

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 1st November, 2018 in the Village Hall at 7pm

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

In attendance: The clerk, County Councillor Steve Robinson and two members of the public.

2018/111 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Lead and McNealey and District Councillor Phillip McAsey.

2018/112 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2018/113 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

Concern was raised that the volume of traffic through the village would be likely to increase significantly when work begins to replace the water main from Culver Hill across the A46.

It was agreed the clerk contact Severn Trent for a schedule of proposed work in the village and plan for traffic control.

2018/114 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 6th September, 2018.

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

2018/115 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

The clerk also reported the closure of Water Lane has now been extended potentially until April, 2019 unless the work is carried out sooner.

Four grit bins have been purchased to replace those in worst condition.

Work to update the website is due to be carried out in December and completed by the beginning of January. The clerk will report back details of the contract in terms of maintenance and updates.

Ian Smith who has carried out the maintenance in the village for many years will continue to offer that service next year, but will then be looking to retire.

The road surface at the top of Bospin Lane has deteriorated leaving loose material which is washed down the hill in heavy rain. Ownership has now been confirmed through the Land Registry. The clerk will draft a letter to the owner.

2018/116 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

This item was discussed following item 2018/111 to allow Cllr. Robinson to leave to attend another meeting.

Cllr. Robinson reported the process of replacing street lighting with LED lights is continuing with the aim to complete the work by the end of the financial year.

However the work is expected to overrun. Lights attached to buildings will be the

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last to be replaced. Should any residents have concerns with the new lights shining into buildings, the County Council are able to fit a guard to reduce brightness. Any minor highways improvements should be reported to Cllr. Robinson by the end of the calendar year, to be completed in 2019/20. Councillors agreed to consider the priorities for the village and report back to Cllr. Robinson.

A survey is due to be carried out to inspect the surface of the A46 from Lightpill to Barton End with a view to possible resurfacing. Cllr. Robinson will report to the Parish Council once this has been carried out.

Pyke's Quarry Recycling Centre is now closed on Wednesdays. Stroud District Council (SDC) are monitoring the situation for fly tipping.

Cllr. Robinson reported donations from the Growing Communities fund of £1,500 to Woodchester Playgroup and £2,000 to the Endowed School for work to their outdoor areas. Kings Stanley Parish Council have also benefited from £2,000 to install information boards on Selsley Common.

Cllr. Robinson was questioned on work due to be carried out as part of the Lengthsmen scheme. The Parish Council had asked that gullies be cleared on Bospin Lane, Rooksmoor Hill, the High Street, Frogmarsh Lane and the northern end of Convent Lane. Work was due to start at the beginning of October, but as yet has not been carried out. The clerk will email Gloucestershire Highways to chase up, copied to Cllr. Robinson.

It was suggested Councillors consider an application to list the brick gullies in the village. The clerk will find out more about the process.

Cllr. Robinson was questioned about any update on consultation of designation of the 'cycle path' and clarified that consultation was still expected. The proposed work to resurface the track would not take place until any designation had been agreed.

A resident expressed concern that gullies on the A46 from Stroud to Nailsworth have not been cleared for some time. Cllr. Robinson agreed to follow this up with SDC.

No report had been received from the District Councillor.

2018/117 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

The clerk reported the second precept payment of £5,750 had been made by SDC. The Royal British Legion who provide three wreaths for the village asked whether Councillors would consider an increase in the donation this year. The sum of £105 has been donated for a number of years. Councillors agreed to increase the donation to £150.

2018/118 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

This was approved and cheques signed following the meeting.

2018/119 To note the approval of the external audit.

This was noted.

The external auditors noted that the approval date had been after the start of the period for the exercise of public rights to view the documents and this period should have commenced a few days later once the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been agreed by the Council.

2018/120 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

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There had not yet been a decision on the application for five properties at Hillgrove House. The developer had been asked to provide 1.5 units of affordable housing, where the applicant has the option to either round up to provide two units, or provide one unit with a commuted sum payment equivalent to the value of half an affordable unit.

A second application has been submitted at Hillgrove House to provide a basement flat. The Planning Committee will consider this on 13th November.

2018/121 To note the listing of The Ram Inn as a Community Asset.

This was noted.

2018/122 To discuss final arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

This year is the Centenary of the Armistice of World War I. The Service at the War Memorial will be at 10.55am with the Church service starting at 11.15am. For those who are unable to walk to the War Memorial, the time of silence will be held at 11am in Church.

Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council, the Church and the Old Comrades.

2018/123 To agree dates for Parish Council meetings in 2019.

These were agreed as January 10th, March 7th, May 23rd, June 6th, July 4th, September 5th and November 7th. The clerk will confirm these dates are available for the Village Hall.

2018/124 To discuss and agree content for the Christmas edition of the Woodchester Word.

Councillors agreed topics for inclusion. The clerk will draft a page for the Parish Council for submission to the editors by 23rd November.

2018/125 To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee to include a report on the inaugural meeting of the Five Valleys Road Safety Partnership.

Cllr. Warnes reported on work carried out by residents of Millpond End to tidy the area around the river. It is now looking much-improved.

Cllr. Dunbar reported the first meeting of the Five Valleys Road Safety Partnership as being a great success. Twenty six Parish Councils were represented at the meeting as well as MP David Drew, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Head of Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department, the Assistant Chief Constable for Gloucestershire and other senior officers.

Those present spoke about the key issues facing their parishes, including those in Woodchester.

Those present showed great commitment to improvements being made and both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Gloucestershire Highways agreed to match fund local initiatives.

There was significant support for the reduction of speed limits, with Gloucestershire Highways agreeing to match fund TROs for such proposals. Since the meeting, a desire has been expressed by two of the three key instigators of the group to move to a broader scale, encompassing the whole of Gloucestershire or even to spread nationwide.

Cllr. Dunbar expressed his reluctance for a move to extend the geographical boundaries of the group beyond the Stroud Valleys in order to best deal with local issues and local initiatives. Councillors fully supported a Five Valley group as originally constituted.

2018/126

To receive a report from the Orpheus Group.

The Orpheus Group have now held several meetings. The owner of the replica has agreed now to sell the work, rather than a make loan arrangement.

The group are currently working to cost the project including the cost of purchase and the construction of a suitable building to house the pavement.

They are also looking at several options for sites on which to locate a building and are in talks with several groups including Woodchester Mansion Trust and Thistledown.

The pavement is currently in storage. A group will travel to inspect the pavement next week and once the condition is clear, will feel more informed to then discuss a price with the owner through the auction house.

2018/127

To receive a report from the Events Committee.

Cllr. McNealey sent a report in her absence:

The Village Produce Show, rebranded as Woodchester Village Show, took place on Saturday 8th October. This year both attendance and entries were down in numbers. After a long hot summer, some vegetable classes had very few entries and there were very few entries in the children's classes. This could be attributed to

- i. The hot, dry summer which played havoc with fruit and veg.
- ii. A number of church fundraising events throughout the year including a large garden party only two weeks before the Autumn Fayre. Perhaps residents felt they had participated in enough village events this year?
- iii. The date being too close to the return to school for the autumn term.

Those people who did attend enjoyed themselves and congratulations to all the prize winners! Thanks to all those who helped to run the event on the day and to the judges.

We have received some useful feedback on how we could encourage more entries in future years and will move the event back to the second Saturday in September for 2019. We will start planning this well in advance, and would welcome some new faces on the organising committee. Volunteers or suggestions to Katharine McNealey please!

There was an added attraction in the form of the Made in Woodchester exhibit of local crafts, which was well attended and showcased an impressive range of craft skills among village residents. Well done to Iain Dunbar for organising this.

The dog show as always proved enjoyable although entries were down. Thanks to Angela Morton for taking charge and for judging the classes.

Cost wise, the event broke even.

Next event will be Carol Singing round the village with Nailsworth Band, which will take place on Wednesday December 19th. Andrew Pemberton is taking the lead, but we are also looking for volunteers to help with refreshments, collecting buckets, set up and clear up, and putting lights along the path between South and North Woodchester.

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2018/128 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

It was agreed by a member of the public that raising the contribution to the Royal British Legion for wreaths was appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

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