

# Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Highways and Rights of Way Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Present: Cllrs. Warnes, Dunbar and McNealey.

In attendance: The clerk and one member of the public

**2020/01 To receive apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2020/02 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

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

**2020/03 To confirm the minutes of the Highways and Rights of Way Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020.**

These were confirmed as a true record.

**2021/04 To discuss litter, 'The 5 Valleys Wombles' and proposals to set up a District wide 'litter task force' and to agree a course of action.**

Cllr McNealey circulated the terms of reference for the recently formed Five Valleys Litter Task Force prior to the meeting. Cllrs stressed the importance of the role of SDC in the Task Force and commented that it may be difficult to make much progress prior to the local elections in May. Cllrs also pointed out that the assumption that there were no legal implications attached might not be correct and that the task force might need to look into public liability insurance for their activities. Cllr McNealey reported that she expected an approach to our Parish from representatives of the task force soon.  
*It was agreed to include this as an agenda item on the PC meeting in March.*

**2021/05 To discuss highways issues to include flooding and resurfacing and agree a course of action.**

Cllr McNealey updated the committee that the problem of the Rooksmoor bus stop being removed was ongoing and that Gloucestershire Highways planned a site visit, but it had been delayed by COVID-19.

Cllr McNealey also updated the committee that flooding was an ongoing issue on the A46 at Rooksmoor. She reported that Paul Helbrow had stated that in addition to the drains getting blocked with debris, heavy rain can overwhelm the drainage system as it wasn't designed to take the recent high volumes of water. Glos Highways plan another site visit and the drains are due to be cleansed in the new financial year. Cllr McNealey pointed out that the drains soon block again after being cleared out and that Rooksmoor Hill has not been swept for a long time and is covered in debris.

*It was agreed the Clerk should ask highways to sweep Rooksmoor Hill.*

Cllrs Warnes and McNealey updated the committee on Water Lane flooding, agreeing that while not perfect, the road is now passable and the water will drain away after heavy rainfall as long as the culvert is kept clear.

**2021/06 To discuss '20 is plenty' scheme and 'village gates' and agree recommendations to Parish Council.**

Cllr Dunbar reported that the '20 is plenty signs' were looking tatty and suggested that they be removed. He also requested that agreed research into 'village gates' be progressed (finding specifications, sources and costings).

Initials.....

*It was agreed Cllr Dunbar would remove the 20 is plenty signs and liaise with the Clerk to progress research into 'village gates'.*

Cllr McNealey reported that there is a plan to resurface Selsley Road in the next financial year. Cllrs agreed this would be a good opportunity to ensure road markings are reinstated and perhaps to add other road safety features.

*Cllrs agreed to meet for a walk along Selsley Road (once government restrictions allow) to discuss their requirements.*

**2021/07**

**To receive an update on 'Cycle Path' improvements; bridge resurfacing.**

Cllr Warnes reported that during planned resurfacing work of the bridge between Birds Crossing and Pauls Rise engineers discovered that substantial bearers were rotten. Alan Bentley at Gloucestershire Highways has estimated 6 weeks to source the parts and hopes to have engineers back on site late March or early April. Until then the section needs to be closed for public safety. Cllrs expressed concern about pedestrians/cyclists getting lost when finding a route round.

*It was agreed the Clerk should contact Gloucestershire Highways to ask for a diversion to be signed via Southfield Road, and for two triangular 'pedestrians in the road' signs to be provided.*

Cllr Warnes reported that the last sections of resurfacing on the 'cycle track' (at Rooksmoor and Frogmarch) will be completed once the barrier is removed from the back of the Rooksmoor development and it is deemed safe to do so.

**2021/08**

**To discuss flooding and general maintenance of mountain bike trails and agree a course of action**

Cllr Dunbar reported that the mountain biking trail may be more flooded than previous years due to the drainage system (which carried water from the trails down to the stream) being blocked by activity at the Rooksmoor development. Cllr Dunbar also reported that the four volunteers who look after the mountain bike trails were continuing to inspect weekly and empty the bins. The tree work requested by Rooksmoor Mills has also now been completed.

*It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Tony Cooper at the development to raise the issue of the blocked drain.*

**2021/09**

**To discuss the condition of local rights of way and agree a course of action.**

Cllr Warnes said a resident has raised the issue of Boundary Court being very muddy due to the cattle.

*It was agreed Cllr Warnes would contact the National Trust ranger (Max Dancer) to see if there is anything he can suggest.*

**2021/10**

**To receive an update on the 'Don't lose your way' initiative.**

Nothing new to report

**2021/11**

**To receive an update on the 'Gloucestershire Stone Stiles' project**

Cllr Warnes now has an up-to-date record of the stone styles in the Parish.

**2021/12**

**To receive any comments from members of the public.**

A member of the public commented that some residents are finding the catches on the gates in Boundary Court very stiff, Cllr Warnes commented that the gates from Water Lane across the field to 'Castle Cottage' are the same.

*It was agreed the Clerk would contact Severn Trent to see if anything could be done.*

The meeting closed at 11.11 am

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

Initials.....