

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 10th January, 2019 in the Village Hall at 7pm

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

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

2019/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from District Councillor Philip McAsey and County Councillor Steve Robinson.

2019/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2019/3 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

A question was raised concerning the closure of footpaths by Severn Trent Water. Details on this were given later in the meeting.

2019/4 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1st November, 2018.

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

2019/5 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

Cllr. McAsey was not able to attend the meeting, but had sent through a report earlier in the day.

The application for The Ram was removed from the agenda for the Development Control Committee (DCC) meeting on the 8th January following very little notice having been given to either the applicant or objectors. Cllr. McAsey suggested that as he is not able to represent objectors when the application is discussed, that the Parish Council approach another Councillor to make that representation.

Councillors were unhappy at the very short notice given by Stroud District Council (SDC) for the Ram application to be discussed by the DCC. It was agreed Cllr. Hamilton draft a letter to the Chief Executive of SDC, copied to the Planning Department outlining the concerns.

There had been concern raised by a resident over the condition of Culver Hill following work by Severn Trent Water. They are due to carry out work on Selsley Road as part of the same scheme. Cllr. McAsey suggested a photographic survey of the route be carried out prior to work commencing.

Cllr. McAsey also asked that residents be reminded of the wassail taking place on SWALT land on the 20th January at 4pm.

2019/6 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

The clerk outlined the agreement from Severn Trent to give at least a week's notice of footpath closures particularly on the footpath between north and south Woodchester and explained that although the closure notice takes effect from January, work is not expected to begin until April, 2019.

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Councillors agreed that any photographs of the route of the new water main before Severn Trent commence should be carried out professionally by Gloucestershire Highways should they be required in a court of law.

A wall has collapsed in Church Lane near to the pond. The Land Registry have no record of ownership of the land or pond. Maintenance work was carried out by residents of Lawns Park around the pond several years ago. There was a suggestion the Parish Council take on the piece of land as a recreational area.

In the meantime it was agreed that Cllr. Dunbar source a quote to temporarily repair the wall.

Cllr. Hamilton will draft a letter to Historic England, copied to the owners of the Old Priory, asking for their view on the historic importance of the site.

The clerk reported the resignation of Neighbourhood Warden Dominic Everiss. Councillors expressed their disappointment and were appreciative of the support given to the Parish during his time in the role. SDC are currently seeking a replacement.

The clerk had received notification that Minchinhampton's Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to SDC.

The clerk had recently taken Parish documents to Gloucestershire Archives.

2019/7 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

2019/8 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

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

2019/9 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

2019/10 To approve a quote for village maintenance 2019/20.

Ian Smith submitted a quote for £2,000, the same figure as 2018/19, which was agreed by Councillors.

2019/11 To note and agree the recommendations of the Finance Committee for the budget and precept requirement for 2019/20.

A budget of £13,360 was provisionally set by the Finance Committee, with a precept requirement of £12,000 (a 4.3% increase on 2018/19). It was agreed the shortfall be taken from reserves.

The budget for 2019/20 is £545 higher than that set in 2018/19, mainly due to a new grant scheme with an agreed potential donation of £500.

Councillors discussed maintenance within the village and agreed it is becoming increasingly difficult for Gloucestershire Highways to carry out the work on their limited budget. Therefore Councillors agreed to the Parish Council taking on more responsibility for the general upkeep of roadside verges within the village. It was agreed Cllr. Hamilton and the clerk meet with Ian Smith and colleague to discuss extending the contract to take in other areas. The maintenance budget was increased in 2018/19 to allow for work by Leyhill. It was agreed the budget remain at the same level for 2019/20.

These recommendations were agreed by Councillors.

2019/12 To agree recommendations of the Finance Committee on the introduction of internet banking.

The recommendation to apply for internet banking was agreed by Councillors.

2019/13 To discuss the Stroud District Local Plan Review: Emerging Strategy Public Consultation and agree a response.

Initials.....

This was discussed and it was agreed the clerk submit a response which reiterates that 'alternative sites' as outlined on p.58 of the document are, as explained in a conversation with SDC, not considered appropriate by the Parish Council for development.

2019/14 To discuss creating a 'Visit Woodchester' website to promote local attractions and businesses and to agree a course of action.

The idea of a website solely to promote attractions and businesses in the village had come about as work was being done to try to secure the replica of the Orpheus Pavement. This would have enabled attractions such as the replica, Woodchester Mansion and Park, the site of the original pavement etc. to have had an equal platform to reach potential visitors.

As plans to purchase the replica Orpheus Pavement have now reached a standstill, Councillors agreed that at present there is no need to consider a new website, particularly as a large increase in visitor numbers could put even greater strain on narrow lanes within the village. It was suggested that any events and attractions could be promoted through SDC or the existing website.

2019/15 To agree a date for the Litter Pick.

It was agreed the litter pick would take place on the 24th March. The clerk will ensure this is advertised nearer the time.

2019/16 To receive a report from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee to include a report from the Stroud District Road Safety Group.

23 Town and Parish Councils are currently actively involved in The Stroud District Road Safety Group, whose committee of 15 is now meeting monthly. Three projects have been initiated which aim to:

- Identify areas in local towns and villages where speed limits are felt to be inappropriate. An application will then be made for a multi-site TRO to reduce limits.
- Look at enforcement of both existing and revised speed limits by means such as VASs and ANPR cameras with potential funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Identify sections of roads in villages and towns where road users are vulnerable and look to improve the situation where possible

The section of road at the top of Bospin Lane, part of the Leawood House estate, is gradually eroding. It is used mainly by service vehicles to turn and has little use other than that. A discussion took place with the owner about resurfacing and it's been agreed that the situation is monitored for the time being.

With regard to Rights of Way, the hedge on the cycle path between Bird's Crossing and Station Road has still not been cut. The clerk will follow this up.

There has been no work to repair Water Lane which remains closed.

Footpath closures as a result of work by Severn Trent Water are expected to take place from April. A representative for the company has assured the Parish Council that pedestrian access will remain open wherever safe to do so and signage will go up in advance of closures. The clerk will remind Severn Trent of these assurances nearer the time.

2019/17 To discuss and agree a response for the Stroud District Road Safety Group which has asked Parish Councils to nominate any areas with inappropriate speed limits.

Councillors agreed to nominate all roads within the village for a reduction to 20mph and an extension of 30mph on the A46 between Rodborough and Nailsworth.

Initials.....

- 2019/18 To discuss maintenance of gulleys on Frogmarsh Lane.**
 A proportion of the gully on Frogmarsh Lane was cleared in December by the Leyhill team who organised the removal of waste from the site. The remainder was cleared, it is believed by Gloucestershire Highways (GH) who dumped the material onto the bank. The landowner is not happy that material has been dumped on his land. It was agreed the clerk approach GH to clarify if the work was carried out by their contractor and subsequently then to ask that the material is removed from the bank and taken away.
 The gully is now clear and Councillors agreed to look to extend Ian Smith's contract to include upkeep of the gully here and in other parts of the village. This will be discussed with Ian Smith and his colleague.
- 2019/19 To discuss and agree a list of priorities to put to County Councillor Robinson for Highways Local funding and Lengthsmen work.**
 Several areas were agreed as being in need of maintenance, namely the bottom of St. Mary's Hill, the top of Selsley Road to Boundary Court, Church Road through Southbank down to the junction with Southfield Road. The 30mph road markings on Selsley Road have become very faint. The previous Highways Manager agreed to look at re-painting these.
 The clerk will approach Cllr. Robinson with a list of priorities for spending.
- 2019/20 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**
 Carol singing in the village saw a good turn-out despite the poor weather. Open Gardens and a 'meet your neighbours' lunch are being considered for this year.
- 2019/21 To receive a report from the Orpheus Group.**
 Despite three months of hard work by members of the group, the village has not been successful in purchasing the replica. Despite three independent experts giving valuations in the region of £100,000, the owner wanted £550,000. The group submitted a maximum bid of £150,000 which was turned down. As a result the group has now disbanded.
 Cllr. Hamilton thanked Cllr. Dunbar for the work he had done, as well as that of other members.
- 2019/22 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
 A comment was made that many vehicles are perceived to be speeding along Southfield Road, particularly at the start and end of the school day.
 There is a stretch of pavement at the bottom of Paul's Rise, which is covered in moss and has become a hazard. The clerk will report this to GH.
 A resident asked whether any information had been received on the development of Rooksmoor Mills. The applicants are currently working to discharge conditions before they can begin work. It is hoped that the applicants will attend the next Parish Council meeting to report on progress.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Initials.....

Initials.....