

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 14th November, 2019 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Lead, Baldauf and Warnes.

In attendance: The clerk, County Councillor Steve Robinson, Mayor of Nailsworth Cllr. Jonathan Duckworth and five members of the public.

2019/117 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hamilton, Baynham-Honri, McNealey and Dunbar and District Councillor Phil McAsey.

2019/118 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

The issue of Councillors declaring interests had been raised at the recent Highways and Rights of Way meeting. The clerk clarified that there is a requirement for Councillors to declare only pecuniary interests.

2019/119 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5th September, 2019.

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

2019/120 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

A member of the public questioned whether it is a condition of planning consent for the Rooksmoor Mills development that a lorry wash is on site to prevent mud being tracked onto the A46. Councillors agreed the clerk follow this up.

A resident expressed concern that current works on the A46 to lay fibre optic cables, will, once they move further north, create more traffic through the village as drivers avoid the traffic lights. Councillors were unsure as to whether the work will continue that far north. Convent Lane and St. Mary's Hill are due to be covered with this phase of work, but Councillors were not aware the work would extend any further. The clerk will seek clarification.

A resident sought reassurance that the 'cycle path' will be left in a tidy state after contractors have completed their work. Councillors agreed the clerk follow this up with a request to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).

2019/121 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received. In addition to that recorded in the clerk's report:

- Southbank Development - Contractors have been on site at Southbank for three weeks. Construction vehicles are leaving mud on the road and pavement. The clerk will follow this up with Stroud District Council (SDC).
- The Ram - Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead and the clerk met with Mr. McAsey on the 4th October (not the 14th as stated in the meeting). He had previously offered the Parish Council a 12 month period to purchase the pub when it came up for sale. A community group then sought to gain Community Asset status, which gives a six month period to make an offer for purchase. It was agreed the Parish

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Council, although supportive of actions towards the community acquiring the pub, cannot be financially involved.

- St. Dominic's School – Funding is secure until August 2020; beyond this the situation is still unknown. With communication from Governors being less than positive, it has been inevitable that dwindling numbers have further declined since recent communication. It was agreed the clerk draft a letter of support to be sent to GCC.

2019/122 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

No report had been received from District Councillor McAsey.

County Councillor Steve Robinson had attended the recent information meeting at St. Dominic's School, where there were representatives from the Catholic Diocese of Bristol, GCC, staff, Governors and parents. Parents requested that funding is sought for at least another academic year in order to continue to build on the improvements which have been made over the last year. It is the responsibility of GCC to ensure places are found for children should the school face closure; despite some local schools being full, an appeal by parents may lead to a place being provided.

Due to a local issue regarding Blue Badge applications, residents of Stroud District will be given three months leeway to allow for a delay in the application process.

2019/123 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

2019/124 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

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

2019/125 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

2019/126 To discuss and agree priorities for snow ploughing in the village.

Councillors agreed the priority for snow ploughing is to keep school runs and access to the Village Shop as clear as possible. As ploughed snow needs to be pushed to the side of the road, it must be wide enough to accommodate this. Other issues for the snow plough operator include parked cars and steep gradients. Councillors also agreed that residents should be encouraged to use self-help to clear local roads, but that they be reminded the grit is not for use on private driveways.

2019/127 To agree dates for Parish Council meetings in 2020.

These were agreed as January 9th, March 5th, May 21st, June 4th, July 2nd, September 3rd and November 5th. The clerk will book the Village Hall for those dates and once confirmed, will publicise them.

2019/128 To discuss and agree content for the Christmas edition of the Woodchester Word.

This meeting was followed by a meeting to discuss the sale of The Ram. Therefore as time was limited, Councillors agreed this be discussed and agreed by email.

2019/129 To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.

A meeting was held with Principal Public Rights of Way Officer Alan Bently on the 29th October. He clarified the process for a bridleway creation order and listened and addressed concerns of residents on GCC's proposal for a bridleway along the 'cycle path' between Nailsworth and Dudbridge.

He confirmed that, following objections raised by the Parish Council, the process is currently on hold. He would like to reach a consensus rather than pursue a more complicated process.

Resurfacing is now complete between Nailsworth and Renishaw, although there has been some damage which might need repair. Funding is now in place to resurface between Selsley Road and Dudbridge. This work is due to take place from late November to early December. Clearance work has begun; the width of the section at Friggs Mill is much improved.

There has been recent flooding to parts of the track, such as the section which floods regularly just north of Pauls Rise.

An engineer's report on the bridge between Pauls Rise and Birds Crossing has not yet been received.

Since being asked by GCC in September and confirming that the hedge between Birds Crossing and Station Road *does* need cutting, particularly at the top, the Parish Council has heard nothing more.

Cllr. Warnes reported that communication with GCC has improved recently, but could still be better.

Cllr. Warnes expressed thanks to Severn Trent who, following a request from the Parish Council, didn't close the 'cycle path' at the same time as the A46 was closed for pipe work.

The Parish Council had been told by Gloucestershire Highways in mid-October that they were in the process of organising a team to complete work to Water Lane to allow it to be re-opened. The Parish Council has heard nothing since.

Signs warning of road closure at the bottom of Selsley Road are still up. The clerk will request they are removed.

Cllr. Warnes has written a response to the articles on stiles for the Woodchester Word.

The Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) are meeting on the 20th November to make a decision on whether or not to pursue a multi-site TRO.

2019/130

To receive an update from the Events Committee.

There were no members of the Events Committee present. The next event is expected to be carol singing through the village.

2019/131

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

After watching contractors resurface part of the 'cycle path' a member of the public looked into the specifications for installation of the Flexi-Pave product, which stated the surface on which the product is laid needs to be dry. He reported having witnessed contractors trying to dry the surface with a burner. If laid incorrectly the product may not bond with the surface and could potentially deteriorate. This could also affect the warranty of the product if manufacturer's instructions were not followed. Councillors agreed the clerk make Alan Bently aware of this concern.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

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

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