

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council on Thursday 1st July at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Cllr Robinson, Cllr Smith, the Clerk and three members of the public.

*what3words: every 3m² in the world can be identified using three words <https://what3words.com/about>

2021/79 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr's Noon and Baynham-Honri

2021/80 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2021/81 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

A member of the public pointed out that hedgerows all along the A46 from Nailsworth to Frogmarsh are overgrown and that it is creating a hazard for large vehicles.

Action: Cllr Robinson to contact Area Highways Manager

One member of the public present has been tending the triangle of land in Frogmarsh dissected by two roads from the A46 (what3words*: tightrope.flips.raced), however she now feels this is too much and would like the Parish to find another solution to maintaining this land. Cllr Lead thanked her for her hard work over the years. He said that general maintenance of verges and other land in the Parish was going to be a priority as part of the Council's four-year plan which will include addressing Environmental Issues. Solutions would be considered such as asking local businesses for sponsorship or looking for other volunteers not just for this area but also for other areas in the Village as well.

Action: Cllr Lead to arrange a site visit with the resident to look at what is needed.

2021/82 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3rd June, 2021.

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

2021/83 To review actions from the Parish Council Meeting of 3rd June, 2021.

The Clerk reported that the first walk is now fully booked and another date has been set for Sunday 8th August 2pm. She requested that Cllrs continue to spread the word. Cllr Noon and Cllr McNealey are still considering possible sites for trees. Cllr Robinson has been looking at the width of the 'cycle path' behind the Rooksmoor Development and any possible slope. A local resident has expressed concern about emergency access to the cycle track from the A46 along the drive to The Priory (What3words: Womanly.earphones.should). She is concerned that 1/ the bridge may be too weak to support emergency vehicles and 2/ the 'cycle track' has been narrowed by the Rooksmoor development and is now too thin to allow them to pass. It was noted there is good access to the 'cycle track' from Pauls Rise.

Action: Cllr Robinson to contact Area Rights of Way Manager to discuss.

Initials.....

The Assets: Leases for the MTB trail land are until 2040 from GCC and 2027 from the Private Landowner concerned.

The Defibrillators: S. Woodchester was generously donated by Browns Timber Yard and they pay for consumables. The N Woodchester one was won by a resident in a competition. The Parish council is responsible for consumables. Both were supplied by Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) and are insured by them. They need to be checked weekly (not monthly as previously thought).

Action: Clerk to continue review of assets looking at asset value of the MTB track (should it be set at the full development cost?) and coordinating review of condition of the assets.

All other actions were completed.

2021/84

To receive County and District Councillor reports

Cllr Smith reported that Atkins (the civil engineers who work on plans for GCC) have produced a report for improvements to the 'cycle track' including two sections in Woodchester Parish. They plan to widen the path behind Inchbrook Trading Estate. They are also considering giving 'cycle track' users priority on the crossing at Pauls Rise. Cllrs questioned whether the second proposal was a good use of funds. Cllr McNealey asked if Glos CC still intended to designate the 'cycle track' as a 'Bridleway'. Cllr Robinson replied that this intention has been included in Atkins project brief.

Cllr Robinson reported that £5000 has been allocated for patching work on Southfield Road/Church Road (including reinstating the yellow road signage outside Woodchester Endowed School) and £10, 000 of patching work on St Mary's Hill. The sign at the bottom of Culver Hill has been put back and cleaned. Vegetation overhanging the footpath between Culver Hill and Renishaw will be cut back (the section from Culver Hill to Frogmarsh Cllr Robinson cut back himself). At the moment GCC Highways are just cutting back vegetation at junctions. At the end of August, they will do a second cut including verges more generally. Cllr McNealey raised the issue of parking while Selsley Road is resurfaced (sometime between Sept and Dec 2021) and was advised that residents cars must be moved or they will be towed away. GCC do not organise alternative parking. Cllr McNealey suggested a local business could be approached to see if they could offer off street parking for the duration of the resurfacing. Cllr Lead queried progress on the parking TRO in Nailsworth. Cllr Robinson said progress is slow as the TRO team are very overstretched and focussing on 20mph limits at the moment.

Action: Clerk to forward correspondence about Frogmarsh ramp works to Paul Helbrow and Cllr Robinson to follow- up.

Action: Clerk to write to businesses at bottom of Selsley Road regarding offering residents parking while resurfacing is going on.

Action: Woodchester Parish Council to begin to consider where they would like to see double yellow lines in the village.

2021/85

To receive the Clerk's report.

This was received.

Additional items: 1/The maintenance contractor has cleared and strimmed the gully on Frogmarsh Lane. He plans to speak with Cllr Baynham-Honri again about the gullies in Convent Lane. He will also provide a quote for the bus stop repairs early next week. 2/ Cllr Dunbar summarised a joint meeting held with members of Rodborough Parish Council, both County Councillors, the area Highways Manager and four members of the public about the problems on Rooksmoor Hill. Rooksmoor Hill is very narrow and steep, so cars and

especially vans, frequently become stuck. The road is regularly used by pedestrians often with children as it is the main pedestrian route between Woodchester and Gastrells School and also the closest playground for Woodchester residents at Kingscourt. The footpath across a field alongside is often very difficult to pass. The width of the road is such that it is always very dangerous for cars to pass pedestrians in the road and when vehicles become stuck and cars are reversing it becomes even more so. So, this is primarily a significant safety concern, there is also significant damage to the verges and considerable inconvenience to residents when vehicles become stuck. This has been an ongoing problem for many years made worse recently by roadworks on the A46. It was proposed at the site meeting that the Highways Manager change some of the signage on the road in the short term. This would involve replacing the existing advisory 'unsuitable for HGV' signs with 'NARROW STREET – unsuitable for long/wide vehicles' and alongside the footpath sign at bottom of the narrow section a new advisory 'pedestrians in the road'. This may require new post. In the longer term it was proposed that there is action to close the road altogether. The Highways Manager advised this would require a TRO at a cost of upwards from £16,000, an Experimental TRO could be quicker and slightly less costly and could run for 18 months, paving the way for a permanent TRO at a later date. Councillors agreed they would like to support residents in taking action to improve the safety of the road, however it would need to be considered in the context of other Parish plans and Councillors were not unanimous about the need to close the road. Councillors agreed more evidence was needed. They agreed in the first instance, to approach Rodborough Parish Council to discuss sharing the cost of monitoring equipment for a two-week traffic survey (approx. £250/ Parish).

Action: Cllr Dunbar to liaise with Highways representative at Rodborough PC re traffic survey

2021/86 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted

2021/87 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

These were noted and approved

2021/88 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted

2021/89 To discuss the pending appeal S.21/0091/HHOLD Springhill Frogmarsh Lane South Woodchester, GL5 5ES and agree a way forward

This application was refused in May 2020 and an appeal is planned. The applicant has approached the Parish Council to ask that they clarify the comments they made on the original application. The Parish Council agreed to contact the consultant assisting with the appeal to clarify that, what was meant by their submission of 'no comment' was that the Parish Council could see no reason to refuse the application and so had no comment to make.

Cllr Smith and one member of the public left the meeting.

Action: Clerk to write to applicants' consultant as above

2021/90 To consider and agree funding for any grant applications received

A grant application has been received from Woodchester Endowed School. The grant is for £500 towards the Governors 10% share of funding for building work. The work will improve the access and internal layout of the school which is also used by community groups. Councillors approved the £500 grant. The full application is available from the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to contact Chair of Governors at Woodchester School to take this forward

2021/91 To receive an update on the informal meeting of the Parish Council

Initials.....

Cllr Lead explained there was an informal meeting (which Cllr Hamilton and Cllr Lead didn't attend) to discuss the four year plan for the village and how to consult with residents. At the meeting Councillors roles were agreed.

Action: Cllr McNealey to circulate the document summarising councillors' roles

2021/92 To agree membership of committees, representatives and working parties

This was agreed at the informal meeting and will be circulated as above.

2021/93 To receive an update on Parish Council Communications

There are to be three Councillors looking at Parish Council Communications. Cllr McNealey (social media) Cllr Dunbar and Cllr Hasinski (focusing on external communications).

2021/94 To agree aims and objectives of the Parish Council four-year plan

This will be taken to the next informal meeting.

2021/95 To discuss the emergency plan and agree Councillor's roles

Cllr Hamilton is currently reviewing the emergency plan on behalf of the Parish Council. At this stage individual Councillors roles need to be agreed. Councillors agreed that Cllr Hamilton would be Emergency Management Co-ordinator. Cllr Lead, as Chair of the Council would be responsible to call and chair any meeting required. Cllr McNealey would be Deputy Management Coordinator and Community Outreach Coordinator. Cllr Dunbar would be Communication and Media Coordinator. The Clerk would have authority to act to release funds as necessary under instruction of the Parish Council up to a sum of £1000. Cllr Hamilton suggested other Councillors could offer expertise as appropriate and take roles as necessary. It is hoped the draft Emergency Plan will be finalised for Parish Council approval at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Hamilton to liaise to finalise the draft Emergency Plan.

2021/96 To receive a report from the events committee

Cllr McNealey reported that the village events committee have supported the Endowed school in organising a childrens seed growing competition. Thanks to the Diamond garden centre in Nailsworth for donating seeds. Photographs of flowers and vegetables can be posted on the Woodchester School Growing Competition Facebook page at any time before September 1st. [Woodchester School growing competition 2021 | Facebook](#)

She also reported that there is to be a village craft fete and charity garden fete on Saturday 3rd July organised by a local resident. On 11th September there will be a dog show with music and perhaps a children's entertainer on the village green. This might also be an opportunity to ask residents about their priorities for the village over the next few years. Residents in South Woodchester are hoping to organise some sort of end of summer event Cllr McNealey reported that there are funds in the events committee budget if needed.

Action: Cllr Lead to ask South Woodchester residents to contact Cllr McNealey.

2021/97 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

None were raised.

2021/98 To note the date, time and venue of the next meeting.

Next meeting: to be held in Woodchester School Hall on 2nd September 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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

Initials.....