

# Woodchester Parish Council

Clerk: Ann Bijkerk

'Hillside', Manor Drive, North Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 5NU

Telephone: 01453 873456

E-mail: clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk

Website: www.woodchesterparish.org.uk

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## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm**

### **Present**

Councillor Hamilton (Chair)

Councillors Baldauf, Dunbar, McNealey and Warnes

Neighbourhood Warden, Dominic Everiss

District Councillor, Philip McAsey

11 members of the public

Clerk, Ann Bijkerk

### **Welcome**

Cllr. Hamilton welcomed all those present to the meeting.

### **Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 11th May, 2017**

Cllr. Baldauf proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record of the business transacted, seconded by a resident. The minutes were signed as a true record by Cllr. Hamilton.

### **Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Baynham-Honri and Lead and County Councillor Steve Robinson.

### **Presentation of the Village Annual Report**

Cllr. Hamilton began by summarising the Parish Council report, outlining the key issues coming to the attention of the Parish Council over the past year.

Planning issues were dominated by the Rooksmoor Development which has now been approved by Stroud District Council (SDC). Once development begins, a group with representation from residents and the Parish Council will be set-up to liaise with developers.

Much has been done to look at traffic and road safety issues led by Cllr. Dunbar and the Highways and Rights of Way (HROW) Committee. A report on this work followed.

Cllr. Hamilton also summarised other issues including that of drainage, grit bins, dog fouling and finance.

The Village Report contains a full report from the Parish Council as well as village groups and organisations.

Cllr. Warnes spoke about issues of Rights of Way, particularly the 'cycle path' which currently has no official designation. A proposal to make the 'cycle path' a bridleway is being considered by Gloucestershire Rights of Way. The Parish Council have not yet been consulted, but have some concern that the status of a bridleway would see cyclists, who at the moment share the track on equal terms with other users, having to give way to horse riders and pedestrians.

Initials.....

Residents expressed concern about the narrowness of some stretches of the path and the possibility that horses would cause a greater amount of deterioration to the surface of the track and therefore in trying to cater for all uses, the benefit may be spoilt for two out of the three groups.

One view was that it would give horses a safer environment and hopefully different groups of users would respect one another.

A request was made, should the proposal go ahead, for signage to ask that cyclists give way to other users.

Concern was also expressed about the lack of maintenance to trees in the village which have become clad in ivy and as a result have lost their shape. A lack of any tree maintenance program by GCC has meant that deterioration has occurred, causing a number of trees to fall in windy or snowy conditions.

***Cllr. McAsey arrived at 7.30pm.***

Cllr. Dunbar then gave a presentation on the Traffic and Road Safety Survey, the full report of which is available on the village website.

The HROW Committee had begun this process by outlining the existing issues within the village and then looked to collect data to inform those decisions.

A traffic flow survey was carried out in Selsley Road just below the Village Shop, where an estimated 3,500 vehicles passed in a 24hour period.

Traffic Speed Surveys were carried out on Selsley Road in three locations. Lower down the hill there was found to be very little speeding, only at the top was there more of an issue, but still the majority of vehicles were travelling below 30mph.

A pedestrian survey outside the Village Shop recorded approximately 300 crossings per day.

Surveys of traffic flow and speed on the A46 gave a weekday average of almost 15,000 vehicles, a 20% increase on a similar survey in 2012.

The percentage exceeding the speed limit was only 0.29%, a significant drop from 2012 when 3.2% were found to be travelling above 40mph.

Councillors concluded that the main issue therefore is not the speed of vehicles (although there are individual cases of vehicles traveling too quickly), but the volume of traffic using our roads.

Following these surveys, five proposals agreed by the HROW Committee were put to the Full Council and have been approved.

### **1. Selsley Road Speed Limit**

The Parish Council may seek to have a 20mph speed limit introduced on Selsley Road from above the Lawns Park junction down to the bottom of Selsley Road at the A46. We believe that this will reduce the risk to the high volume of pedestrians crossing Selsley Road to access the village shop and Post Office, and reduce the likelihood of accidents on the bends around the Church Lane junction. The 20 mph speed limit should also be extended to Southfield Road, Church Road, South Woodchester High Street and Frogmarsh Lane to the A46, Convent Lane and St Mary's Hill.

### **2. A46 Speed Limit**

The Parish Council may seek to extend the 30mph speed limit south through the Parish, for the various reason discussed in section 5, and to implement an enforcement program, the nature of which requires further discussion.

Initials.....

### **3. Enforcement**

The Parish Council may wish to consider various options to enforce existing or new speed limits within the Parish, including:

- a. a Community Speed Watch program
- b. installation of an ANPR Speed Camera on the A46, which might be linked with the Rodborough cameras for average speed monitoring, in order to encourage compliance with the proposed 30mph speed limit on this route
- c. installation of Radar Speed Signs which indicate to motorists their speed and whether they are within the speed limit.

### **4. Frogmarsh Mill**

Councillors have agreed that a letter will be sent to businesses operating at the site to ask that they remind customers to be mindful of the requirement for access by heavy goods vehicles when parking. We will also produce signs to be placed on windscreens of offending vehicles. The clerk will contact the Neighbourhood Warden to make him aware of the issue and ask that he intervenes when possible. The P.C.S.O. should be contacted when a vehicle is causing an obstruction.

### **5. HGV Signage**

The Parish Council should request GCC Highways Department to improve the signage at the bottom of Selsley Road making it clear that the road is not suitable for large HGV's and highlighting the weight limit on the bridge.

Residents were asked for their opinion on priorities for these proposals and agreed on reducing speed limits, firstly in the village and then the A46.

Other suggestions were made which included installing a pavement on the upper part of Selsley Road. Erosion of the edge of the road and the white lines has made walking on this stretch feel more dangerous.

The question was raised as to why the traffic lights on the A46 have a delay before the light turns amber. The Parish Council will aim to find out the reason for a delay, which is probably linked to driver reaction times.

The introduction of Quiet Lanes was suggested which may help to create a feeling of being in the countryside and the need to be respectful of children and animals on the road. The suggestion was made that the introduction of white lines, although they may help solve a problem, may detract from the beautiful setting we have in Woodchester, which we should look to preserve.

Temporary signs were thought to be much more effective than those which remain in place for a prolonged period. It was suggested local schools might be involved in designing signs which could then be changed as the need arose.

The HROW Committee will consider all these suggestions when putting together an action plan.

A presentation was then given on the issue of plastic waste in the village which through the Nailsworth Brook could find its way to the sea, as well as creating visual pollution on our footpaths, roads and fields.

The last fifty years has seen a huge increase in the amount of plastic we use and it has become common to see it littering our environment.

Initials.....

The Parish Council were asked for their backing to support measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste by targeting various audiences such as schools, businesses, local groups and the Village Shop to help.

A larger number of litter picks was suggested in target areas to help raise awareness amongst business owners, farmers etc. to support them in making a start in reducing the problem.

The Parish Council agreed to give their support through the HROW Committee and the ideas were very much welcomed by those attending the meeting.

It was agreed that the speaker attend a HROW meeting to draw up an action plan and an article be written for publication in the Woodchester Word.

A representative from the Priory Church of the Annunciation gave an overview of the last year.

The pipe organ has been re-housed in a church in Eastern Slovakia, allowing the West door to be open at Easter for the first time in thirty years. The additional space is being used to serve refreshments. The Church will be taking part in the Nailsworth in Bloom event; members have enjoyed other events this year such as a pancake morning and pilgrimage to Ireland.

Cllr. Hamilton thanked the Church for their part in organising the rededication of the Wayside Cross in June, which was a dignified and moving event.

**Thanks and close**

Cllr. Hamilton thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

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

Initials.....