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MINUTES of the MEETING OF WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 19th October 2023 at 7.00 pm in Park Hall, Whitwick Park, off North Street, Whitwick

Present: Councillor S Colledge

Cllrs Barker, Collins, Moulton & Woodward

In Attendance:

PCSO Emma Ramsey (left after Item 3375)

Tracey McLean, Acting Parish Manager

23 members of the public (22 members of the public leaving after Item 3381)

		ACTION
3371	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	It was RESOLVED to accept and approve apologies from Cllrs Briers, Casson, Gillard, Roach and Wyatt. It was noted that Cllr Greenwood was absent without apology.	
3372	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Cllr Barker declared a registerable interest in any matters relating to North West Leicestershire District Council as a District Councillor, a registerable interest as a member of Quarry Liaison Group, Director of Holly Hayes Woods, a member of Whitwick Historical Society and a registerable interest as a signatory at Walkers Flats Allotment Group.	
	Cllr Collins declared a registerable interest as a trustee member of Whitwick Historical Group. Cllr Collins declared that she would leave the room when Item 3379 was discussed.	
	Cllr Moulton declared a registerable interest in Whitwick Historical Group as Link Councillor and a member, a registerable interest in Whitwick Bowls Club as a Link Councillor and a member, a	

	registerable interest in Thornborough Road Allotment Society as a Link Councillor, a registerable interest in Walkers Flats Allotments as a Link Councillor, a registerable interest in Whitwick Action Group as a member and all matters relating to North West Leicestershire District Council as a ward member for the Thornborough Ward.	
	Cllr Woodward declared a registerable interest as a Director of Holly Hayes Woods a registerable interest as a member of Whitwick Historical Group and a registerable interest in the Quarry Liaison Group.	
	Cllr Colledge declared a registerable interest in all matters connected to Whitwick Historical Group as a member, a registerable interest in Whitwick Royal British Legion as a member (and Ashby), a registerable interest in Whitwick Action Group as a member on any matters relating to planning, a pecuniary interest and registerable interest as a member of Woodstock in Whitwick Committee, a potential pecuniary interest as an immediate neighbour of the old Hermitage Leisure Centre site and a registerable interest as a point of contact for Meadow Barn View.	
3373	MINUTES	
	Members RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting on 21 st September 2023 be approved as a correct record.	
3374	COMMUNITY POLICING	
	<p>The Chair welcomed PCSO Emma Ramsey to the meeting. It was confirmed that the next Beat Surgeries at the Community Office would take place on: Tuesday 28th November and Saturday 16th December, 11.00 am – 12.00 Noon.</p> <p>A resident queried the volume of traffic and the number of speeding vehicles on Church Lane and asked if a speeding survey could be carried out. Another resident asked if it was legal for a fork lift truck to load and unload whilst parked on the road. PCSO Ramsay said that she would take the queries back for further clarification.</p> <p>Cllr Moulton informed members of the public that parking issues on Church Lane were a County Council issue and Cllr Gillard was the County Councillor who would be able to advise further. Cllr Barker informed members of the public that he had reported the loading and unloading by a fork lift truck on Church Lane to Highways at the County Council.</p>	
3375	PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	

	See Item 3381 – Planning and Licensing Matters	
3376	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	
	a) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – the production of data from the last location had been circulated and published at https://whitwickpc.org.uk/news/ signs were moved to the next location (Leicester Road) on 6 th October 2023. The Acting Parish Manager thanked Cllr Barker for assisting with the download of information.	
3377	THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER HERMITAGE LEISURE CENTRE SITE	
	No further updates at present. Item to remain on the agenda going forward.	
3378	MEMBERS HIGHWAY FUND – SCHEME TO INSTALL BOLLARDS ON SKINNERS LANE	
	Members noted that a proposed scheme to install three new bollards on Skinners Lane had been put forward by Leicestershire County Council (LCC). LCC would fund the purchase and installation via the Members High Fund (MHF). Once installed the Parish would have full responsibility for all ongoing maintenance of the bollards and LCC would have no responsibility for them. Cllr Gillard had confirmed that he had contacted LCC for additional relevant information but no further update had been provided to date. Members RESOLVED: that the parish council was not prepared to accept the scheme and refused to support the installation of the bollards. The Acting Parish Manager to inform Cllr Gillard and Leicestershire County Council that the parish council did not wish to proceed with the scheme.	
3379	GRANT APPLICATION	
	Cllr Collins withdrew from the meeting at 7.25 pm	
	Members RESOLVED: that a grant of £250.00 be awarded retrospectively to Whitwick Historical Group, towards costs to commemorate the 40 th Anniversary of the Whitwick Heritage Group.	
	Cllr Collins returned to the meeting at 7.27 pm.	
3380	EVENTS 2023	

	a) Remembrance Parade – Sunday 12th November 2023 – The Acting Parish Manager confirmed that First Aid cover on the day would be provided by St Johns Ambulance. Confirmation of attendance on the day had been received from Andrew Bridgen, MP and the Chairman of NWLDC. The Acting Parish Manager thanked Cllr and Mrs Barker for their help with putting poppies on lamp posts.	
	b) Woodstock Christmas Event – Sunday 10th December 2023 - This will be a free event open to all and will take place in the car park at the The Black Horse in Whitwick. All children will have the opportunity to visit Santa and will receive a gift.	
3381	PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS	
	a) Applications – The Council had been consulted by NWLDC on the following applications:	
	REF: 23/01234/TPO – The Forest Rock Offices, Leicester Road – Crown raise up to 5m of overhanging on various chestnut and lime trees and removal of deadwood Deadline 16 th October 2023 – Deadline extension applied for – RESOLVED – that no objections be made.	
	REF: 23/01236/FUL – 20 Hall Lane, Whitwick – Erection of first floor rear extension – Deadline 16th October 2023 – Deadline extended to 20 th October 2023 – RESOLVED – that no objections be made.	
	REF: 23/01202/LBC – Whitwick Day Nursery, Market Place, Whitwick - Internal alterations and installation of mechanical extractor fans – Deadline 10th October 2023 – Deadline extension applied for – Deadline agreed – 20 th October – RESOLVED – that no objections be made.	
	REF: 23/01200/FUL – 122 Hermitage Road, Whitwick – Widening of an existing vehicular access and formation of a new hardstanding – Deadline 30 th October 2023 – RESOLVED – that no objections be made.	
	REF: 23/01277/OUTM – Demolition of Nos. 137 and 139 Church Lane and the redevelopment of the site to provide 15 dwellings with associated works (outline, means of access, layout and scale for approval) – Deadline 30th October 2023 – The parish council noted that Ward Cllr Tony Barker had called in the application.	

Members **RESOLVED:** that a number of objections put to the parish council from local residents and from members should be considered by the District Council Planning Committee.

Members RESOLVED: to strongly recommend the application be refused on the following grounds:

It was felt that the proposal contravenes the local plan and contravenes Planning Policy D2. It would cause loss of sunlight (particularly applicable in relation to location of proposed plots 1 and 14/15 and proposed boundary tree planting); overshadowing/loss of outlook to the detriment of residential amenity; overlooking and loss of privacy.

Highway issues including the effect on existing properties of the vibration of large vehicles on such a densely developed street. Traffic generation, vehicular access, highway safety, noise and disturbance resulting from use by lorries up to 40 tonnes in weight; smells, fumes and dust; capacity of physical infrastructure (e.g public drainage/water systems); particularly noting that all waste water will have to travel to Snarrows Road treatment works which is already overwhelmed and causing contamination and flooding for residents in Thringstone and Whitwick deficiencies in local facilities (e.g availability of school places); loss or effect on trees; adverse effect on nature conservation interests and biodiversity opportunities; loss of green corridor; layout and density of building; increased traffic at the junction of Church Lane/Brooks Lane; increased danger to pedestrians and children walking to local schools, all schools encourage children to walk to school, there will be no safe route for them to use during the construction, building work taking place next to a cemetery where funerals are regularly conducted. This is a development of significant size, it would be distressing for the bereaved to have to say their goodbyes with construction work on the adjoining area.

The demolition of two perfectly good homes to be replaced with highly concentrated houses seems an act of ecological vandalism

Should the application be approved, the parish council wish to ask what environmental mitigation measures are being taken by the applicant to help improve or off set their environmental impact within Whitwick? The parish council also wish to ask for a donation to help improve or increase our current tree stock which will help to reduce the current carbon dioxide concerns within the parished area. The parish council also wish to request a contribution of S.106 money for the area.

	b) Decisions by NWLDC who had now approved the following applications:	
	REF: 23/00946/FUL – 149 Loughborough Road – Formation of a vehicular access – Permitted 14th September 2023	
	c) For information:	
	REF: 23/01093/TPO – Birch House, 25 Silver Street – Works to 1 No. Common Ash Tree (protected by TPO) – Deadline 13th September (Deadline extension requested – no reply) – REFUSED 4th October 2023	
	TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Site Address: 7 Grove Road, Whitwick, Coalville, Leicestershire Description of development: Erection of up to 2 no. bungalows (outline - access for approval) Application reference: 22/01222/OUT Appellant's name: Mr R Cross Appeal reference: APP/G2435/W/23/3328502 Appeal start date: 19 September 2023	
	Icon Tower Innovative Solutions -pre-planning application consultation for a mobile phone base station installation at IEC0004, land at Glebe Farm, Glebe Lane, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 4EN NGR: E443358, N314569) Proposed installation of a 25m lattice tower comprising up to 6 no antennas and up to 2 no 600mm dishes together with up to 6 no ground based cabinets, 1 no meter cabinet and ancillary development to include compound fencing and access gate.	
3382	PROCUREMENT & TENDER PROCESS – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	
	Members RESOLVED: that the Acting Parish Manager to send an email to all members to make a request for volunteers to assist with the grounds maintenance tender evaluation process. The Acting Parish Manager confirmed that three tenders had been received and Cllrs Barker and Woodward had been present when the envelopes were opened. The contract would need to be awarded by 10 th November 2023.	

3383	STAFFING COMMITTEE (INCLUDING VACANCY)	
	Members RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until the next council meeting on 16 th November 2023.	
3384	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	
	Members received the minutes of the PMGP Committee meeting held on 7 th September 2023.	
3385	GRACE DIEU BROOK – ONGOING PROBLEMS	
	The Acting Parish Manager informed members that several complaints had been received from residents who had experienced problems with sewerage overflow due to heavy rainfall in the middle of September. The Acting Parish Manager had contacted Severn Trent (ST) and the Environment Agency (EA) to voice the parish council's concerns. Cllr Moulton, as Ward Member had also contacted ST and EA. Residents had been advised to contact ST and EA directly as the more people that complain, the more chance there is that a case can be built to attempt to get something done. A reminder of EA and ST contact details would be placed in the December newsletter.	
3386	DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	
	Nothing to report.	
3387	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
	Nothing to report.	
3388	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCE	
	Members noted:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Details of income received for the month of September (£46,297.50) were tabled at the meeting; b) Details of payments made for the month of September (£20,255.02 including salaries) were tabled at the meeting; c) Details of latest income and expenditure account for 2023/24 and the summary of earmarked reserves at 30th September were tabled at the meeting; d) the latest bank balances as at 31st August 2023 - Unity current a/c £59,111.39, Unity Deposit a/c £12,502.64, and CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund £225,000.00. 	

3389	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS	
	Members to consider, in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, whether the public and press is excluded from parts of the meeting below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.	
3390	RECRUITMENT OF PARISH MANAGER – UPDATE TO BE PROVIDED	
	Cllr Moulton provided an update for members on the process for the recruitment of a Parish Manager.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Thursday 16 th November 2023	
	The Chair terminated the meeting at 8.45 pm	
	FULL SIGNATURE OF CHAIR: DATE:	

Cllr Collins left the meeting for Item 3379 at 7.25 and returned to the meeting at 7.27