

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 4th July, 2019 in the Village Hall at 7pm

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

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

2019/83 To receive apologies for absence.

An apology was received from County Councillor Steve Robinson.

2019/84 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

As the owner of a neighbouring property, Cllr. Hamilton declared an interest in any decision relating to the future of the pond off Church Lane.

2019/85 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 6th June, 2019.

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

2019/86 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

There were no questions from members of the public.

2019/87 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received. Councillors agreed to discuss several issues which had come to light in recent days, and which would ideally be discussed before the next meeting in September.

Tree on the Bike Trails - Advice was sought from a qualified tree surgeon on a goat willow tree within the grounds of the Bike Trails which had recently lost two branches. A crack remains in the tree which has weakened it and therefore it was suggested the best solution would be to fell the tree. A quote for this work had been provided and was agreed by Councillors. The Parish Council maintenance contractor had agreed to cut up and remove the wood free of charge, but a charge will be made to shred the brush. An assessment will need to be made once the work is complete as to whether the surface of the track requires repair, in which case the tracks may need to remain closed until that work is complete.

Invoice for work carried out by Leyhill - Leyhill carried out some work in the village during April and May. The Parish Council requested they clear the stretch between Bird's Crossing and Station Road. Initially the men cleared an area further north, but came back to complete the work initially requested. An invoice had been received for work for two days, totalling £374.20. Councillors agreed that although they are always very pleased with the work carried out by Leyhill, the Parish Council would only pay for the work they requested. The clerk will contact SDC.

The pond, Church Lane - Following a meeting with Helen Richards of the GRCC, the Parish Council were put in touch with a contact at SDC in Property Ownership. Unfortunately she was unable to offer advice on liability relating to land for which ownership is not claimed. Councillors agreed that to seek independent legal advice would be expensive and not in the best interests of residents. Cllr. Hamilton will liaise with residents of Lawns Park to discuss future maintenance of the pond.

Initials.....

Fly tipping - An incident of fly tipping had occurred on the cycle path south of Pauls Rise. The Neighbourhood Warden bagged up some of the material, which was subsequently removed, but asked for assistance from the Parish Council and residents to clear the remaining garden waste.

Councillors discussed the issue and believed the material may have been removed very recently.

However, they agreed the clerk draft a letter for circulation to neighbouring properties explaining that there had been an incident locally, making it clear that fly tipping is an offence and providing the telephone number of the Neighbourhood Warden to report any future incidents. The letter will also make it clear that the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Warden very much welcome residents being prepared to take some responsibility for tidying the area in which they live.

They agreed a note be placed in the Woodchester Word to similar effect and that the clerk contact the Neighbourhood Warden to coordinate a response with help from Councillors and residents if required.

An overgrown hedge on the corner of Selsley Road and Church Road was raised as an issue. The clerk will write to the owners and ask that it's cut back, particularly as sight lines from Church Road are affected.

2019/88 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

Reports had not been received.

2019/89 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

2019/90 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

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

Cllr. Hamilton reminded Councillors that expenses such as paper etc. could be claimed.

2019/91 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

A single storey extension at 16 Southbank had also been granted approval.

The application for Hillgrove House will not be presented to the Development Control Committee as the application received an insufficient number of objections.

2019/92 To agree further action following a presentation on Neighbourhood Watch given in June.

Following the presentation in June, an article had been placed in the Woodchester Word. A reminder will be placed on the website and Facebook page asking residents to come forward for more information if interested. A reminder will also be placed in the next edition of the Woodchester Word.

2019/93 To discuss feedback on consultation from the Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) regarding potential reduction of speed limits within the village and on the A46 and to agree recommendations for the SDRSG.

Cllr. Dunbar reported 16 Parish Councils now having signed up to associate membership of the SDRSG. Funding from this, together with match-funding from Gloucestershire Highways will purchase two mobile ANPR cameras for use by those Parish Councils who are part of the scheme.

A definitive list of 40 sites has now been prepared to go forward to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for reduction in speed limits.

Residents of Woodchester were consulted through the Woodchester Word on a proposal to reduce speed limits within the village to 20mph and on the A46 to 30mph.

75 responses were received with a very high level of support, particularly for 20mph within the village.

Initials.....

Councillors agreed therefore to support the application.

The results from Woodchester will be sent to Gloucestershire Highways for feedback and it's hoped it can then be used as a template for the other sites in the District.

The process of applying for a multi-site TRO is expected to take a considerable length of time.

Companies are currently working to manufacture ANPR cameras at a much lower cost than at present. This could then make them much more affordable to smaller councils, allowing persistent offenders to be identified and followed-up by the Police.

2019/94 To agree any additions to the annual maintenance contact.

This was discussed. Councillors agreed a list of jobs throughout the village. The clerk will meet with the maintenance contractor to discuss a quote for the extra work.

2019/95 To agree a list of work for Lengthsmen.

A resident was thanked for the work she had done on clearing some land at Frogmarsh. Work for Lengthsmen was discussed. Councillors agreed they be asked to clear the soil recently removed from 'the triangle' at Frogmarsh, clear the southern corner of the layby on the A46, as soil has encroached on the pavement forcing pedestrians to walk in the road, and to clear the path north of the A46 layby which has become overgrown.

2019/96 To agree priorities for CIL funding.

Residents had been asked for their priorities through the Woodchester Word, but no responses had been received. Suggestions from Councillors included refurbishing road signs in the village and installing a kissing gate on the footpath from Park Lane to Woodchester Valley Village. Councillors agreed to email the clerk with any other ideas before the meeting in September, when a list of priorities would be agreed.

2019/97 To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.

Work had been carried out to widen the 'cycle path' at Inchbrook.

Water Lane remains closed to vehicles.

Cllr. Warnes reiterated the importance of the footpath between north and south Woodchester remaining open whilst work is being carried out by Severn Trent Water, as it is widely used by parents as a route to and from the Endowed School.

2018/98 To receive an update from the Events Committee.

The Village Fete and Produce Show will take place on the 14th September.

2018/99 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

Cllr. Dunbar was thanked for his work as Chair of the SDRSG.

Concern was raised that in refusing to pay Leyhill for the additional work they carried out, it may affect their decision to carry out future work in the village. Cllr. Hamilton clarified that the error had been SDC's and not the Parish Council's.

A resident who had been part of a group who worked to clear the river bank at Millpond End explained that they had considerable assistance from SDC in removing the waste. He suggested it be worth mentioning this to residents as part of a note about fly tipping. Councillors agreed to include this in correspondence and in the Woodchester Word.

It was also pointed out that residents should be encouraged to use a licensed waste carrier if they are looking to pay for removal of waste from their property. There have been cases of unlicensed waste carriers fly tipping for which the owner of that waste is then liable.

Concern was raised by residents of the duration traffic lights will be required on the A46 for the development of Rooksmoor Mills, having a negative impact both through the village and on Rooksmoor Hill. The clerk will contact the Local Highways Officer to ask about mitigation and signage.

Initials.....

Rats have been reported in and around Lawns Park and Church Lane. It is believed they may have been disturbed as the Rooksmoor Mills site was cleared. A representative from SDC's Environmental Health Department had recently visited the area.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

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

Initials.....