



Correspondence address: c/o Andrew Bramston, Chair  
Orr Farm, Chantry BA11 3LJ

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE WHATLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 19:00 HOURS  
AT ST GEORGES CHURCH, WHATLEY**

Drafted: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Members Present:**

Councillor Andrew Bramston (Chair)  
Councillor Will Palmer  
Councillor Jon Scott

Councillor Colin Boorer  
Councillor Richard Evans

**Officers present:** No officer was present

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**1. Apologies for absence**

None received

**2. Public Participation**

None

**3. Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensation**

Nothing declared

**4. Minutes of Whatley Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Minutes approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. District Councillors Report**

Somerset County Councillor Barry Clarke provided prior to the meeting. One point of note is that local buses are not included in the £2 travel scheme. The key points of the report can be found on the website.

**6. Actions from previous meeting**

Nothing outstanding.

**7. Presentation from external organisations**

None received

Date Approved: 10 May 2023

Signed by Chair:

## 8. Highways and Byways

Although the drains have been cleaned in upper Whatley village, it is thought there will still be flooding at Whatley corner. It is understood that broken pipes are blocking the exit flow.

It was disappointing that the response from Somerset Highways advising that flooding on corner is not a priority and will not be actioned.

There is no information why the Road to Frome will be closed for 3 weeks - and why the work was brought forward.

It was also pointed out that the Whatley village signs are still not legible

Further representation to Somerset Highways will be led by Councillor Boorer for the above issues.

## 9. Financial Matters

A new cheque book has been requested.

Cllr Bramston provided an update regarding the move from Natwest to Unity Bank as progressing well. Unity requires the last 6-month statements from Natwest to process the application. Natwest have not supplied regular statements, and this is holding up the process. Cllr Bramston to follow this up.

The Council members previously approved the development of a new Parish website. It was agreed to obtain the website address [WhatleyandChantryParish.co.uk](http://WhatleyandChantryParish.co.uk). Cllr Palmer is working with the developer on the website build to ensure it is user friendly. A suggested logo was shared with the councillors incorporating the two churches. It was also suggested that this be adopted for use on parish council documentation. A two-year subscription will be £155.98 including the domain name. It was also recommended that £200 be given as an honorarium for the website development work.

Cheques were signed reimbursing Cllr Bramston for the Parish expenses incurred during the last months; this was previously agreed the simplest way to cover the ongoing Parish expenses until Online banking is established for the Parish with Unity Bank.

Payments to be made are:

Cheque 0787 for £647.60 which covers Clerk fees £377.50 Nov / Dec, Chantry PCC £250 graveyard maintenance 2022 and £30 for use of church halls Sept / Jan

Cheque 0788 for £308.75 covers Jan / Feb Clerk fees 288.75 and £20 for hire of Whatley church hall in March

Cheque 0789 for £ 155.98 for the cost of the website

Year-end accounts are due at the end of the month. Cllr Bramston to discuss with the Clerk.

### RESOLVED

That the Council agrees:

- To purchase a 2-year website subscription
- Pay £200 to Ellie Swinhoe for the website development work
- To adopt the new logo for the website and parish council documentation
- Cheque numbers 0787, 0788 and 0789 to be paid

Date Approved: 10 May 2023

Signed by Chair:



## 10. Planning Applications

One planning application for the Old Rectory was submitted during the past period. No concerns were expressed.

## 11. Parish Field

A request was received to use the parish field on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. The Council agreed in principle, but it was agreed that some guidelines were required and there was a need to clarify any potential issues. Cllr Palmer to produce outline guidelines for circulation before the next meeting with a view to adopting this at the May meeting.

Issues to consider:

PC public liability insurance

Any H&S issues with play equipment

Parking may be an issue if the field is wet. In this instance parking will be at the church.

Grass to be cut before 1<sup>st</sup> July.

No Mow May was discussed as it has become a popular activity aimed at protecting pollinators. Cllr Bramston to discuss with local residents how we could apply this to Whatley field and to bring back suggestions to the May meeting. A suggestion was to look at designated areas rather than the whole field and rotate areas each year. This will still allow some areas to be maintained for general use.

The mowing contract is due for renewal. Requests have been made for quotes.

Cllr Palmer sent a response to Hanson regarding their queries about funding for playing equipment. This is now with Hanson, and we are awaiting their response.

## 12. WCGT

No update.

Cost of defibrillators were discussed. Agreed to have one at Chantry that would be purchased by the Community Trust. Final decision to be made for one at Whatley to be sited near old Sun Inn. Update required for next meeting.

## 13. Quarry Liaison

The Westdown application is expected to be included on the agenda at the next SC planning meeting. (April). Representatives of Nunney and Whatley Parish Council are expected to be invited to present at the meeting. Cllr Bramston will represent the Parish Council.

Cllrs Bramston and Evans attended the Westdown drop-in meeting at Whatley Quarry. There was a lot of information supplied regarding the restoration of Asham Void, but little information was available about the noise, traffic and dust that would be generated.

The management indicated that the plans for Westdown involve not just staying within their existing permissions, but the demand for aggregate was not increasing and that the plan would be to reduce activity at Whatley and shift all road transport from the new Westdown Quarry, keeping overall volume at the same level as present.

Date Approved: 10 May 2023

Signed by Chair:



**14. Correspondence**

It was agreed that Whatley Parish Council support Frome Town Council's vote of no confidence in Dave Warburton – currently there is no effective MP representation for the Parish.

**15. Village Plans**

Whatley – first meeting planned for 21<sup>st</sup> March

Chantry – It is planned to have a village meeting in early Spring.

The general process will be for local groups to propose plans to the Parish Council for agreement/support.

**16. Clerk Matters**

Clerks Report provided prior to the meeting with key points:

Requirement for internal audit is recommended.

New bank details need to be provided to Mendip so can be changed to the precept form.

**17. Items for next meeting and urgent reports**

Website Update

**18. Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:00pm in Holy Trinity Chantry.**

There being no further business the Chair thanked Councillors and those attending.

Date Approved: 10 may 2023

Signed by Chair: