

Whiston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 18th December 2023 at 6.30 pm at Whiston Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors, Tim Stevenson (Chair) and Clive Davis, Deborah Davis, David Fisher, Tony Griffin, Haroon Rashid, Elaine Reynard, Genaya Smales and Colin Taylor.

In Attendance: Simon Oldham - Clerk to the Council, Angela Harrison - RFO, Jordan Arno-Youth Club Manager and Trevor Perry, Rotherglen Associates (for agenda item 11b). No members of the public present.

170/23 Non-attendance of Councillors – a) To receive and note apologies from councillors who are unable to attend the meeting & b) To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant.

None.

171/23 To consider any motion to vary the order of business (if any).

RESOLVED : To bring forward agenda item 11(b) "Drainage/Flooding adviser – to receive a briefing & advice in relation to (i) FOI request response from the Environment Agency - Environmental Permit (Discharges to water and groundwater) number NE/WRA8239/002 – Yorkshire Water Services Ltd & (ii) Drainage issues relating to Planning consent – RB2019/0552 Proposed housing development in Whiston" to be taken immediately following the public speaking agenda item.

172/23 To receive declarations of interest – None.

173/23 To identify items for which the press and public may be excluded (if any) - None

174/23 15 Minute public speaking session – No members of the public present.

175/23 Drainage/Flooding adviser – to receive a briefing & advice in relation to (i) FOI request response from the Environment Agency - Environmental Permit (Discharges to water and groundwater) number NE/WRA8239/002 – Yorkshire Water Services Ltd & (ii) Drainage issues relating to Planning consent – RB2019/0552 Proposed housing development in Whiston.

Councillor Colin Taylor arrived at the meeting during the consideration of this item.

RESOLVED : (1) to receive the presentation and supporting material from Trevor Perry, Rotherglen Associates regarding the likely impacts and deficiencies of surface water/drainage issues in relation to Outline Planning consent RB2019/0552 Proposed housing development in Whiston and the Worrygoose Lane Culvert construction works; (2) that in relation to the Environment Agency FOI reply, that the information that needed to be sought was "15 minute data as required by Schedules 3 and 4 which plotted the overflows at 15 minute intervals against the flow data from the Brook"; (3) to note the three drainage conditions applied to the outline planning consent RB2019/0552 that had now been discharged by RMBC but ongoing concerns & challenge presented by Whiston Residents Action Group (WRAG) had been largely ignored and in light of the ongoing serious risks this posed, further consideration be given at the next meeting on the scope for drawing these matters to the attention of the wider Whiston community by either a leaflet drop to all households, a public meeting or an online petition to RMBC calling for these matters to be

properly considered or a combination of such approaches and (3) Trevor Perry be thanked for his informative presentation/advice and giving up his time to attend this evenings meeting.

176/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council annual meeting – 20th November, 2023.

RESOLVED : To approve the minutes as a true record.

177/23 To approve the monthly accounts – December 2023

RESOLVED : To approve the monthly accounts as presented and schedule of payments as appended to these minutes.

178/23 To receive the bank reconciliation @ 30th November 2023

RESOLVED : To note the bank reconciliation @ 30th November 2023.

179/23 To receive budget monitoring statement @ 30th November, 2023

RESOLVED: To note the budget monitoring statement @ 30th November, 2023.

180/23 Youth Club update.

RESOLVED : To note the following update from Jordan Arno advising that :-

- The Youth Club had attracted 10 new attendees following the Christmas Lights Switch-On event and he was pleased how well his colleagues & Youth Club attendees performed in support of the functioning and managing the queue for the Santas Grotto
- He and Abby, PCSO had spent an hour and a half last Friday evening in the Parish engaging with Youths and shop premises and generally promoting what the Youth Club had to offer
- He would like to request the Parish Council's support in providing a new mobile phone as the existing device was at the end of its useful life. The Parish Council gave its approval to the request and it was suggested that a new handset be procured and added to the existing O2 contract.

181/23 Whiston Christmas Lights Switch On event 2/12/23 – de-brief.

RESOLVED : to note the following observations that were made regarding what went well and what went less well and could be improved upon as for next time should the event be staged again next year :-

Areas that went well

- The venue and surroundings of the Manorial Barn for the Grotto was a big improvement on the Parish Hall as a location
- The Animal Farm was once again very well received outside the Parish Hall
- The other on Street food vendor offerings and entertainments were well received, especially the walkabout LED Christmas Angels.

Areas for improvement

- A chronological list of the events proceedings/schedule be documented and strictly observed in lieu of the Tuneless Choir's experience with the formal event opening

announcement having been overlooked and to include particular tasks that various Councillors might assist with throughout the event

- The Parish Hall offering could be improved as the turnout of only 4 craft stalls being half of those expected was disappointing. Greater direct use of stall finder would be beneficial and greater scope for use of the Bar for perhaps mulled Wine and food offerings via the kitchen facility
- Lack of decorations/atmosphere in the Parish Hall
- Better use of the outdoor stage as a focal point for activity/performances as it was empty for significant parts of the afternoon
- Ensuring that the Christmas lights were road tested in advance to ensure all displays come on at “switch-on”, including a written technical specification setting out what needs to happen/when & to learn lessons from the installation of new digital timers covering all of the kit, not just the Street lighting columns (which had been subsequently remedied by engaging a local electrician post the event) but to note that these still remained vulnerable to the extremes of weather temperature
- Potential scope for a smaller scale “Craft Fair” event next time with activity centred around the Hall itself
- Poor communication with Santa & his Elf on arrangements for the Day re location of the Grotto and Santa outfit and overlooking basic welfare requirements re supply of drink refreshments and adequate mid-point break and a sincere apology letter be prepared and issued.

182/23 Cowrakes field/play equipment repairs – progress update.

RESOLVED : To note the reporting by the Clerk that Lightmain had commenced the play area remedial repairs a couple of weeks ago and the Tower slide work had been carried out and further works to safety surfacing and other repairs would proceed shortly as & when the saturated ground conditions improved.

183/23 Maintenance responsibility for the steep steps from Hollowgate to Church – response from RMBC.

RESOLVED : To note (1) the response from RMBC advising that this was not their land and therefore had no maintenance liability for it and (2) that Parish Councillor volunteers would look to address the concerns raised in the New Year as the weather conditions improved.

184/23 Signing up to the Civility & Respect Pledge & adoption of Dignity at Work Policy.

RESOLVED : That (1) approval be given to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge and to adopt the Dignity at Work policy as presented and (2) that further consideration be given to a Parish Councillor training programme at the next meeting.

185/23 Scope for developing Community Kitchen proposal within the Parish Hall.

RESOLVED : (1) to note the two expressions of interest received of potential partners to assist the delivery of a form of community kitchen facility from the Parish Hall and (2) a further exploratory meeting be held with DH early in the New Year with a view to discussing arrangements and the basis on which a community kitchen offer could be delivered initially perhaps on a three months trial basis.

186/23 Car parking provision at the Parish Hall.

RESOLVED : That the existing informal consent granted to two local households to park in the Parish Hall car park, be terminated and the Clerk notify each party in writing that this arrangement can no longer continue in light of the popularity of the Hall for different events and in lieu of the very limited parking facilities that exist.

187/23 RMBC – Ward councillor report.

RESOLVED : To note the update from Ward Councillors Tony Griffin & David Fisher advising that :-

- Further work was ongoing to look to introduce speed reduction signage/number plate recognition scheme
- A collapsed drain on Moorhouse Lane was being addressed
- Speed reduction proposals were also being scheduled for Upper Whiston
- The Christmas tree proposal to be deployed on Worrygoose roundabout was being progressed
- PCSO Abby had produced a report on the break in at the Pharmacy and it was noted that a few beggars had been operating locally and there had been a recent aggravated domestic situation at a property at the Pieces
- In a response to a question from Councillor Deborah Davis, it was confirmed that a Community Payback team could be coordinated to paint the local railings in the Village, if the Parish Council were prepared to fund the acquisition of the paint. The Parish Council gave its consent in this regard.

188/23 Members items – a) Identification of Member Strategic Priorities for 2024 - feedback.

RESOLVED : To note the summary feedback of the document outlining four overarching strategic priorities identified for 2024 at the Workshop session held on 26/11/23 being, Environment, Community, Communication and Wellbeing and a follow up workshop be held at 6.30pm on 11/1/24 to further develop underlying activities in support of each Priority theme.

189/23 Determination of the budget and precept setting for 2024/25.

RESOLVED : That this matter be deferred to the next meeting on 15/1/24 and in the meantime, Members to identify specific budgetary costings in relation to defined activity priorities underlying the Strategic Plan priority themes.

190/23 Correspondence/Information Items.

RESOLVED : to note the following information, previously circulated by e-mail:-

1	YLCA	White Rose Bulletin – 1 st & 15 th December 2023
2	YLCA	Law & Governance Bulletin November 2023
3	YLCA	Training programme – Jan – March 2024
4	YLCA	South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit – December newsletter

191/23 Items for future agenda.

- Councillor training programme
- Budget & Precept for 2024/25
- Christmas Festival receipts – to agree a charity donation.

192/23 Planning Applications

RESOLVED : to raise no objections in respect of the following applications :-

1	RB2023/1548	Whiston Parish Cricket Ground Rectory Drive Whiston	Erection of all-weather cricket practice nets
2	RB2023/1588	279 East Bawtry Road Whiston	First floor front extension
3	RB2021/2171	Land adjacent 19 High Street Whiston	Application to undertake works to a tree(s) protected by TPO No. No.14 (2010)

193/23 Planning determinations.

RESOLVED : to note the following Planning decisions :-

1	RB2023/1530	Application to undertake works to a tree(s) within Whiston Conservation Area - 32 Alma Row Whiston	Granted conditionally
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193/23 Date & time of next meeting - Monday 15th January, 2024 6.30pm

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.08 pm

Signed

Dated

DECEMBER

PAYEE	ACCOUNT	TOTAL
HSBC	Monthly bank charges (CUR/RET)	26.77
Cadburys Gifts Direct	Selection boxes (Reimburse SO)	454.95
Brailsford Printers	ID Badge (reimburse JA)	10.50
Staff salaries	November (inc back pay Apr-Oct)	2703.39
HMRC	Tax & NICs November	913.57
Peoples Partnership	Pension Contributions	143.51
British Gas Lite	Triangle electricity	11.49
Chic Cleaning	Cleaning- hall	2618.50
Screwfix	Hall locks (Reimbure S Oldham)	24.96
Monster Mash Entertainment	Christmas event - grotto/snow machine	340.00
Mid-Way Developments Ltd	Christmas event - fencing/barriers	348.00
TTT Entertainment	Christmas event - stage/lighting	980.00
A Squire	Christmas event - Mista twister	260.00

Mark Middleton	Christmas tree inc install/dismantle	350.00
Ian's Farm	Christmas event - farm	796.40
S Oldham	Rock salt (Reimburse SO)	17.50
The Range	Christmas lights hall (Reimburse ER)	14.99
Aldi	Natter Group items (Reimburse ER)	34.35
The Event Foundry	Christmas Event fee	2868.00
O2	Mobile phone	31.44
RMBC	Land & garage rent	29.23
K Leary	Balance christmas event entertainment	580.00
Mark Middleton	Garden contract inc Cowrakes	466.70
Chameleon	Newsletter print & design	990.00
Aplus	First Aid - christmas event	382.50
Chic Cleaning	Cleaning products	98.35
Rad Eco Systems	Plumbing works - hall	72.00
Rotherham MBC	High Street annual rent	1.00
Rotherham MBC	Allotments - annual rent	260.00
Rotherham MBC	Electrical works - Christmas light timers	253.71
Vocan Ltd	Traffic Management- Christmas event	879.60
DG Doors	Hall repairs	165.00
Microsoft 365	365 basic- annual subscription (reimburse SO)	19.99
Microsoft	Microsoft 360 subscription	88.20
O2	Youth Club - Phone (reimburse JA) Oct	7.96
TOTAL		17242.56