

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 5th September, 2019 in the Village Hall
at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, Dunbar, McNealey and Warnes.

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

2019/100 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Baldauf and Baynham-Honri and County Councillor Steve Robinson.

2019/101 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2019/102 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4th July, 2019.

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

2019/103 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

The Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) had recently been responsible for setting up a vehicle-activated speed monitor (VAS) on the A46 for training purposes. It was confirmed this would be present for only a couple of days, but that Woodchester Parish Council could request use of the machine, having signed-up to associate membership of the SDRSG. Cllr. Dunbar confirmed that a second machine would become available once Gloucestershire Highways release funding.

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council could do more to maintain the verges at Frogmarsh. This was discussed under item 2019/112.

2019/104 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

Resurfacing of the cycle path near Nailsworth has been delayed due to wet weather and is now expected to start on the 9th September.

Traffic lights are expected on the A46 for the Rooksmoor development from around December to March. The clerk had spoken with Gloucestershire Highways (GH) about providing adequate signage. Councillors suggested that signs at the bottom of Rooksmoor Hill and Station Road should read, 'No Through Road'. The clerk will convey this request to Gloucestershire Highways. Tony Cooper had confirmed that discussion was currently underway with GH to set a date for this work to take place. Mr. Cooper had also confirmed that in terms of the schedule of work, the development is 'on track'.

Several road and footpath closures are planned over the coming months. Councillors had been concerned that the bottom of Selsley Road will be closed (for work to the bridge) at the same time as the A46 will have traffic lights near Manor Drive for work by Severn Trent. The contractor for Severn Trent had passed the concern to GH, but the work remains scheduled to go ahead at this time. Councillors agreed the clerk contact GH directly to express concern and ask that work to the bridge is carried out at a different time. If this is not possible, to ask that signage at Station Road makes it very

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clear that there is no through road back onto the A46 via Selsley Road.

As well as the closures listed in the clerk's report, Fastershire will close Cow Lane and Convent Lane for a period of time between October and January for installation.

The clerk had received an email from Gloucestershire Rights of Way asking whether the hedge between Bird's Crossing and Station Road requires cutting. Councillors Warnes and the clerk will reply and add any other areas on the 'cycle path' in need of maintenance.

The landowner has confirmed that the hedge on Selsley Road will shortly be cut.

Councillors expressed some concern that a number of vehicles had been parked on the pavement outside Station House at various times. This had affected visibility from Station Road onto the A46 and pedestrian access to the bus stop. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation with a view to involving the Neighbourhood Warden if necessary.

2019/105 To receive County and District Councillor reports.

A report from County Councillor Steve Robinson is attached.

No apology for absence or report had been received from District Councillor Phil McAsey.

2019/106 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

Cllr. Hamilton reminded Councillors to put in claims they might have for paper and printer cartridges.

2019/107 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

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

2019/108 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted.

2019/109 To discuss and agree recommendations from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee on Gloucestershire County Council's proposal to create a bridleway on the 'cycle path' from Nailsworth to Dudridge.

The 'cycle path' between Nailsworth and Dudridge currently has no designation. For maintenance purposes, GH are proposing to designate the track as a bridleway. Woodchester Highways and Rights of Way Committee held two meetings to discuss the implications. Following their first meeting, Cllr. Warnes met with Mr. Bently, Principal Rights of Way Officer at GCC and walked the route with him to outline key issues. A draft response had been sent to all Councillors outlining concerns both in the process carried out by Gloucestershire Rights of Way and in the proposal of designation as a bridleway.

Councillors suggested some additions to this draft. The clerk will send an amended copy to Councillors for any additional comments before submitting it to GCC on Monday 9th September.

A copy of this final submission is attached to the minutes of the HROW Committee meeting of the 4th September.

2019/110 To discuss and agree content for next edition of the Woodchester Word.

Cllr. Warnes had agreed to include a write-up on the proposal to designate the 'cycle path' as a bridleway. Topics of road and footpath closures and Neighbourhood Watch had been written. Therefore Councillors agreed no further information would be submitted.

2019/111 To receive an update from Cllr. Lead on the situation regarding wild swimmers to Woodchester Park. Discuss and agree what further action might be taken to mitigate the effects.

Despite residents having erected 'No Parking' signs and the Parish Council producing polite notices for windscreens to ask that people park elsewhere, parking remains an issue in Convent Lane and St. Mary's Hill. These measures and others have however seen some improvement.

A letter to the owners of Applegarth asking that their visitors park elsewhere and talking with visitors to the Park also seems to have had a positive effect.

Councillors expressed their disappointment in the response from the National Trust which has done little to publicise the issues both within the park and via the media. A sign, promised for the corner of Park Lane and St. Mary's Hill is still not in place.

The National Trust also promised signage for the public footpath at the lower entrance to Woodchester Park. This has not yet been done.

The situation will be made worse once the Catholic Church install gates at the entrance to their car park.

It was agreed the clerk would follow-up 'H' markings with Gloucestershire Highways and actions promised by the National Trust.

2019/112 To discuss and agree changes to the maintenance contract.

At the last meeting Councillors had discussed the need to look at the maintenance contract, both in the light of the current contractor retiring at the end of the year, and Gloucestershire Highways able to do less on their limited budget.

Councillors agreed to the contract being taken on by a contact of the current contractor for a year, on the basis that the price for the current contract will remain at the current level and a review will take place after a year. The additional jobs will need to be quoted for on top of the current charge and added to the contract. Mr. Smith had agreed to remain a contact for the new contractor and advise as necessary. On this basis, Councillors agreed not to source three quotes for the work, but to review the situation after a year.

Councillors agreed to add both maintenance to verges at Frogmarsh and strimming of the verge between the old 'Woodchester Garage' and the bus shelter to the annual contract, as well as a list of jobs previously agreed.

The clerk will approach Gloucestershire Highways to ask that gulleys and roadsides are cleared in certain parts of the village.

The cost of maintenance on the Bike Trails has been significant in recent months due to the felling/clearing of two trees. The clerk had visited the site with the current contractor and had identified other work for the coming months. Councillors agreed to seek a quote for the work and draft a letter to Rooksmoor Mills Development to ask for their help in meeting this cost.

2019/113 To receive feedback from Cllr. Hamilton on a meeting held with representatives of Severn Trent Water to discuss the implications of the construction of the water main through the village.

A constructive meeting had been held with representatives from Severn Trent Water. They talked through the plans for the remainder of the work through the village. A public meeting will be held on 12th September to inform residents of the works and to answer any questions.

Concern was raised at the meeting that Selsley Road is due to be closed (by GCC) at the same time as traffic lights are expected on the A46 by Severn Trent. This concern and the need for very clear signage was passed to GH, but they insist both works will go

ahead at that time and have said that, as Station Road is not an official diversion, road signage will not be possible at that point. Councillors agreed the clerk follow this up. The clerk will also contact Severn Trent to ask that the cycle path and A46 are not restricted at the same time, or that public access is maintained along the pavement on the A46. The alternative is for cyclists/walkers to use Southfield Road which does not provide a traffic-free route.

2019/114 To receive an update from the Highways and Rights of Way Committee.

Cllr. Warnes had nothing further to report on footpaths.

Cllr. Dunbar will provide an update on the proposal by SDRSG for a multi-site TRO at the meeting in November.

2019/115 To receive an update from the Events Committee.

The Village Fete and Produce Show will take place on the 14th September from 2-4pm.

2019/116 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

A member of the public asked that cow parsley is left on the bank above The Ram.

Councillors agreed to reduce the number of times this area is strimmed.

A member of the public asked that Frogmarsh Lane be included in the request to GH for 'No Through Road' signs at the times when traffic lights are located on the A46.

Councillors agreed this was a sensible suggestion and would be included in the request.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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County Councillor's Report to Woodchester Parish Council

S Robinson, 5th September 2019

Adult Social Care

Wyatt House and Southfields care homes are run by The Order of St John in County Council owned buildings. Wyatt House specialises in residents with dementia. I have visited both homes and met with staff and the Managing Director of The Order of St John. I have also attended a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Director of this service. Councillors will have seen the concerns raised by the families of residents in the local press. Many of these families attended the Cabinet Meeting on 24th July when both relatives of residents and local councillors asked questions of Cabinet. The decision was made by Cabinet to close both homes.

Members of the opposition asked for this decision to be 'called in' as discrepancies had been found in the way that the process has been carried out. This took place on 13th August and the administration upheld its' decision to close both homes. As a member of the Adult Social Care Committee, I am extremely disappointed.

Highways

Last year I had three free weeks of Lengthmans' duties, but this year I have only one week, which I have to pay for. Therefore it is unlikely that many pathways etc will be cleared as five days doesn't go very far in such a large Division.

Councillors will have seen the improvements to the A46 south of Nailsworth. I have been assured that the resurfacing of the A46 north of the Shell garage to Rooksmoor will be carried out in the next financial year. I have asked that remedial work on this section of road be carried out as there are many places where the top layer of tarmac has become unstuck.

I would like to congratulate Cllr Iain Dunbar for his dedication to initiating the roadside speed identification sign. I was really pleased to see this sign in operation on Wednesday.

Climate Change

A panel of young people is being set up by GCC with the ability to influence how the county responds to the effects of climate change. Young people from the ages of 16-25 who live, study or work in the county can apply online to glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk by 9th September.

At its' last meeting the County Council agreed to an 80% reduction in corporate carbon emissions by no later than 2030, striving towards 100% if possible. The county will ensure that all major plans have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions. To make sure that this happens, performance updates will be reported quarterly to the Environment Committee.