

Woodchester Parish Council

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Page 12/08

Ints.....

Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on June 26, 2008 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall at North Woodchester.

Present: Cllrs Wigzell (Chair), Bastin, Brown, Hamilton, Syrett and Swait
In attendance: Duncan Hayes (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lead and District Councillor Glanfield

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest

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

There were no questions

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting May 29, 2008

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record, although Cllr Wigzell pointed out that the meeting had authorised more widespread publicity of the clerk vacancy if initial response was weak

5. To receive an update on recruitment of new clerk

The council heard that one application has been withdrawn, leaving five possible candidates. The clerk has received other expressions of interest but no further applications. The council is to agree an evening for interviews during week commencing July 14.

6. To receive the Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was delivered. Cllr Syrett agreed to submit a response to the SDC street cleaning consultation.

7. To note planning applications and decisions from SDC

The applications and decisions were noted. The council heard that the Endowed School has withdrawn its application for a shelter.

8. To discuss planning application 1144/FUL, Ferndale, Selsley Road, demolition of shed and erection of replacement

The council agreed to submit the following support: The existing shed is old and is of corrugated iron construction. The proposed shed will be slightly larger and in the same position as the existing one. It will be built of stone and replica stone slates, a much more attractive building that will enhance the area. The applicant previously lived in the adjoining house, in the garden of which he built a similar shed that now blends into the landscape.

9. To receive recommendations from the Finance Committee Meeting of June 26

The finance committee made the following statements: The committee thoroughly examined expenditure against budget for 2007/2008. The committee agreed that all underspend was either related to ongoing projects, for which the funds held on account have been earmarked, or, where the budget proved too large in 2007/2008, this had been remedied in the budget for financial year 2008/2009. The committee resolved to recommend that the full council more closely monitor expenditure against budget at regular council meetings. The committee examined the accounts for 2007/2008 as well as the report of the internal auditor, the annual return and associated documentation. The committee resolved to recommend the following to full council: That the council approve and sign the statement of accounts, approve and sign the annual governance statement, approve and sign the financial statement for year end and agree submission of the accounts for external audit.

10. To discuss the Annual Return for 2007-2008, approve and sign the statement of accounts, approve and sign the annual governance statement, approve and sign the financial statement for year end and agree submission of the accounts for external audit

The council accepted the recommendations of the finance committee, signed all documentation and agreed to submit the accounts for external audit

11. To appoint a working group to consider land acquisition in village and set a budget for feasibility research

There are several potential areas of land in the village that could become available in order to meet some of the objectives of the parish plan action plan, such as parking alleviation and the provision of a playground, as well as the potential provision of allotments and other amenities. A working group was appointed comprising Cllrs Swait, Lead and Syrett. The working group has been assigned a budget not exceeding £1,000 for professional appraisal of potential land acquisitions.

12. To appoint a group of councillors to recruit a parish plan review group

Cllrs Bastin, Hamilton, Wigzell and Swait were appointed to a working group to recruit residents to assist with a review of the parish plan. It was agreed that the renewed plan should build on the existing plan and achievements, and could include provision of amenities. It was agreed that consultation with residents may be best achieved in combination with the village design statement in order to avoid consulting twice

13. To receive a report from the post office working group

The council heard that the South Woodchester post office has closed. Cllr Bastin was able to report that an interested party is considering taking on the North Woodchester post office. The council agreed that if this is successful it will offer any support it can to the new owner. If the North Woodchester post office is threatened with closure, the parish council will continue to investigate other community options.

14. To receive a report on the Village Design Statement

The council heard a written submission from Cllr Lead. The committee is to be reactivated in September.

15. To receive reports on Parish Plan Action Plan

Footpaths

Cllr Bastin has received a letter from a resident complaining about proliferation of barbed wire beside footpaths. The council felt that it is unable to take action on this, and Cllr Bastin is to respond

Website

Cllr Wigzell urged councillors to start using their council email addresses.

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Events

Cllr Brown congratulated Cllr Wigzell on her initiative with the open gardens, which raised over £83 for Woodchester charity Inishfree. Cllr brown is planning a village fete for 2009, possibly a produce-type show in early autumn. Cllr Wigzell is preparing a document of information about those listed on the war memorial in preparation for the Poppy Day commemorations.

Youth

Cllr Syrett has started gathering opinions from parents in the village.

Transport

Cllr Swait noted that the sale of Tower House appears to be going ahead and, if the site is developed, will look at the possibility of planning gains.

16. To note correspondence received

The correspondence was noted

17. To receive a financial report for the latest period

The council agreed from next meeting to follow the advice of the finance committee and more closely monitor expenditure against budget.

18. To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex

The cheques were approved and signed

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

It was pointed out that a waste bin outside the school has not been replaced following the hall building project. Cllr Syrett is to investigate.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

Chair.....

Date.....