

Minutes 10/17

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 11th April 2017
at 6.00 p.m. in

Whitnash Town Council office, Franklin Road, Whitnash.

PRESENT

Councillors: S Button Mayor
 T Heath Deputy
 A Barton
 G Cancilla
 B Franklin
 T Shepherd
 B Smart
 R Sparkes
 S Vaughan

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

173/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Falp, Kirton, Margrave, McFadden, Sage and Short. Apologies for absence were accepted.

174/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

175/17 WASHBOURNE PLAYING FIELDS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the help received over the weekend when the illegal traveller encampment took place on Washbourne Playing Fields. Moving the travellers on in such a short period of time is some achievement and thanks must go to Councillors, residents, Police, Warwickshire County Council, Warwick District Council, staff and the Groundman for resolving the situation.

A contractor from Warwick District has been to Washbourne Playing Fields to see how the field can be secured to avoid future encampments.

Protocol was followed over the weekend to move the Travellers off the site. They were served with a letter from Whitnash Town Council on Sunday, 9th April 2017 telling them they are trespassing on Whitnash Town Council property and requesting they vacate the site within the next 24 hours otherwise Whitnash Town Council would take further proceedings to remove them.

On Monday, 10th April 2017, the Police issued the Travellers with section 61 notices. This notice allows the Police to use force to remove the Travellers if they do not leave the site. The section

61 notice means they cannot return to this site for three months. A letter was sent to all residents thanking them for their help and patience.

Two skips were ordered to accommodate all the rubbish left on the Playing Field and a crew from Warwick District Council will attend Washbourne Fields on Wednesday to cleanse and remove all human excrement left by the travellers.

Members discussed various options to secure Washbourne Playing Field. A new secure gate at the Landor Road entrance and metal posts in front of the wooden fencing at the Chandlers and Washbourne Roads entrances was the best option. An estimate of £1180 for the gates was given and metal posts at £38 each for the Chandlers and Washbourne entrances – these will be measured in the morning.

A discussion took place to strategically plant mature trees with the help of Warwick Tree Wardens behind the fencing at Chandlers and Washbourne Playing Fields as a preventative measure. A Community Forum Grant could be considered to fund these trees.

Members also discussed securing the gates at Acre Close to prevent any encampments there. Height restriction gates behind the existing gates were discussed.

A formal quotation from the Contractor is expected on Wednesday morning for new gates and metal posts at Washbourne Playing Fields to secure the field and also for Acre Close Playing Field.

A proposal was put forward that £4999.00 would be allocated for security measures to be implemented at both Acre Close and Washbourne Playing Fields. A secure gate would be installed at Washbourne Playing Fields along with metal barriers in front of the wooden fencing at both Chandlers and Washbourne Roads. Acre Close Playing Field would have an additional set of gates and a height restriction barrier. All Members present voted in favour of this proposal.

Due to the urgency of the situation three quotations would not be sourced and delegated powers were given to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to make a decision once the formal quotation was received with regard to security measures at Acre Close. Members approved that funding for these security measures will be taken from the contingency fund.

Given that there is no provision of a traveller site within Warwick District, it was proposed to seek financial support from Warwick District for these unbudgeted costs. All Members voted in favour of a letter being sent to the CEO at Warwick District Council requesting financial support.

Cllr Heath declared an interest.

176/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 27th April 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED..... DATE.....