

# Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in the Village Hall at  
7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, McNealey and Warnes

In attendance: Kimberley Read, Project Manager at Stroud District Council (SDC), Simon Hodgetts and Scott Perrins, representatives from Speller Metcalfe, Mr. Phil Sullivan and Mr. Adrian Weaver, County Councillor Steve Robinson, the clerk and fourteen members of the public.

**2019/65 To receive apologies for absence.**

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

**2019/66 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

Cllr. Hamilton declared some interest in item 2019/77 as his property is adjacent to the pond off Church Lane.

**2019/67 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2019.**

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

75 years after D-Day, Cllr. Hamilton sought and gained agreement from Councillors to interrupt the meeting at approximately 7.30pm for five minutes to listen to a half-muffled peal of bells from St. Mary's Church being rung in memory of the only known bellringer to be killed in action on D-Day itself – Sapper Bernard Paul Cordwell of Woodchester.

**2019/68 To receive a presentation on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and to agree further action.**

Mr. Phil Sullivan and Mr. Adrian Weaver were welcomed to the meeting, both gentlemen having had long involvement with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and familiar with the benefits membership can bring.

Mr. Sullivan made it clear that the key objective in signing up to the scheme is to bring communities together and to build communities. It is a small group of people with a common purpose of looking after one another.

Communities joining the scheme is also beneficial to The Police at a time when they are in need of support more than ever.

Through his role as Chair of both the Stroud and Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Watch Associations, it has become evident that schemes only last if they begin from the bottom up and local people have the drive to make it work.

Benefits of membership are an abundance of advice in terms of improving home safety and online community alerts from the Police, which raise awareness of recent crime in the area.

Mr. Adrian Weaver has been the coordinator of the scheme in Lawns Park for some time and was thanked by residents for his work. One resident who had recently moved to Lawns Park felt the scheme had enabled him to feel part of a community from the outset.

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One member of the public expressed concern that a recent call to the Police resulted in a considerable delay in any response. Mr. Sullivan was aware that Police funding is stretched and they must always prioritise emergency calls.

Mr. Sullivan was asked how residents could go about starting to look into forming a group. There is a great deal of information available on the Neighbourhood Watch website and a start-up pack is available for anyone interested. Signage for the street is also available free of charge.

2019/69

**To receive an update on the development at Southbank from Kimberley Read, Project Manager from Stroud District Council and a representative from Speller Metcalfe.**

Kimberley Read, Simon Hodgetts and Scott Perrins were welcomed to the meeting. The scheme at Southbank will provide five affordable houses, two for shared ownership and three for rent.

An apology was given to residents for the delay in development; the result of several issues. Ground investigation work was undertaken by the initial contractors. To be certain their findings were still reliable, Speller Metcalfe made the decision to carry these out again, along with additional investigations of the surrounding land to ensure stability. They are confident there has been no further movement of the bank.

The company have also had to apply for a badger licence which will be submitted in the coming days. They cannot start development until the license is in place.

Overhead cables above the site will need to be diverted underground.

Condition surveys have been carried out on surrounding properties. These will be re-done before work commences.

In order to provide more stability, the site will be piled using augers.

Residents raised concern that trees from the neighbouring property are encroaching. Speller Metcalfe agreed to speak to the landowner and ask that they be cut back.

Once completed, houses will be subject to NHBC warranties as well as SDC Building Control and therefore controls on building quality will be stringent.

A planning condition stipulates working hours of between 8am and 6pm; it was confirmed that hours are likely to be shorter, particularly with the school in close proximity. It is likely that deliveries will be made within the school day.

Residents were concerned that parking would be an issue as it is already limited. It was confirmed that contractors would not park opposite Southbank, adjacent to the Churchyard.

A revised planning application is due to be submitted very shortly which will give details of altered layout and design.

It is hoped that development will commence at the end of July and take eleven months to complete.

Councillors welcomed more affordable housing in the village which residents highlighted as beneficial in the Housing Need Survey carried out in 2015.

Should residents have any questions or concerns, contact information for the contractors will be on a board once development commences. In the meantime, Kimberley Read can be contacted at [kimberleyread@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:kimberleyread@stroud.gov.uk).

A letter will be sent to residents prior to development commencing.

2019/70

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

A member of the public had cleared an area of land at Frogmarsh and asked that a Councillor meet with her to look at the area as a pavement and drain had been

uncovered. The cleared soil requires removal. Councillors confirmed that a representative from the Parish Council would come and assess the area.

**2019/71**

**To receive the clerk's report.**

This was received.

The requirement to publish an annual report on Community Infrastructure Levy receipts and spending has now been published on the website for 2018-19. Councillors will need to consider spending priorities for income from CIL. The clerk had written a short piece for the Woodchester Word and will include discussion on this as part of the agenda for July.

**2019/72**

**To receive County and District Councillor reports.**

A copy of the report from Cllr. Robinson is attached. Cllr. Robinson expressed disappointment that the A46 north of the Shell Garage will not be resurfaced during this financial year.

Cllr. Robinson was thanked by Councillors for his hard work and dedication to the job.

**2019/73**

**To note the latest financial statements.**

These were noted.

**2019/74**

**To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**

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

**2019/75**

**To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.**

These were noted.

**2019/76**

**To consider and agree funding for any grant applications.**

One application had been received from a representative of the Woodchester Baby and Toddler Group. Councillors agreed to fund the full request of £104.09.

**2019/77**

**To note the report of a meeting held with GRCC on the future of the Pond off Church Lane and agree further action.**

Cllr. Hamilton gave a brief history to date.

There had not yet been any feedback and further information from the GRCC following a meeting in May.

It was agreed that once information from the GRCC clarifies the situation regarding an ecological survey and details of liability for land which has no clear owner, Councillors will discuss a way forward.

It will then be possible to consult more widely with residents of Lawns Park, discuss whether to make contact with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and take any other further action.

**2019/78**

**To review the Emergency Plan.**

In light of new guidance around flooding and winter conditions, Cllr. Hamilton suggested amendments to the Plan. Councillor roles were also slightly amended. All changes were agreed.

**2019/79**

**To receive a report from Cllr. McNealey on a 'Brexit Breakfast' attended at Ebley Mill.**

The meeting was very well-attended by senior members of Stroud District Council, as well as by two local MPs, but a poor turn out from local businesses. It was clear how important small businesses are to the local economy. Small local business is so diverse it has been difficult to gauge how they have prepared for Brexit, although 40% are reported to have made no preparations.

**2019/80**

**To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.**

Cllr. Warnes reported several issues with branches and saplings blocking paths recently. It was suggested the Woodchester Word be used to inform residents how to report issues. The barrier on the cycle path north of Bird's Crossing has been

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dismantled. It's not clear who has been responsible. The clerk will report this to Gloucestershire Rights of Way if not replaced shortly.

**2018/81**

**To receive an update from the Events Committee.**

The Village Fair will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**2018/82**

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

A resident of Lawns Park gave further background detail concerning the history of the pond and residential development in the 1970s, including information regarding the intention of the developers to pass ownership of the pond to a resident's association, which never transpired. Concern was raised that public access could potentially lead to disturbance. At present the Parish Council has no responsibility for the pond and surrounds. Cllr. Hamilton reiterated that after advice from English Heritage and information from residents, Councillors will wait until feedback is received from the GRCC before they decide on any further action.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

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**County Councillor's Report to Woodchester Parish Council**  
**S Robinson, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Following the GCC Full Council AGM Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May the Administration agreed to elect Vice-Chairs from the opposition to the six Scrutiny Committees.

This coming year I will continue to sit on County Planning, Police & Crime and a new Scrutiny Committee, Adult Social Care & Communities.

Full Council took the decision to resolve the following:-

- Commit towards an 80% reduction in Council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100% if possible
- To call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national actions towards this 2030 target
- Lobby national government to commit to 100% carbon neutral neutrality by 2045
- Work with district and borough councils to reduce their carbon footprint
- Ensure that our major plans, such as local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions
- Provide an annual report to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis

Interestingly, last week I attended a summit on Climate Change at the University of Gloucestershire.

Last Wednesday I attended a seminar in London on Transforming Town Centres and Communities. My attendance was jointly funded by GCC and SDC. I shall be pleased to report back to all 3 tiers of council which I sit on.

I understand that the A46 north of the Shell Garage will not be resurfaced during this financial year, which I am very disappointed about. I have asked that all the potholes, which would not normally be deemed deep enough (that is where the first layer of tarmac has become unstuck), be repaired.

I have asked for a price to refresh the speed road surface signs on Selsley Hill.

OFSTED recently visited the Childrens' Services at GCC to check on the progress of the improvement plan. Some improvement was noted but changes are still not being implemented quickly enough.