

Woodchester Parish Council

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Initials.....

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 9th May 2009 at 10.30am in the Village Hall, North Woodchester.

Present: Cllr Wigzell (Chairman), Cllrs Brown, Hamilton and Lead , Clerk Simon Peirce and approximately 12 representatives of organisations and the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone who attended the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs Bastin, Swait and Syrett

District Councillor Glanfield

Gordon Soutar, Woodchester Endowed School

Sarah Ellis, GCC Public Rights of Way

Jackie Hayes, Brownies and Guides

Steve Wadley, PCSO

Michelle Oliver, National Trust

Margaret Smith, St Dominics School

David Brown and John Close, Village Design Statement Group

Woodchester Football Club

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting April 3, 2008

The Chairman asked everyone to take note of the minutes presented and asked for agreement that they were a true record. Cllr Hamilton proposed and Cllr Wigzell seconded the minutes as the only two people present who had also attended in 2008. They were duly signed.

Report on Parish Council Business over Past Year and Forthcoming Events

Cllr Wigzell reviewed progress over the past year as per her report. It was noted that this year we would trial the Annual Litter Pick as an autumn event rather than a spring one. Cllr Wigzell also introduced Simon Peirce as the new clerk. A question was raised about the open garden scheme – Cllr Wigzell explained that an event was not planned for this year but that Atcombe Court would be participating in the national open garden scheme on the 13th June.

Cllr Brown gave a detailed presentation on the Village Fete, planned for 12th September starting at 2.00pm. Aimed at bringing the whole parish together, the Fete would be centred around the garden of Oakley House in North Woodchester and the Village Hall. The Historical Society would be mounting an exhibition in the Church, the Endowed School had offered use of its hall and Woodchester House had offered the use of a field for car parking. A committee had been set up which meets periodic Mondays but more volunteers were required. An events fund had been created for the village, using money from the last street party with the agreement of the street party organisers. Local organisations had been invited to take stalls at £10.00 per table, and would keep their profits from the event. Stalls and events discussed had included tombola, face painting, cakes, produce, lucky dip, books, country dancing, tag rugby and football, music from village bands, refreshments, ice cream van, childrens entertainments such as a water slide, welly throwing, treasure hunt and visit by fire engine, photography competition and skittles. There would also be a flower and produce show, so everyone was asked to get planting. Additionally there would be an exhibition on the Village Design Statement. One member of the public suggested the committee contact Leyhill Open Prison as in the past they have supplied swing boats that were very popular.

Organisations making Verbal Presentation

A representative of the local charity 'Inishfree' took the opportunity to give an introduction and update on its work with people recovering from drink and drug addictions. Able to offer residence in a caring and nurturing environment for up to 9 people at a time, Inishfree works with people in a homely environment based around a strong work ethic (looking after its land, produce and livestock) and looking after others. Funded by governmental 'Supporting People' programme, the charity also had to raise money for the therapies it offered and was also currently seeking other funding. Inishfree is looking for more volunteers, to help in the garden or kitchen and also for Trustees – these generally meet once a month and anyone interested is invited to contact Andrea Sprenger. Inishfree may have an open day in June and are interested in finding a way of utilising / selling their surplus produce.

Village Design Statement Presentation

Cllr Lead gave a presentation on the start made to the Village Design Statement and outlined the importance of the document, particularly in light of the proposed changes to the planning applications process and appeal procedures. A great deal of work had already been done in areas concerning agriculture and commerce, sustainability, residential, transport and communications. The areas of natural environment and schools had yet to get properly underway. The importance of getting the whole parish involved was noted – in order to promote this it was suggested a presentation should be made to the WI and Friendly Circle and the schools were planning to link up for an event. A questionnaire would be prepared and circulated and one member of the public suggested they may have a contact for analysing the results of any questionnaire undertaken. A suggestion of promoting the village design statement by printing onto beer mats was also put forward. Cllr Lead explained that the village design statement group would also be looking at other parishes who had already gone through the VDS process, such as Nailsworth, for examples of best practice. There would be a further meeting of the VDS group at the end of May.

The meeting was closed at 11.40am, followed by refreshments kindly supplied by volunteers from the WI and an informal discussion on the village design statement took place.

Chair

Date