

# Sevenhampton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Present:** Cllrs. Lynne Jackson (Chairman), Bill Jenkin (Vice Chairman), Gordon Day, Harry Boyd, Matthew Cain, Tex Cook.

**In Attendance:** Diana Cook (Clerk) and 2 parishioners

**1. Apologies:** Ward Councillor Robin Hughes, County Cllr. Paul Hodgkinson, Peter Siret

**2. Questions & Answers:**

- It was formally requested that parishioner, Mr Kim Brassington, be permitted to contribute to the discussions re Whalley Farm planning application (Item 10a.) **This was permitted.**
- The Clerk highlighted that Cllr Paul Hodgkinson would have some money available (£20K) in April to contribute to local highway issues and asked Councillors to consider any local needs. Flashing signage to reduce traffic speed past Manor Farm was considered. A large pothole along Gassons Lane was brought to the meetings attention. It was felt that it should be attended to ASAP rather than wait until April. **Action: Clerk**
- The Clerk asked if the Council would approve the payment of the Insurance Policy for the local Good Neighbourhood Scheme. Approval was given. **Action: Clerk**

**3. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Cook declared an interest in Item 11 (Clerk's appraisal).

**4. Minutes of Previous meeting:** The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated & published, were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.

Matters Arising:

- a. A form has been completed and sent to AMEY re a coupling link for the snow plough, although there has yet to be a response
- b. A form has been presented to the Land Registry re registration of Elsdown Clump but there has yet been no reply.
- c. No candidates for Councillor vacancy has yet been identified.
- d. The parish website is now live with all the hard work, especially by Cllr Jenkin, being acknowledged. Some links did not work and these have been attended to but all present were asked to report any other problems, preferably via email. **Action: ALL**
- e. The fate of the telephone kiosk on Brockhampton Green is still unknown. Cotswold DC welcomed the Council's comments and are requesting to BT that the telephony be kept.
- f. The Clerk attended the meeting held by 'Think Travel' re an alternative transport solution to the lack of Sevenhampton's daily bus service. The scheme seen at [www.parish.liftshare.com](http://www.parish.liftshare.com) is backed by the County Council amongst others. The question of insurance and the safety of passengers using this online car sharing service (where would-be passengers try to find a lift amongst drivers registered with the site) has not been adequately answered. Approx. 200 leaflets have been delivered to residents throughout the parish giving info on the scheme.

**5. Apologies** had been received from Peter Siret (Flood Risk Management Officer) who was due to speak at the meeting. In his absence, the Clerk provided leaflets for all the councillors on

*Waterside Living* – giving information on owner responsibilities to protect waterways. It was identified that there are several springs in the parish due to the geology of the region. In addition to Manor farm, it was identified that a number of properties in the parish have waterways through their grounds, including Donneywell, which is owned by the Council.

6. **Road Safety Community Hub** – The Clerk distributed some information on this which highlighted a one stop shop for reporting road safety concerns. The hub can be accessed at <http://roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk/communityhub/>

7. **Grass Cutting Tender.** It was noted that the specifications of this year's contract had not entirely been adhered to. It was also noted that it was difficult to know when grass areas had been cut and it was suggested that in future the Clerk be informed when grass cutting has taken place. It was decided that this coming year's 'invitation for tender' be advertised further afield – Andoversford, Winchcombe, Cheltenham & in the Cotswold weekly paper. **Action: Clerk**

8. **Clerk's Report.**

- a. The Firework's register worked well with those on the register being warned of an imminent fireworks party on New Year's Eve. Unfortunately, the party host only warned of the event on the day, which could have jeopardised the alerts.
- b. Police report. Councillors were provided with details of the latest police report, which showed a significant reduction in figures compared to the previous year. It was noted that the number of figures could be inflated if gates (or similar) were damaged on different properties during the same offence. (See Addenda 1)
- c. GAPTC are inviting nominees to be put forward to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. It was declared that Cllr. Jenkin deserved such a nomination but he declined.
- d. 200 dog walking leaflets are being provided for distribution within the parish. Some will accompany the *Village Live* distribution with the remainder placed at The Craven pub.

9. **Financial Matters.**

- a. £67 annual membership of SLCC (Society of Local Council & Clerks) was approved.
- b. Annual subscription (£12) towards *Clerks & Council Direct* journal was approved.
- c. The Clerk's expenses (£87.58) and salary (£547.75) was approved.
- d. Having been presented with a number of different alternatives for computer security providers, it was decided to use MacAfee at a cost of £29.99 for 1 year.
- e. The appointment of Iain Selkirk as internal auditor at a cost of £80 was approved.
- f. The financial update for Period 5 had been circulated prior to the meeting but it was warned that it will change before the financial Period ends. Final figures will be forwarded to councillors at the end of January. **Action: Clerk**
- g. The Council has a healthy balance of approximately £10K and it was suggested that this year's precept remain the same as last year's (ie £6,500) as this amount was unlikely to be fully spent by the end of this financial year. In addition, it was questioned as to why the Council carried so many funds and, if such a surplus was deemed necessary, what was being planned to do with it? It was the view of some that a contingency fund should be readily available together with the 'Way Forward' money which could go towards such things as Village Hall repairs, parish celebrations, purchasing of land for car parks or recreation grounds. It was also pointed out that £1.5K was held due to the 'Transparency Code' grant.  
After discussion, the majority of councillors agreed to raise the precept request to £7000, which raises the contribution of Band D council tax payments for parish households by 5.6% to £31.75; remaining the same level (£6,500) would be a negative increase of -0.19%.

The Council's annual budget will be decided at the next meeting, which will be placed as an agenda item. **Action: Clerk**

#### **10. Planning Matters.**

The planning application 16/04651/FUL for Whalley Farm, Whittington to be developed into a wedding venue was discussed in full. Attending parishioner, Mr Brassington, summarised the situation from Whittington's parishioners and appraised the Council of the responses already submitted by some of them. After much discussion, the following was identified:

- a. The planning application should go to full committee rather than dealt with by a planning officer under 'delegated powers'.
- b. The inevitable and significant increase in traffic in the area would be dangerous, noisy and particularly bad during race weeks and harvest time when large agricultural m/c are used.
- c. The A40 junction to Whittington is dangerous with several lethal accidents having happened there.
- d. Fireworks, often used to celebrate weddings should not be permitted.
- e. There are few passing places on the single-track lanes that approach Whalley Farm.
- f. The deadline for comments was 19<sup>th</sup> January but Sevenhampton Parish Council has been given an extension, in writing, of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A letter is to be composed by the Clerk and circulated to councillors for comments/amendments before forwarding to Cotswold DC. Once finalised, the letter will also be forwarded to Cllr. Robin Hughes who chairs the planning committee at Cotswold DC. (Addenda 2) **Action: Clerk**

The Council were informed of a meeting at Whittington Village Hall being held by Mr Barnes (applicant) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Council were also advised of two other planning applications (17/00043/TCONR & 17/00192/TCONR) for works to trees.

#### **11. Clerk's mid-term appraisal.** Councillors held closed discussions on this matter.

#### **12. Dates of meetings for the coming year.** These were identified as:

Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2017	Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 (combines with Annual Parish meeting)	
Wed. 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017	Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2017
Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018	Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	<b>Action: Clerk</b> (hall booking)

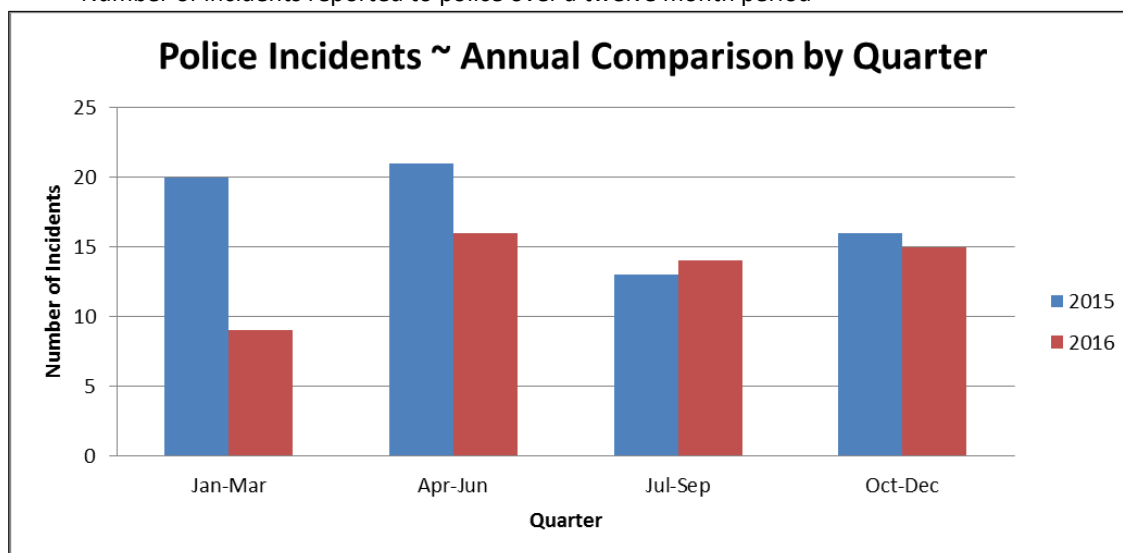
There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.10 pm



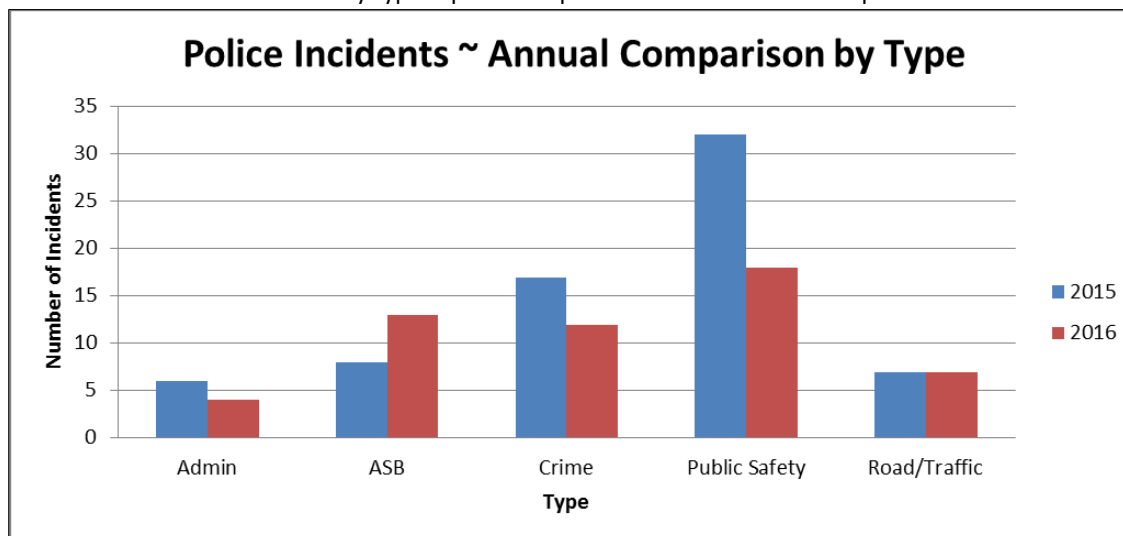
## ADDENDA 1

### Local Police Report Sevenhampton ~ Jan 2017

Number of incidents reported to police over a twelve month period



Breakdown of incidents by type reported to police over a twelve month period



Breakdown of incidents related to crimes dealt with by police over a twelve month period:

Crime Related Incident	2015	2016
Burglary dwelling	2	0
Burglary non dwelling	2	1
Crime - other	1	3
Criminal damage	9	4
Theft - other	1	3
Theft of motor vehicle	0	1
Violence against the person	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Admin @</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaint against police</li> <li>• Lost or found Property or animals</li> <li>• Messages inc press release</li> <li>• Police generated resource activity</li> <li>• Pre-planned event</li> </ul>	<b>Public Safety *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alarms ~ Personal, etc</li> <li>• Animals/Wildlife</li> <li>• Awol/abscond from hmp</li> <li>• Civil dispute-not btw neighbours</li> <li>• Concern for safety</li> <li>• Domestic incident - non crime</li> <li>• Missing Person</li> <li>• Susp. Circs./Insecure veh./prems.</li> </ul>	<b>Road/Traffic #</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway disruption</li> <li>• Road related offence</li> <li>• RTC Death / Injury</li> <li>• Rtc_damage only(inc animal rtc)</li> </ul>
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We are aware that a major concern for Sevenhampton residents relates to joy riders on farm land and the adjacent common land. We fully understand their concerns, and endeavour to respond appropriately; however response times will vary according to what other incidents are taking place across the other 56 Parishes of the North Cotswolds at the time the joy riding is taking place.

Having analysed the 2015/2016 Incident Figures, and assuming incidents related to this joy riding are likely to be logged under ASB or Criminal Damage, the following tables suggest that, fortunately, this problem has not worsened over the past 24 months:

<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan-Mar</b>	<b>Apr-Jun</b>	<b>Jul-Sep</b>	<b>Oct-Dec</b>
ASB	3	2	2	1
Criminal damage	1	2	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>

<b>2016</b>	<b>Jan-Mar</b>	<b>Apr-Jun</b>	<b>Jul-Sep</b>	<b>Oct-Dec</b>
ASB	3	4	5	1
Criminal damage	1	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>

***If questions are raised by those present please note the email addresses of the Beat Manager covering your area; however in the first instance, it would be as well to contact Stow Police Station:***

[\(Robert.Hardie@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk\).](mailto:Robert.Hardie@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

***The Neighbourhood Policing Team will be happy to address any concerns you have or that are raised during the meeting.***

***We will endeavour to attend as many meetings as we can but the new format of police Report combined with an up to date list of contact details will be provided for occasions we are not present.***

PC 0436 Jason Page

[Jason.Page@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Jason.Page@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

ADDENDA 2  
(Letter to Cotswold District Council Planning Dept.)

## SEVENHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Martin Perks  
Senior Planning Officer  
Cotswold District Council  
Trinity Road  
Cirencester  
Glos. GL7 1PX

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

Dear Sir,

**Re: Planning Application Reference Number – 16/04951/FUL**

Thank you for extending the time for Sevenhampton Parish Council's response to the above planning application to the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, as mentioned in your email dated 04/01/17. Consequently, these comments are being sent to you both electronically and by post.

As a consultee, Sevenhampton Parish Council (hereafter referred to as 'The Council') wishes to express the serious concerns that all council members have regarding the above planning application. First and foremost, The Council would wish the application to be considered by Cotswold District Council's full planning committee and not be determined by delegated powers alone. The Council feels that such an application, classed as a "major development", should be given the fullest consideration possible.

The Council notes that the applicant would anticipate an average of three weddings per week and that up to 200 guests per wedding would be catered for should permission be granted; in addition to these numbers there will be associated staff and services. This, in the opinion of The Council, would generate a significant increase in traffic to and from Whalley Farm, which is approached from both directions (East and West) through single track country lanes, with very few passing places. The approach from the West is through at least 2 miles of such lanes. The approach to Whalley Farm from the East is via a shorter stretch of lanes running through the historic village of Whittington, which is also a Conservation area. The village of Whittington is more usually reached by a short road from the main A40 trunk road. When this road reaches Whittington at a T-junction next to its Village Green, there is a footpath which continues to towards the East. There is no footpath to the West of the T-junction along the narrow road which approaches the rest of the village and eventually leads to Whalley Farm.

### **Traffic**

The potential and likely increase in traffic connected to this planning application, should it be granted, would, in the view of The Council, have the following consequences:

1. **Traffic Congestion.** Although likely throughout the year it would be particularly poor during Cheltenham's race weeks and during harvest time when large agricultural machinery is in use. [It is noted that Whalley Farm's land, which is not associated with the proposed development, is to be used mainly for arable farming]. The applicant suggests that coaches may be used to bus guests to the proposed venue. As previously noted, the road would be totally unsuitable for such vehicles.
2. **Road Traffic Accidents.** Whittington's junction with the A40 is notorious as a dangerous junction, where several lethal accidents have occurred. The increase in road traffic using this junction, possibly more than 400 vehicles per week (100 cars for 200 guests, 4 times a week + staff and service vehicles), would significantly increase the risk of accidents and serious injury.

Other road users, such as cyclists and horse riders, would also be at increased risk due to traffic increase.

3. **Pedestrian Safety.** Children play on Whittington's Village Green, there being no other public space available for them. The lack of footpaths along the stretch of road leading to Whalley Farm will also place local pedestrians and other walkers in danger. There are 9 public footpaths and 1 bridle path converging on the village.
4. **Parking.** Parking provision for 50 vehicles is proposed. With the number of expected guests per function, this seems woefully inadequate. Drivers may be tempted to park on verges and in Whittington village, thereby adding to congestion and further jeopardising road safety.

### **Noise**

In addition to the noise generated by increased traffic levels, The Council have the following observations to make:

The site lies within the Cotswold *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (AONB), an area whose "attractiveness and tranquillity" should be protected under this legislation. It is highly likely that existing sound levels are below 30 dBA (decibels adjusted) and possibly less than this during night time hours.

The Council has great concerns about the amount of noise that could be generated by guests celebrating the frequent weddings at this proposed venue. Not only from the music that inevitably accompanies wedding celebrations but also from commercial fireworks – often used nowadays to mark such events. Sevenhampton, close to Whittington and similarly surrounded by farmland, has had problems in the past with unannounced firework usage, which has caused serious injuries to livestock. The Council now runs a scheme to address this problem by holding a register of pet and livestock owners who are provided information of intended firework use within the parish.

The Council would ask Cotswold District Council:

1. To carry out a noise survey to identify existing background noise levels at the boundaries of Whalley Farm and in the village of Whittington to act as a benchmark.
2. If the application is successful, to restrict music at the proposed venue to finish by 11pm.
3. If the application is successful, to limit the playing of music to inside buildings only and to ensure doors to such buildings are kept shut.
4. If the application is successful, to apply a condition denying the use of celebratory fireworks at the premises.

### **Other hazards**

Whalley Farm is in the middle of a farming community where, in addition to arable farming, cattle, sheep and horses graze. The use of Chinese lanterns and balloons, which are becoming more popular during wedding celebrations, can be dangerous to livestock. Chinese lanterns are usually constructed using wire or bamboo frames. Both types can do enormous damage to animals if ingested, such as rupturing digestive tracts. Balloons may also lead to injury and sometimes death if eaten by livestock. In addition, Chinese lanterns pose a fire hazard, particularly to barns and crops, with the hazard increasing during summer months. The hazards are well documented and many events, e.g. Glastonbury festival, have banned their use.

The Council would ask Cotswold District Council that:

If the application is successful, to apply a condition denying the use of such accessories at the premises.

The Council trusts that the above observations and requests are given due considerations.

Your faithfully,

Mrs. Lynne R. Jackson

*(Chairman, Sevenhampton Parish Council)*

*c.c. Mr Robin Hughes, Ward Councillor & Chairman of Cotswold Planning Committee*