

# Woodchester Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

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

In attendance: The clerk, County Councillor Steve Robinson, and five members of the public.

**2018/1 To receive apologies for absence.**

An apology had been received by email from District Councillor Phil McAsey, but the clerk had not been aware of this until after the meeting.

**2018/2 To note the resignation of Cllr. Grundy from the Parish Council.**

This was noted. Mr. Grundy was thanked for taking up the post of Councillor and for the contribution he made during meetings.

**2018/3 To resolve to co-opt Iain Dunbar onto the Parish Council.**

Councillors resolved unanimously to co-opt Mr. Dunbar onto the Parish Council. Cllr. Dunbar then joined the table and signed a form to accept office. The clerk will email Cllr. Dunbar with a Declaration of Interests form for completion.

**2018/4 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

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

**2018/5 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**

A resident expressed concern that the gutters at the edge of the A46 have not been cleared thoroughly despite the process having been carried out recently. In parts of the village the company is unable to carry out a thorough job due to parked cars. The clerk will ask that the Parish Council are given notice of gutter clearing in order that residents can be informed through Facebook. This may lead to some cars being moved and a more thorough job being carried out within the village.

**2018/6 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017.**

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

**2018/7 To discuss changes to membership and structure of committees and working groups.**

It was resolved to combine highways issues and footpaths and form a Highways and Rights of Way Committee. It was agreed the Bike Track Working party is no longer required, but that Cllr. Dunbar, as co-ordinator of the Bike Trail maintenance group would report information to the Highways and Footpaths Committee.

Therefore membership of committees and working parties was resolved as:

**Planning Committee:** Cllrs. Lead (Chair), Hamilton, Baynham-Honri and McNealey

**Finance Committee:** Cllrs. Baynham-Honri (Chair), Warnes and Hamilton

**Highways and Rights of Way Committee:** Cllrs. Warnes (Chair), McNealey and Dunbar

**Personnel Committee:** Cllrs. Hamilton (Chair), Lead, Baldauf

**Website Working Party:** Cllrs. Baldauf, Dunbar, Warnes, Baynham-Honri

**Snow Wardens:** Cllrs. McNealey (North Woodchester), Lead (South Woodchester)

**Emergency Co-ordinator:** Cllr. Hamilton

**Youth Representatives:** Cllrs. Baldauf and Dunbar

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- 2018/8 To receive County and District Councillor reports.**  
 Cllr. Robinson reported a sum of £30,000 over the next three years for each County Councillor to fund community based investments. A forthcoming meeting should provide more details on what this funding can be used for. Cllr. Robinson will then pass this information to the clerk.  
 The Lengthsman Scheme will continue in the next financial year and will be incorporated into the new Highways contract.  
 Cllr. Robinson is due to attend a second meeting to discuss the future of the 'cycle path'. The proposal is to give it the status of 'bridleway'. Councillors discussed a number of potential issues. Cllr. Hamilton asked that Cllr. Robinson bring some of these concerns to the meeting, namely that Parish Councils are consulted before any agreement is made. Also to clarify who will be responsible for maintenance, insurance and the fact that there will be a considerable education exercise required if the legal status of 'bridleway' is given.  
 Cllr. Robinson reported that he now sits on the Road Safety Partnership Group should the Parish Council wish to raise any concerns or questions in that area.
- 2018/9 To receive the clerk's report.**  
 This was received.  
 Several issues have also been reported to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Stroud District Council (SDC) including a couple of incidents of fly tipping, requests for grit bins to be topped up and fallen trees.  
 Changes to Data Protection legislation are due to come into force in May 2018. The clerk will find out more about the implications for the Parish Council for discussion at the meeting in March.  
 The permanent board has now been erected at the Bike Trails. The clerk will arrange a photo with the logo design winner for the Woodchester Word.  
 The work to Southfield Road by Wales and West Utilities has created some questions amongst residents. The clerk will request that updates are provided if the planned schedule alters.  
 The clerk will also enquire with Gloucestershire Highways when the planned work by Severn Trent Water is due to begin.
- 2018/10 To note the latest financial statements.**  
 These were noted.
- 2018/11 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**  
 Expenditure was approved and cheques signed at the end of the meeting.
- 2018/12 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.**  
 These were noted.  
 The Rooksmoor application was granted permission at the Development Control Committee meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. Residents will now decide whether to pursue a second judicial review.
- 2018/13 To approve a quote for village maintenance 2018/19.**  
 The quote for a maintenance contract as it stands was approved.  
 The Finance Committee discussed raising the maintenance budget for 2018/19 to cover other areas of the village in need of some work.  
 Councillors resolved that a list of these issues in South Woodchester be compiled by Cllr. Baynham-Honri. Cllrs. Hamilton and McNealey will summarise issues in North Woodchester. The clerk will then approach Ian Smith in the first instance.
- 2018/14 To discuss a grant application from Woodchester Playgroup.**  
 An application had been received for part-funding for outside play equipment for the Playgroup children. Although Councillors were sympathetic, they agreed that when

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granting funds, the needs of local residents must take precedence. The numbers of local children expected to benefit from the play equipment was small. Councillors also questioned whether funding had been sought from PATA and other organisations. With recent funding having been allocated to the Bike Trails and relatively few local children currently attending Playgroup, Councillors resolved not to award a grant at this time. The clerk will inform the Playgroup Committee of the decision.

**2018/15 To note and agree the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the budget and precept requirement for 2018/19.**

Councillors resolved to agree a budget for 2018/19 of £12,815 to include £250 for Bike Trail maintenance and a £450 increase in the maintenance budget. Allocating £1,005 from reserves and with an expected income of £310 from VAT and interest, Councillors agreed a precept of £11,500.

Although this is an increase of £750 from 2017/18, the precept ten years ago was £12,000. This figure has gradually been reduced since then, with Councillors agreeing any deficit be taken from reserves, rather than leading to higher payments for residents. However with the ongoing costs of the Bike Trails and a desire to ensure the village is well-maintained, Councillors agreed the precept should increase. However, as the tax base has risen for 2018/19 to 539.67, compared with 529.34 last year, the increase for residents will only be felt on an additional £500.

**2018/16 To discuss road safety in the village, including feedback on a recent meeting with Rodborough's Road Safety Working Group. To agree the next course of action.**

Cllr. Dunbar outlined the key points made at the meeting of Rodborough's Road Safety Group (summary attached). Rodborough are positive about potential involvement from Woodchester, partly because a camera on the A46 at Woodchester would allow an average speed of vehicles to be recorded between Woodchester and Rodborough. There is a cost of £7,500 for a camera as well as ongoing costs for the associated website and management of the camera.

Residents present expressed their concern at the speed of traffic on the A46 as well as the issue of cars mounting the pavement on Selsley Road. The Parish Council had also recently received two emails from residents concerned about traffic issues.

Cllr. Dunbar proposed that more data is required to provide a clear picture of what and where the key issues are before solutions are put forward.

Councillors resolved that the Highways and Rights of Way Committee meet to formulate a plan which may include liaison with other Parish Councils and agencies.

It was agreed the Police and Crime Commissioner be contacted to outline the issues and enquire about grant funding.

**2018/17 To agree a date for the Litter Pick.**

The litter pick will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**2018/18 To receive an update from the Rights of Way Committee.**

Several trees have recently fallen along the cycle path and stream. These have now largely been cleared by Gloucestershire Highways. A stile is broken on Tower House Drive obstructing the footpath. The clerk will contact the land manager to ask when it might be repaired.

A resident had commented that one of the recently-installed kissing gates does not allow access with a large buggy and questioned whether other options had been considered.

Councillors agreed that although this be considered for any future installations, gates are not feasible alternatives as they can be left open.

- 2018/19**      **To receive an update from the Events Committee.**  
The Events Committee has seen some recent change in membership with several long-standing members leaving the group. A strong group remains. The Christmas Carols was a success, the Nailsworth Band being appreciated by residents.
- 2018/20**      **To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**  
There were no comments from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chair..... Date.....

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## Meeting with Rodborough Road Safety Group 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

What has been achieved to date?

- Rodborough has an ANPR camera (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) which is moved around three different locations.
- Funding for the cameras (£7,500 each) came from grants.
- Initially a Western Power Distribution post was used to mount the camera, but after Rodborough were asked to remove it, they purchased and installed their own metal posts at a cost of £300 each.
- Whilst on the A46 at the entrance to the trading estate (Screwfix) the camera produced a 30% drop in speeding vehicles.
- Now at the junction with the Dudbridge Road (outside Elcombe Stoves) the reduction has been less than that. Councillors put this down to a drop in publicity for the scheme.
- There is a camera now positioned on Minchinhampton Common near Amberley Ridge School. The number of cows killed in 2015/16 was 15, the number in 2016/17 was 13, the number this year has been only 1.

What data do the cameras produce?

- It is possible to log in to the camera to see a live feed of vehicles passing the camera.
- Read-outs show a photo of the car, the number plate and a scatter graph and table showing dates the vehicle passed the camera and the speed the vehicle was travelling on each occasion.

What are the limitations?

- The biggest issue for Rodborough has been acting on the data. Although the Police have shown support for the scheme, in reality they don't have the resources to follow up speeding motorists with letters/visits. Rodborough are working to persuade the Police to invest more resources in this. It is also a lengthy process looking at the back office to identify those incidents of speeding motorists. Rodborough plan to meet the Police to suggest that volunteers from the Parish might analyse the data to help speed up the process.
- Although the camera is Home Office approved, the software isn't. Therefore although the Police can use the data as part of any investigations, it can't be used as evidence in a court and therefore cannot lead to prosecutions.
- A company is looking at making the software Home Office approved, but this can cost half a million pounds and be a lengthy process. Therefore this is unlikely, particularly in the short-term. Should a large number of Councils show an interest in the cameras this may begin to be more cost-effective.
- The camera does not produce a photo of good enough definition to identify the driver. Therefore only the registration can be used.

What do Rodborough hope to achieve in the next couple of years?

- Councillors want to alter driver behaviour by deterring them from speeding.
- They hope for greater support from The Police to follow up speeding incidents.
- It was suggested at the meeting that a speed could be agreed with the Police over which a visit would automatically be triggered, or at least a letter.
- Several other Parish Councils locally have shown an interest in the cameras – Whiteshill, Chipping Cambden, Bourton-on-the-Water and Woodchester. The more councils which get on board, the greater weight this will carry with the Police. Councillors agreed that more data would help persuade the Police to be more accountable.
- If Woodchester were to join the scheme, an average speed could be calculated between a camera at Woodchester and at Rodborough, as well as individual speed readings.

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