

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 4th June, 2020 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: The clerk and one member of the public.

- 2020/43 To receive apologies for absence.**
There were no apologies for absence.
- 2020/44 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
- 2020/45 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**
There were no members of the public present at this stage of the meeting.
- 2020/46 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th March, 2020.**
These were confirmed as a true record. It was agreed they be signed when the Council next meet in person.
- 2020/47 To note the latest financial statements.**
These were noted.
The clerk confirmed that paperwork for 2019/20 had been sent to the internal auditor. The opening balance for 2020/21 was £27,062.
The VAT refund for 2019/20 for £192.55 had been received as had the first half of the precept for 2020/21.
The clerk expressed some concern that there was currently very little in the Woodchester Word account, not enough to cover printing of the next edition, although money for advertising was due to come in. The clerk will endeavour to ensure these payments are received before the next edition is printed.
- 2020/48 To approve expenditure and approve cheques.**
Expenditure was approved.
- 2020/49 To note the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as external auditor.**
This was noted.
- 2020/50 To review the Asset Register.**
This was reviewed and approved.
- 2020/51 To review Standing Orders.**
These were reviewed and approved.
- 2020/52 To discuss the issue of 'wild swimming' at Woodchester Park and agree a course of action.**
A member of the public joined the meeting.
The National Trust had recently met and agreed measures to discourage unauthorised entry. It was agreed these were positive measures, but that unfortunately their impact would be limited. The recent issuing of parking tickets by the Police was agreed a positive step.

Initials.....

Councillors agreed Cllr. Lead draft a letter from the Parish Council for residents to use in correspondence with Gloucestershire Highways, the Police and the National Trust when parking issues arise. More specific information could be added relating to a particular incident, the resident's experiences, as well as photographic evidence. It was agreed a copy of the letter be sent to local residents, St. Dominic's School, Woodchester Valley Village, the Vineyard and Catholic Church. This letter could be emailed at any time to ensure the authorities are fully aware of the situation. It was agreed that a media campaign by the National Trust might have a positive impact, although alerting people to the existence of the lakes could lead to a larger number of visitors.

A member of the public questioned the National Trust's level of concern as signs have been very small and access is very easy. The message is not getting across to visitors with the use of small, polite signs.

Due to technical issues with the meeting platform the meeting was temporarily adjourned for a few minutes. The member of the public did not return.

Cllr. Lead agreed to draft a letter for distribution.

2020/53 To authorise the clerk to renew the council's insurance policy with Zurich for the third year of a three year long-term agreement.

It was agreed the clerk renew the insurance policy.

2020/54 To receive an update on the work of the Community Outreach Group, supporting vulnerable members of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. To agree any further course of action.

The clerk had distributed a summary of the work of the Community Outreach Group prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed the newspaper delivery continue for at least a couple of months and be reviewed again then.

2020/55 To discuss and agree a response to Stroud District Council's consultation on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) relating to dogs.

Councillors unanimously agreed on the retention of PSPOs 1-3 relating to the removal of dog faeces on public land, putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an officer of the Council and excluding dogs from recreational facilities.

The majority of Councillors agreed that PSPO4 should be amended to remove the need for dogs to be on leads on cycle paths and canal towpaths, although it was agreed that there needs to be better education for all users to encourage respect and understanding. The clerk will send a response to Stroud District Council.

2020/56 To discuss provision for recreation in the village and agree any further action.

It was agreed that any discussion be postponed until later in the year.

2020/57 To consider and agree funding for any grant applications.

The closing date for applications was the end of May; one application had been received. However the opportunity to apply for a grant had only been advertised in the Woodchester Word, which due to the COVID-19 pandemic had not been distributed to each household, but just on the website. Therefore Councillors were concerned that organisations may not have been aware that grant funding was available. Councillors agreed to postpone any decision until September. The clerk will advertise the grant application process on the website, Facebook and notice boards, as well as through the Woodchester Word, should the next edition be published within this time frame.

2020/58 To receive a report from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.

Cllr. Warnes gave a report from the Highways and Rights of Way committee meeting which had taken place on the 2nd June.

Initials.....

Councillors agreed with recommendations to remove the '20 is plenty' signage from the village and priorities for funding, namely HGV and 'vulnerable pedestrian' signage for Selsley Road, 'Welcome to Woodchester' signs/gateways and the resurfacing of the bottom of Bospin Lane.

2020/59 To receive an update from the Events Committee.

Events have had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. The Parish Council expressed thanks to Georgie Brooks who had organised a team to carry out a collection for Stroud Foodbank. Nineteen crates of food were collected.

2020/60 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

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

Initials.....