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MINUTES of the MEETING OF WHITWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7.00 pm in Park Hall, Whitwick Park, off North Street, Whitwick

Present: Councillor S Colledge

Cllrs Barker, Briers [Items 3391 – 3403], Collins, Gillard, [Items 3391 – 3400] Moulton, Woodward and Wyatt

In Attendance:
Tracey McLean, Acting Parish Manager

2 members of the public, both leaving the meeting after Item 3408

		ACTION
3391	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	It was RESOLVED to accept and approve apologies from Cllrs Casson and Roach.	
3392	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Cllr Wyatt declared a registrable interest in all matters relating to North West Leicestershire District Council.	
	Cllr Briers had nothing to declare.	
	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, a registerable interest as a point of contact for Meadow Barn View and a registrable interest as a supporter of Coalville C.A.N.	
	Cllr Barker declared a registerable interest in all 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 disclosable pecuniary interest as a trustee member of Whitwick Historical Group.	
	Cllr Greenwood declared a registerable interest in any matters relating to Meadow Barn View as a point of contract	
	Cllr Gillard declared a registerable interest in all matters relating to North West Leicestershire District Council and Leicestershire County Council.	
3393	MINUTES	
	Members RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting on 19 th October 2023 be approved as a correct record.	
3394	COMMUNITY POLICING	
	PCSO Emma Ramsey had sent her apologies as she was unavailable to attend the meeting due to work commitments. Councillors requested that a written report be made available, where possible, when police attendance was unavailable at the meeting. Councillors also requested that feedback be provided for resident's queries that were raised at the meeting on 19 th October 2023.	

	It was confirmed that the next Beat Surgeries at the Community Office would take place on: Tuesday 28 th November and Saturday 16 th December, 11.00 am – 12.00 Noon.	
3395	PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	
	None.	
3396	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 (Loughborough Road) on 13 th November 2023. Cllr Barker commented that additional volunteers were required amongst members to assist with the ongoing movement of the VAS equipment each month. Cllrs Barker and Moulton volunteered to assist. The Acting Parish Manager to send individual email request to each member.	
3397	THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER HERMITAGE LEISURE CENTRE SITE	
	Cllr Moulton had received a report giving details of a suggested access road at a cost of £25,000 to the district council. No further updates at present. Item to remain on the agenda going forward.	
3398	GRANT APPLICATION	
	Members RESOLVED : that a grant of £250.00 be approved in principle, to be awarded to North West Leicestershire Society of Model Engineers towards costs to provide all-weather wheelchair access path to the Garden Railway, on the proviso that Cllr Wyatt carried out further investigations to enquire if NWLDC can provide additional funding to assist the Society. Representatives of the Society also to be directed towards any relevant funding that may be available through the District Council to support them with costs relating to the access path.	
3399	EVENTS 2023	
	a) Remembrance Parade – Sunday 12th November 2023 – The Chair on behalf of the parish council, thanked the Acting Parish Manager and Administration Assistant for the work that had been carried out towards the organisation of the Remembrance Parade. The event was well structured and well attended.	


	It was suggested that the parish council should offer to provide assistance with the cleaning of the war memorial. Cllr Colledge confirmed that she would make some enquiries as to who could provide assistance. This item to be placed on a future agenda.	
	Members RESOLVED: to send a donation of £100 to St John's Ambulance, funds to be taken from the Remembrance budget cost code.	
	Members RESOLVED: that the parish council would continue to organise the yearly Remembrance Event	
	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. A request was made for mince pies, selection boxes and tombola prizes. All children will have the opportunity to visit Santa and will receive a gift.	
	3400 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS	
	a). Applications – The Council had been consulted by NWLDC on the following applications:	
	REF: 23/01400/FUL – 35 Tressall Road, Whitwick - Erection of single-storey front and side extensions to provide for a porch, canopy and carport, changes to openings and insertion of new openings, external alterations to provide for a level access to the rear garden, new boundary wall and additional car parking to the site frontage – Deadline 15th November – Deadline extension applied for (Deadline agreed 17th November) - RESOLVED – that no objection be made	
	23/01411/FUL – 49 Tressall Road, Whitwick – Demolition of detached garage and erection of a single-storey side and rear extension, new front porch and rendering of the main dwellinghouse – Deadline 15th November – Deadline extension applied for (Deadline agreed 17th November) – RESOLVED – that no objection be made	
	23/01344/OUT – Land off Loughborough Road, Whitwick – Erection of nine self build dwellings (outline application – all matters reserved) – Deadline – 24th November 2023 – RESOLVED – that the parish council wishes to <u>object</u> to the planning application on the following grounds: <i>The access onto Loughborough Road compromises safety so close to the junction of Loughborough Road and Swannymote Road. The area has already seen significant problems with flooding and</i>	

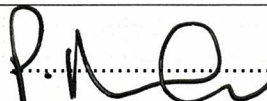
	<p>torrential runoff water in times of heavy rainfall. This could exacerbate the problems with flooding experienced in Cademan Street and Temple Hill, Whitwick. The application is also outside the limits of permitted development within the Charnwood Forest. Members also RESOLVED: that the deadline for the planning application be extended and that the application should be called in.</p> <p>23/01443/FUL – 353 Hall Lane - Removal of existing rear projection and erection of a new single-storey rear extension – Deadline 1st December 2023 – RESOLVED – that no objection be made</p>	
	<p>b) Decisions by NWLDC who had now approved the following applications:</p>	
	<p>REF:23/00407/FUL – Glebe Farm, Green Lane, Whitwick - Provision of cabin to be used ancillary to the existing agricultural operation undertaken for the storage of agricultural equipment, the processing of agricultural produce and education purposes – Deadline 12th June – Deadline extension applied for – (Deadline extension granted until 16th June 2023) – Permitted 23rd October 2023</p> <p>REF: 23/01110/FUL – 141 Hermitage Road, Whitwick – Erection of single storey rear extension – Deadline 21st September 2023 – Deadline extended to 22nd September – Permitted 2 November 2023</p> <p>REF: 23/01101/FUL – 2 Rock View Close – Erection of porch and single storey extension – Deadline 15th September – Permitted 2 November 2023</p> <p>REF: 23/01234/TPO – The Forest Rock Offices, Leicester Road - Crown raise up to 5m. of overhanging on various chestnut and lime trees, felling of 1 No. lime and removal of deadwood – Deadline 16th October 2023 – Deadline extension applied for – Permitted 6th November 2023</p> <p>REF: 23/01236/FUL – 20 Hall Lane, Whitwick – Erection of first floor rear extension – Deadline 16th October 2023 – Deadline extended to 20th October 2023 – Permitted – 7th November 2023</p>	
	<p>c) For information:</p>	
	<p>REF: 23/01202/LBC – Whitwick Day Nursery, Market Place, Whitwick – Internal alterations and installation of mechanical</p>	



	extractor fans – Deadline 10th October 2023 – Deadline extension applied for – Deadline agreed – 20th October – REFUSED 6th November 2023	
3401	PROCUREMENT & TENDER PROCESS – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	
	A meeting had taken place on Thursday 2 nd November 2023 to carry out the scoring evaluation process relating to the ground’s maintenance contract tender. Letters had been sent out to successful/unsuccessful tenderers. A 10 day standstill period was now in progress and would end on Monday 20 th November 2023.	
3402	PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	
	Meeting on Thursday 2nd November 2023 had been cancelled, no minutes to be received.	
3403	DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS	
	Cllr Barker nothing to report.	
	Cllr Wyatt informed members that a community tree planting day, relating to Tiny Forests was due to take place on 29 th November and all members were invited.	
	Cllr Moulton informed members that he had attended the Local Plan Meeting on 15 th November 2023. Cllr Moulton read out a pre-prepared report which he asked to be included in the minutes. <i>"I attended the local plan committee as a member of the committee. At the local plan committee on 15th November 2023, it was given consideration to the proposed housing and employment allocations. Within the allocations was a proposal for what is classed as a broad location for potential future development. This was named as land west of Whitwick for identification. This consisted of five areas of land where owners of the land have expressed an interest to develop. This area has possible grounds for objections, which will be consulted upon as with all allocations (probably mid-January 2024). I would like to inform the Parish Council of other actions that deeply concerned me, during the debate on other allocations Michael Wyatt put forward an amendment to the proposed allocations, in that a proposal at Meadow Lane (within his ward) should be taken out and substituted with another area. I had previously asked the question of Ian Nelson (NWLDC Planning Policy Team Manager), if Meadow Lane was taken out of the proposal where would the allocation (400</i>	

	<p><i>dwelling) be placed? His reply was C46 which is land at Broom Leys Farm. This land forms part of land which is classed as an area of separation between Coalville and Whitwick. He knowingly proceeded with his amendment; I am deeply disturbed that a Whitwick Parish Councillor put forward a motion when knowing the possible outcome. The consequence of his actions not only means the area of land may be developed, but also means that the area of separation between Coalville and Whitwick will need to be redefined. It also means the rest of the green wedge will be open to development going forward".</i></p> <p>A heated discussion then took place amongst members on this subject.</p>	
3404	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
	Nothing to report.	
3405	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN	
	Members noted the External Audit section of the AGAR.	
3406	DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION	
	The first draft had been partly prepared by the Acting Responsible Finance Officer and members were invited to offer preliminary advice on projects, inflationary increases, etc. Members were invited to put forward figures for cost centres that remain as '0.00' for 24/25 to complete this first draft.	
3407	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Details of income received for the month of October was tabled at the meeting; b) Details of payments made for the month of October, including salaries were tabled; c) Details of latest income and expenditure account for 2023/24 and the summary of earmarked reserves at 31st October 2023 were tabled; d) To note the latest bank balances as at 31st October 2023, Unity current account £179,549.98; Unity deposit account £12,502.64; and CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund £225,000.00; 	
3408	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.	
3409	LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY CLAIM 2023-2024 – PAY OFFER ACCEPTED	
	The national unions and the national employers' body have reached agreement on local government pay. The increase is worth 8.92% at the lowest SCP used for parish and town councils (SCP5) reducing to 3.88% for the highest. The increase is backdated to 1 st April 2023. Currently awaiting revised pay scales from NALC.	
3410	RECRUITMENT OF PARISH MANAGER	
	Interviews for the Parish Manager vacancy to take place at the end of the month, dependant on candidate availability.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Thursday 14 December 2023 at 7.00 pm	
	The Chair terminated the meeting at 8.59 pm	
	FULL SIGNATURE OF CHAIR:  DATE: 18/04/2024	

Cllr Greenwood left the meeting at 8.30 pm and returned to the meeting at 8.32 pm
The Acting Parish Manager left the meeting at 8.50 pm and returned to the meeting at 8.59 pm