordshire)**

It was agreed that the information would be passed to the St. John's Parochial Church Council to see if it would of benefit for the Parish Council to apply for the grant to help with the church activities.

- **Changes to the Bank Current Account**

Effective from the 22nd September 2024, a monthly statement and charges will be applied, rather than quarterly, as current.

L30/006 Financial Accounts

The current balance sheet was made available to view. A copy is also available on the Whitgreave Parish Council website.

Since the previous correspondence, there has been no further improvement on accessing the NS&I savings account. Although a letter requesting the change of contact details was issued in March 2024, and acknowledged with a completed signatory form in April 2024, a further signatory form was issued to be completed.

L30/007 Discuss the findings of installing Speed Indicator Devices (SID's), in the village.

Mr Brian Phillips (Vice Chairman) has kindly been in contact with two neighbouring parishes and a device manufacturer to look at the possibilities of introducing Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) to the village.

A SID is a device which tells an oncoming vehicle its speed and whether or not it is exceeding a pre-determined level. The SID is not a speed enforcement device - There are no legal consequences for a driver exceeding the predetermined speed level. It was agreed that a SID is the best option for the village due to being solar powered.

Position of the SID

SID's need to be positioned within a designated speed control area. In Whitgreave we have 3 30mph signs; the first positioned on Whitgreave Lane on the approach to Manor Farm, the second positioned about 50 yards after crossing the motorway bridge towards the village and the 3rd on Green Lane about 100 yards from its junction with Whitgreave Lane.

From these positions it is clear that the erection of 2 or 3 devices would not cover the whole of the village.

Permission Required

Permission to erect anything on our highways must be sought from Stafford County Council – The appropriate contact and application form has been confirmed.

Manufacture of Devices

Both contacted Parish Councils and manufacturer (Elan City) spoke highly of the devices. An alternative manufacturer is Message Maker who have also been very helpful.

Cost

The best estimate is that these devices are circa £3,000 each.

Effectiveness of SID's

It is difficult to prove that the devices reduce the speed of vehicles; Anecdotally it would appear they do.

The above indicates a possible route the council can take to establish some degree of speed awareness in the village. The purchase of these devices would possibly be the biggest single expenditure the council has ever undertaken. For this reason, it was discussed and agreed that the view of the village must be sought. Mr Brian Phillips agreed to put together a letter to the village, delivered both by email and by post drop where required, with some form of agree/disagree response.

Whether or not we progress with this expenditure will depend on the response received from the residents of the village.

L30/008 Discuss the future of Whitgreave Church.

Whitgreave Parish Council will continue to support the St. John's Parochial Church Council, by issuing any correspondence through the Parish E-Book and are fully behind the St. John's Parochial Church Council to ensure the church stays open.

L30/009 Discuss any Section 106 Updates.

Note: Section 106 agreements are drafted when it is considered that a development will have significant impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision.

Section 106 money at Stafford Borough Council primarily is used for the following 5 project types:

- Affordable Housing
- Biodiversity
- Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation
- Public Open Spaces
- Sports Facilities

It is important to note that 106 money is only for capital expenditure (purchasing of play equipment/building a park) and not for revenue costs (maintenance). This means that any project paid for by the Section 106 money, MUST be able to be maintained in the long-term using the Parish Councils precept.

It was discussed that the money could be used by the Parish Council to improve the facilities at St John's Church, under the project type 'Public Open Spaces'. After brief conversation at the meeting, it was suggested the money should be used to install/build bathroom facilities at the Church which will allow it to become more accessible and convenient for residents to use.

Mr Jack Rose (Stafford Borough Councillor) has a meeting with one of the Section 106 Officers on Monday 16th September, by which during this meeting he intends to show the officer around the villages in his ward and show him the potential projects that have been suggested by the local Parish Councils, including Whitgreave. As of Monday 16th, he will be championing the case of Whitgreave to be awarded this money as compensation for the severe delays inflicted on residents by the ongoing roadworks relating to Marston Grange and Pets at Home.

L30/010 Discuss the Parish E-Book

The Parish E-Book continues to progress. An additional two email addresses were added at the meeting, resulting in approximately 80% of the village now being included.

A huge thank you to Mr Brian Phillips, who continues to gather email addresses.

L30/011 Planning Applications

There have been three planning applications to consider:

- 24/39549/HOU, Greenacres Stone Road – No objections/comments.

L30/012 Any Other Business / Emergency Issues

- **Church Payment**

Reminder for the payment of the church hire to be authorised.

- **Hedgecutting**

It was brought to the attention of the parish council that the hedge by the passing place (near to the village notice board) is overgrown and the sign is no longer visible. Mr Geoff Collier has kindly offered to arrange for the hedgecutting to be completed.

L30/013 Further Meeting Information

The next meeting will be Monday 9th December 2024 at 07:30pm, at St. John's Church, Whitgreave.

Meeting concluded at 09:05pm