

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 2nd July, 2015 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, Baldauf, Swait, Warnes and McNealey

In attendance: District Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell, the clerk and two members of the public

2015/87 To receive apologies for absence.

An apology was received from Cllr. Baynham-Honri.

2015/88 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

2015/89 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

Japanese Knotweed has still not been dealt with. The resident plans to write a letter to Amey, copied to the Parish Council. The clerk will also contact Amey.

2015/90 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4th June, 2015.

These were confirmed and signed by Cllr. Hamilton.

2015/91 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

Jenni Bingham from SDC had been in contact regarding Leyhill and hopes in the next few weeks to set a date for work to be carried out in the village. The clerk will email councillors to ask for a list of any other areas in the village in need of attention.

The clerk will contact Andrew Middlecote (Area Highways Manager) to discuss the requirements and procedure for road safety improvements on the A46.

The clerk had been kept well-informed of the situation regarding wallabies at Woodchester House. Of those that escaped, only three or four now remain on the loose. The clerk had received a winter maintenance form which she will forward to Cllr. Swait for his comments.

2015/92 To note the latest financial statements and approve cheques as per annex.

These were noted.

To date only two invoices have been sent out for the Woodchester Word. These should hopefully be paid by the time the invoice for printing the imminent edition is received.

2015/93 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.

These were noted.

The Rooksmoor application is due to be reconsidered by the Development Control Committee due to a legal challenge from residents.

2015/94 To welcome Karen Phimister who will present the findings of the recent Housing Need Survey.

Karen Phimister outlined the findings from the Housing Need Survey. An average response rate of 168 responses were received from a total of 557.

Karen produced a written summary for the Woodchester Word, Village Shop and Noticeboard. A full copy of the report will be placed on the village website and will be available from the clerk.

Initials.....

Exception sites no longer have to be 100% 'affordable'. They can provide some market housing with funding from the Government. Properties on exception sites have the requirement of being sold to those with a local connection. These legal obligations remain and properties when sold on must be both affordable and sold with a local connection.

The options for the Parish Council following the report are either to do nothing or to identify (together with Karen Phimister), sites which may be appropriate as Rural Exception Sites. Landowners would then be approached for their view and SDC would be asked for their opinion as to whether any of the sites put forward would qualify for planning permission. The Parish Council will discuss the options at the next Parish Council meeting.

- 2015/95 To discuss and agree how a s.106 payment from Rooksmoor Mills should be allocated.**
There has been no clarification of the agreed sum for any s.106 payment although the developer has quoted a figure of £5,000. Several projects were discussed, but councillors felt a decision could only be made following the Development Control Committee meeting on the 14th July and once a figure had been clarified by John Longmuir.
- 2015/96 To discuss and agree priorities for Highways Local funding to include consideration of road safety issues as well as re-surfacing.**
The clerk sent a list of priorities for road surfacing to Cllr. Binns. Residents and the Parish Council remain concerned about safety on the A46 and the clerk will contact Andrew Middlecote (Local Highways Manager) to discuss the procedure and criteria when applying for measures to improve safety.
- 2015/97 To discuss and agree the provision of a portable toilet near the layby on the A46.**
The clerk produced quotes for the both the purchase of a portable toilet and hire costs. Councillors agreed that no further action could be taken until Environmental Health, Gloucestershire Highways and the insurance providers had been contacted. The item will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 2015/98 To discuss and agree the provision of a bench in the bus shelter at the bottom of Station Road.**
Councillors agreed to provide a bench in the remaining bus shelter. The clerk will confirm this with Ian Smith.
- 2015/99 To discuss and agree the provision of a refuse bin at the junction with Church Road and the footpath to Woodchester House and the provision of a larger bin outside Tower House.**
A resident had made a request for a larger litter bin outside Tower House and for one to be provided on the corner of Church Road.
The clerk produced prices for various litter bins and councillors agreed to purchase a 50 litre bin for outside Tower House and the existing bin will then be moved to Church Road.
- 2015/100 To receive an update on footpaths and rights of way.**
A new traditional kissing gate has been installed where the footpath from the Priory joins the cycle path. Cllr. Warnes also investigated a comment from a resident concerning the stile on Park Lane. The stile itself is sturdy and in good condition and therefore approaching the Cotswold Wardens to ask for improvements can't be justified.
- 2015/101 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**
The Produce Show and Dog Show will take place on the 12th September.
Approximately £540 was raised for charity from the Open Gardens. This was the proceeds from entry and refreshments at Inschdene. Proceeds from the WI stall at The Old Priory is not included in that figure.

Initials.....

2015/102 To receive an update on the mountain bike trails.

The clerk had received several communications through the Parish Council solicitor from GCC. The first was in relation to fencing. GCC have agreed use of fencing put forward in the proposal. The second was in relation to the access. The clerk contacted Back on Track who provided a written description and measurements for the entrance to the site. Once the lease agreement has been produced councillors will need to agree it. A separate lease will then need to be drawn up and agreed by the Hills who own a section of the proposed land.

2015/103 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

Councillors on the Events Committee confirmed that no event has been organised for September 9th to mark Queen Elizabeth becoming the longest reigning British monarch, but support would be given to a group of volunteers who were willing to arrange an event.

The verge opposite the layby on the A46 was suggested as an area which Leyhill might improve. The grass is encroaching onto the pavement which is gradually becoming narrower.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Initials.....