

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON 23RD MAY 2022 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chairman), Cllr C Harper, Cllr H Sutton

Apologies: Cllr D Bellini, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr E Heron (HCC and NFDC),

In Attendance: Mr and Mrs Ambrose, Mr S Cobb-Smith, Mrs R Dewitt, Mrs K Edwards, Mr S Husher,
Mrs J Inman, Mrs J Kinsey, Mrs J Knibbs, Mrs C Thompson, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Harper proposed Cllr Thompson as Chairman, and this was seconded by Cllr Sutton.

There were no other proposals. Cllr Thomson was appointed Chairman for the next year.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th March 2022.

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Items raised by Members of the Public.

None.

5. Report by Cllr E Heron.

No report this meeting.

6. Financial Reports

The Clerk asked for the Accounts for 2021-22 to be approved so the Financial Return could be submitted.

Cllr Harper proposed these were accepted, which was seconded by Cllr Sutton, and all approved.

The current balances in the bank accounts are £10,807.06 and £2,490.07 making a total of £13,297.13.

The Clerk asked for approval of payments of £90.00 to Mr S Colborne for two grass cuts, and £398.84 to Whitsbury Farm and Stud for the new noticeboard. These were approved and cheques signed.

7. Planning Applications

The Chairman said there are no new planning applications in Whitsbury at present.

The application for Mrs Locock to build a timber annex in her garden has been approved.

8. Jubilee Celebrations

Mr Husher reported Mr Locock has issued a programme of events. This includes many events for children, and welly-throwing and tug-of-war for adults. Residents will be given tokens for evening food.

Mr Husher also reported that plans for the village show on 6th August are progressing well. The programme will be available soon and printed copies will be available if requested. There will be free entry to all classes at the show.

9. Whitsbury World

Mrs Thompson reported:

'HCC cut the verges (or a mower's width of our verges) on 1st April this year, scalping bluebells, primroses, wood anemones, celandines and violets on the narrow and sloping verges from Whitsbury to Breamore and round by the back and side of Whitsbury Cross as well as along the Whitsbury Road. Apparently they have 3 months to cut all county verges (April to June). A cut this early only encourages growth of far more visibility-reducing plants like docks and nettles by increasing fertility. Apart from wildflowers, there was nothing to cut, and all this at a time of rising oil costs! Presumably it was in the name of visibility but I can't imagine anyone's visibility has ever been diminished by a violet. If this is allowed to continue, we will simply lose all our wildflowers.

This will not help the area I have just described but, on Edward Heron's advice, I am trying to apply for a licence to 'cultivate' the marked off piece of verge on the right hand side of the road just south of the village boundary. This will cost £136 which Edward has kindly offered to fund. It rests though on the provision of £2 m of insurance to cover our raking of the verge! This could be covered by the PC insurance and I would therefore like to ask whether the PC would be prepared to sponsor this initiative. As an individual one can only ask to 'cultivate' the verge outside one's own house so I would be very grateful for your help.

I would like to reassure everyone that there is no question of reduction of safety and road visibility. At all times a mower's width would be cut along the road edges which will keep people's eyeline clear. This is of course another area where the speed at which people drive, both within the village and outside, raises a problem.

I now have a contact at the Licensing Dept. at Hants CC and Edward Heron's assistant, Sarah Dominey, has been really helpful. It's a bit like boning flies but I am making some progress.

I'm also very grateful to Chris for helping us out with this and if he doesn't mind I will continue liaising with him.'

10. Rural Crime, Speeding and Broadband

PCSO S May had given a full report on local crime at the Parish Assembly earlier.

Cllr Thompson reported that he and Cllr Dominey had inspected the road through the village with Ms M Ware of HCC. Ms Ware has produced a plan showing proposed locations for signs which has been circulated to Councillors. The proposals do not include a 20mph limit as this is against HCC policy, and there are no lines to mark the road edges. Cllr Sutton expressed concern about the number of signs proposed. Cllr Harper also had concerns as he said the signs were not suitable for a working village. Cllr Dominey had reported that Hampshire Broadband is still being tendered so there was no update.

11. Whitsbury Village Plan.

Mr Husher said the return rate on the survey had been 59% and the committee was due to meet on 6th June to discuss the results. The main concerns are speeding, internet connectivity, and litter. Residents were also concerned that many items requested in the previous Village Plan had not been carried out.

12. Correspondence.

Nothing to discuss.

13. Any Other Business.

No items raised.

14. Dates for Future Meetings.

7pm on Monday 1st August. The following meeting will be at 7pm on Monday 31st October.