

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 6th September, 2018 in the Village Hall at 7pm

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

In attendance: The clerk and four members of the public.

2018/94 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lead and County Councillor, Steve Robinson.

2018/95 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2018/96 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

There were no questions from members of the public.

2018/97 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th July, 2018.

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

2018/98 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

The issue with visitors parking on St. Mary's Hill to use the lakes at Woodchester Park remains a problem. Cars cause an obstruction on the hill. There have also been concerns about litter left by the visitors, the ability to fish in the lakes being affected and a rise in attacks on sheep by dogs. The site poses a risk to swimmers with deep water and sharp objects, coupled with a very poor mobile phone signal. The National Trust who own the lakes have put some security in place as well as signs to deter swimmers.

A sign at the lower end of the valley stating 'no entry' (action point 4) was felt inappropriate as it would deter other users of the valley.

2018/99 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

Councillor Robinson had reported that the work by Lengsthmen would commence in the week beginning 8th October with work to clear gulleys and drains in Bospin Lane. The clerk will make contact with the owners of the woodland at the top of Bospin Lane to ask that they install some drainage to prevent water and debris flowing down and causing the drains to block.

2018/100 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

2018/101 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

Expenditure was approved and cheques signed at the end of the meeting.

2018/102 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

Initials.....

- 2018/103 To approve a quote for improvements to the website.**
The Website Working Party met to discuss improvements to the website which would enable it to be used effectively on mobile phones and tablets and to ensure the content was relevant.
Councillors agreed a quote of £590 + VAT to update the website and to ensure it complies with GDPR.
- 2018/104 To receive a report from the Snow Warden on the situation regarding restocking of grit bins in the village and to discuss replacing bins in poor condition.**
Gloucestershire Highways have re-stocked grit bins in the village.
Some of these bins are in poor condition. Councillors agreed that five bins in the worst condition be replaced with more robust bins with lids from the budget for equipment set for 2018-19.
The clerk will make enquires as to whether the grit bin at the bottom of Bear Hill is used as it is very close to the A46 and potentially a hazardous place to stand in icy conditions.
The Parish Council expressed gratitude to Peter Brown who cleared areas of the village last winter.
A note will be placed in the Woodchester Word Christmas edition to remind residents to please use the grit on highways, but to use it sparingly and not on private driveways.
- 2018/105 To discuss how the Parish Council might encourage the extension of Neighbourhood Watch coverage in the village.**
A Neighbourhood Watch group has been operating in Lawns Park for some time. With a few reported incidents of vandalism and theft in the village in recent years, Councillors agreed it would be beneficial to encourage neighbours to look out for one another possibly through a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Councillors agreed that Cllr. McNealey take the lead to approach people in the village and communicate with the relevant authorities.
- 2018/106 To review and approve the Grant Awarding Policy.**
After looking at examples from other Parish Councils, the Policy was re-written and is now more focused. Grant applications will be considered once a year after the closing date of 31st May for projects which benefit residents of Woodchester. This will be advertised in the preceding edition of the Woodchester Word and a copy of the policy will be made available on the website.
The policy was approved by Councillors and signed by Cllr. Hamilton.
- 2018/107 To approve a Privacy Policy.**
This now complies with GDPR and was approved by Councillors, signed by Cllr. Hamilton.
- 2018/108 To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.**
The 'cycle path' from Paul's Rise to Station Road was promised a second cut in August. This has not happened. The clerk will contact Public Rights of Way to chase this.
Severn Trent are due to install a new water main through the village. Several footpaths will be closed during this time. Those which are more likely to affect residents run from Selsley Common across Castle Cottage to Water Lane. It is anticipated that although the Parish Council have been told the closures will apply

for six months between September and February 2019, each footpath will only be affected whilst Severn Trent are working on that section of pipe.

Cllr. Dunbar gave an update on road safety. Five recommendations had been previously agreed by Councillors. The first three of these were:

1. To seek to have a 20mph speed limit on Selsley Road from above Lawns Park junction to the bottom of Selsley Road with a view to then extend this to other areas of the village.
 2. To seek to extend the 30mph speed limit south through the Parish.
 3. To consider options to enforce existing or new speed limits within the Parish.
- The first two recommendations will require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which will cost in the region of £15,000, a sum of money beyond funding by the Parish Council.

In collaboration with representatives from Rodborough and Whiteshill Parish Councils, a meeting is due to be arranged for early October by the three parishes to invite other neighbouring parishes, the Highways Manager, local MP to look for support for these projects and to spread the cost of a TRO.

It is understood that a change of contractor for Gloucestershire Highways, due to take place early next year will see a significant reduction in the cost of TROs.

Cllr. Hamilton agreed to attend the meeting with Cllr. Dunbar and members of the Highways and Rights of Way Committee if available.

2018/109 To receive an update from the Events Committee.

The Village Fete will take place on Saturday the 8th September at 1pm and Carols will be arranged for December.

2018/110 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

Cllr. Dunbar responded to a question concerning progress with the Rooksmoor development stating that the owners are in the process of agreeing conditions set by Stroud District Council and plan now to start work in January 2019, to complete in 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

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

Initials.....