

# Woodchester Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, Swait, Warnes, Baynham-Honri, McNealey

In attendance: The clerk and three members of the public

**2016/1 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Baldauf, District Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell and County Councillor Dorcas Binns.

**2016/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

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

**2016/3 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**

A member of the public asked for an update on the driveway for The Convent. It is rumoured that work is due to commence in February, but the Parish Council have not heard this directly from the owners.

An update was given by the clerk on the 30mph sign at Frogmarsh. A resident commented that it would be a safer village if roads throughout were reduced to 20mph. The pavement at Southbank remains overgrown. The clerk had been in contact with SDC who in turn contacted the contractors. As yet they have not tidied the site. The resident concerned will contact the clerk if the situation has not improved in the next 10 days. The drainage gully and drain are blocked in Convent Lane which could potentially create a hazard in freezing temperatures. The clerk will contact Amey.

**2016/4 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.**

These were approved by councillors and signed as a true record by Cllr. Hamilton.

**2016/5 To receive the clerk's report.**

This was received.

As well as issues stated in the report, the clerk had also been in touch with Amey concerning moss on the pavement at the bottom of Paul's Rise.

Dominic Everiss (Senior Neighbourhood Warden) had asked to attend a meeting to meet councillors and talk about the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens. The clerk will invite him to attend the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**2016/6 To note the latest financial statements.**

These were noted.

**2016/7 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**

These were approved.

**2016/8 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex to include an update on the Piano Works applications and the proposed car wash.**

The car wash application has gone to appeal. A report was submitted from the Parish Council and neighbours. No more information has been received on the Piano Works. The clerk had been in touch with the Enforcement Team at SDC concerning a driveway which has been put in on a blind bend opposite Frogmarsh on the A46.

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- 2016/9 To discuss and agree a response to Stroud District Council's Strategic Assessment of Land Availability.**  
Stroud District Council wish to draw up a list of sites which have the potential for five dwellings or more or 'sites of 0.25ha/ 500m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace or above that could be suitable for economic development, other residential development, retail or community uses'. Sites for this purpose were considered following the Housing Needs Survey in 2015. Land at the bottom of Station Road was mentioned at the time, but it is believed there is a covenant on the land with a few years still to run. Therefore councillors felt they were currently not able to offer any suggestions.
- 2016/10 To discuss and agree a response to the Government's Consultation on Proposed Changes to National Planning Policy.**  
Cllr. Hamilton outlined the key issues which included starter homes, affordable housing and development on brownfield sites. Councillors were in general agreement with the suggestions raised in the document. Cllr. Lead will respond on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 2016/11 To discuss and agree a response to the Government's Consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan.**  
Councillors considered the section relating to the Stroud District and the list of priorities for the area. Cllr. McNealey will look in more detail at the document and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 2016/12 To approve a quote for village maintenance 2016/17.**  
Councillors approved a quote from Ian Smith identical to that paid in 2015/16.
- 2016/13 To note and agree the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the budget and precept requirement for 2016/17.**  
Stroud District Council will not pay any Council Tax Support Funding in 2016/17 which last year was £381. The clerk outlined the proposal of the Finance Committee to increase the precept for 2016/17 by £193 to £10, 750. The proposed budget for 2016/17 is £12, 250 and therefore there will be a shortfall of £1,500.  
It was proposed by the Finance Committee that this shortfall be met from reserves. Councillors agreed with these proposals. The clerk will send the precept form to SDC.
- 2016/14 To receive a financial report on the Woodchester Word for 2015 and predicted budget for 2016.**  
In 2015 the Woodchester Word just broke even. However during the year several advertisers dropped out. The clerk has received several suggestions of companies to contact for 2016 and this will be done in the next few weeks.
- 2016/15 To receive an update from the clerk on changes to the requirement for audit arrangements for smaller councils from 2017. To discuss and agree whether to enter into a five year agreement with an auditor set-up by a sector led body or whether the Parish Council should source their own auditor.**  
Councillors agreed to enter into a five year agreement to source an external auditor through a sector-led body. This option was felt likely to be less expensive than the Parish Council sourcing its own auditor.
- 2016/16 To receive an update on s.106 contributions to Woodchester Parish and to discuss and agree priorities for future projects.**  
There has been a great deal of communication with SDC in recent weeks concerning S.106 contributions. It is important that the Parish Council updates the list of off-site recreation projects in order to qualify for these payments. The development at Rooksmoor Mills has been charged a sum of £5,000 for off-site recreation projects. Following discussion with councillors, the clerk has been in touch with John Longmuir and

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given the bike tracks and kissing gates as priority schemes at this time. Since then applications at land adjacent to Treetops and land at 4 Southfield Cottages have also attracted S.106 payments. It was agreed that the priorities are the mountain bike trails and kissing gates through the village. The clerk was also in touch with the schools and St. Mary's Church. A large project is planned for the church, but as yet no quotes have been received. A composting toilet for the layby on the A46 was also suggested as a project; the clerk will find more information.

The clerk will ask Ian Smith for a quote to install kissing gates and will also write an item for the Woodchester Word asking residents for any other ideas they may have for recreational improvements to the village.

**2016/17 To agree a date for the Litter Pick.**

The 20<sup>th</sup> March was agreed.

**2016/18 To receive an update from the Rights of Way Committee.**

Footpaths are currently very muddy due to the persistent rainfall.

There was discussion about the provision of steps on the steep slope below Lagger Lane which has been considered in the past by the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens but without funding support from Gloucestershire County Council. It was felt that if the materials were provided, the Wardens may be willing to construct the steps.

**2016/19 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**

The carol singing was well attended. The event is one which is usually run at a loss following payment to the Nailsworth Silver Band and the cost of refreshments.

The Village Concert run by the W.I. was very good and enjoyed by those who attended. However the number of Woodchester residents attending the concert was low and as a result the event will not be run this year.

The Events Committee are considering organising a village walk and a family quiz, but would very much welcome new members to help organise events.

**2016/20 To receive an update from the Snow Warden.**

The salt bins have been filled. Cllr. Swait will renew some of the notices on the bins reminding residents to use the salt sparingly and that it is not for use on private driveways.

**2016/21 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**

There is a great deal of standing water at the bottom of Station Road. On one side of the road the drain sits at a higher level than the water. Residents feel this is caused by large lorries exiting the site opposite and damaging the road and pavement. The other side of the road requires a ditch to enable the water to drain into the stream. The clerk will contact Highways and ask that they carry out a site visit.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

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