

Clerk's Report to 28th December, 2016

- **Road Safety** – An enquiry was made to Andrew Middlecote (Local Highway Officer) concerning the process for improvements to safety on the A46 and through the village. His response was as follows:
 - The justification for the introduction of a pedestrian refuge is assessed on a case by case basis. All potential schemes are assessed and managed through a system of priority assessment. The priority assessment for a potential refuge will take into account many different factors, e.g. collision history, speed and volume of traffic, pedestrian and cycling activity, land use, proximity to schools and value for money. At this location it would be an isolated feature, proportionately low usage and considering future maintenance liability, it is unlikely to meet the priority assessment.
 - Our Vehicle Activated Sign policy is currently in the process of being updated. The new policy incorporates the use of mobile VASs for use in local communities. We have therefore taken the decision that any new requests must wait until the policy has been updated before they can be assessed.
 - Speed enforcement is a matter for the Police. However Woodchester Parish Council may wish to speak to your local neighbourhood policing team to set up a Community Speed Watch group.
 - A 20 mph zone in the village would be dependent on existing traffic speeds and would likely to be limited to the village. All speed limits are set using DFT guidance “Setting Local Speed Limits 2013”. A 20 mph zone would require a Traffic Regulation Order. They can cost between £10k and £15k to deliver, though schemes including additional traffic calming or physical site changes will cost considerably more.
 - Reducing the speed on the A46 through Woodchester from 40 mph to 30 mph would also be unlikely to meet the criteria in the guidance due to the nature of the route.
- **Bus shelter** - The bus shelter at Frogmarsh has been replaced. The cost for the work can now be claimed from the insurance company. A resident has kindly offered to install a handrail on the side wall.
- **Street lights** - Faulty street lights have been reported to Stroud District Council. One of those had been initially reported by a resident in September and had not been repaired.
- **‘Lengthsmen’ work** - Much of the works due to be carried out by ‘lengthsmen’ has been completed. Cllr. Binns has agreed with the Local Highways Officer that one day be reserved for Woodchester.
- **Road closure** - Frogmarsh Lane will be closed from the 14th-16th March for work to be carried out by Severn Trent Water. The clerk will put notices up informing residents.
- **Refuse bins** - A suggestion was made that one of the two refuse bins at the bottom of Station Road be moved to the layby on the A46 which has no bin. An enquiry was made to SDC as to whether there would be a cost for an additional collection. Their records show a bin on the site and they have therefore agreed to provide a bin free of charge. The clerk is waiting to hear whether they have one in stock. There will be no cost for collection but the Parish Council will be required to meet the cost of putting the bin in place.
- **Kissing gates** - T.R. King have made two kissing gates and will deliver them on site. The Cotswold Wardens have been informed and the clerk is waiting to hear when they are available to install them. A bag of scalplings for the site at Selsley Road and timber for the site at Convent Lane will be ordered for delivery.
- **Bike trails** - A quote was received from Trailcraft and questions posed by councillors and Mr. and Mrs. Hill have been forwarded to James Shauhnessy. The clerk is awaiting a response.
- **Training** - Cllr. Hamilton attended a Chairman’s course in November provided by the GAPTC.
- **Water Main Consultation** - A response was sent to SDC concerning a proposed new water main from Westrip to Minchinhampton. Councillors had some concerns about distances quoted in the report and access to Water Lane. The importance of keeping the Parish Council and residents informed at every stage was stressed in order that disruption be kept to a minimum. There will be another chance to comment as the application progresses.

- **Subscription Rooms Consultation** - A response was sent to SDC following a consultation on the future of the Subscription Rooms in Stroud.
- **Precept** - Despite fears that Parish Councils could face a referendum should they be forced to increase precepts by more than 2%, this will now not be enforced for 2017-18.

Cheques signed/to be signed since the meeting of the 3rd November, 2016

Date	Payee	Cheque Number	Amount	Authorising Power
21/11/16	Grant Thornton – External audit	783	£120.00	LGA 1972 s.111
21/11/16	GAPTC – Chairmanship Course	784	£50.00	LGA 1972 s.111
21/11/16	T.R. King – Deposit for kissing gates	785	£270.00	Highways Act 1980 s.146(1)
19/12/16	Ian Smith – Maintenance for 3 rd Quarter	786	£480.00	Highways Act 1980 s.96

Planning Decisions

Consent has been granted for:

S.16/1865/HHOLD – Quail Hollow, Frogmarsh Lane, South Woodchester – Replacement of single storey extension.

S.16/2255/TEL – Communication Station, Bownhill Farm, Bownhill – Emerson M35 Battery Cabinet and temporary generator to be installed within the existing telecommunications compound.

S.16/2330/TCA – Highcroft, Atcombe Road, South Woodchester – T1 Cherry – Fell. T2 – Reduce yews. T3 Yew – Reduce.

Applications received:

S.16/2577/LBC – Rooksmoor, Rooksmoor Hill – Remove a stud wall on the ground floor. Replace an existing fireplace. Install and extractor fan fitted onto the back exterior wall of the house.

S.16/2741/GDPE – 1 Park View, Selsley Road, North Woodchester – Single storey extension.

S.16/2829/HHOLD – Quail Hollow, Frogmarsh Lane, South Woodchester – Replacement of single storey extension. Amendment to planning approval S.16/1865/HHOLD.