

Clerk's Report to 25th February, 2015

- **'Finance Revisited' Course** – This was attended by the clerk on 14th January to cover the requirements of the new financial regulations. Much of what was covered we have in place. It was suggested that photos are taken for the asset register. Small Parish Councils will be exempt from routine audit in 2015/16, but the details have not yet been published
- **Planning Update with SDC Planning Officers** – Cllr. Hamilton and the clerk attended this meeting on 19th February. Cllr. Hamilton will provide feedback later in the agenda
- **Parking opposite Frogmarsh Mill entrance** – The Bowmen of Minchinhampton were approached and very supportive in asking their members to park further from the entrance. Gloucestershire Highways have been contacted and will carry out a site visit with the possibility of yellow line markings
- **Drivers exiting Frogmarsh Mill site** - Clerk contacted the owners of Frogmarsh Mill to ask if they would consider putting up a sign inside the wall to ask drivers to be cautious when leaving the site
- **Hedge cutting on Selsley Road** - The owners of Villa Field were contacted following hedge cutting, as the road and pavement were left strewn with debris. This was then cleared very quickly
- **Street cleaning** – A list of areas in need of attention were requested from Stroud District Council (SDC). These roads including Frogmarsh Lane, the High Street and the top of Selsley Road will be considered
- **Wallabies** - The owner of Woodchester House was contacted regarding several wallabies having been seen loose in the village. The concern was raised that this could create a potential hazard for motorists. The owner will ensure that the fencing is secured, but that it is currently checked on a daily basis and an established programme is in place to capture escaped wallabies
- **Berrymore and Berryfield** - A concern was raised by a resident in Berrymore that visitors and delivery drivers are confusing Berrymore and Berryfield. He asked whether the signage in the road could be made clearer. The clerk contacted Gloucestershire Highways
- **War Memorial** - The War Memorial is now listed; a form was received to complete and return to SDC planning department for their records
- **Horses on the cycle path** - An issue was raised at the last meeting concerning horses being ridden on the cycle path. The clerk contacted Jaci Harris at Gloucestershire Rights of Way who was aware of plans to look at the status of the track. John Lane (Highways Commissioning) clarified the situation – 'When the line was closed by British Railways, Gloucestershire County Council became landowners and Stroud District Council maintain the route. The issue that has never been resolved is the status of the route. Although referred to as a 'Cycle Route' it has never been officially designated as such, which has led to uncertainty as to who can and cannot use it and also to people's expectations as to its maintenance. Among the possible designations would be Public Footpath, Public Bridle Way, Cycle Path or Class 6 Highway. Each designation carries a different maintenance responsibility as far as the surface is concerned. Highways Commissioning are currently undergoing an exercise to examine all the options available to formalise the route. '
- **Notice boards** – Ian Smith will shortly put up the notice board at Frogmarsh and replace the Perspex in the board on Convent Lane. A quote has been received for attaching an aluminium board to the existing post at Rooksmoor
- **Precept form for 2015-16** - This has been sent to SDC
- **Declaration of interests forms** for Cllr. McNealey and Baynham-Honri have been sent to SDC for their website and are available on the Woodchester website
- **Bike Tracks** - Requests for grants for the bike tracks have been sent to Jack Lane and the Langtree Trust

- **Affordable Housing Survey** – Following an agreement on questions to be included in the survey, it will hopefully be printed in time to be distributed with the next edition of the Woodchester Word due out in March
- **Local Council Award Scheme** – This has replaced Quality Council Status and the details of requirements has just been published by the GAPTC. There are three levels of award – Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold. ‘The Foundation Award demonstrates that a council meets the minimum requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. The scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of the council’s work’.

Cheques signed/to be signed since the meeting of the 8th January, 2015

16.02.15	SLCC membership renewal	724	£103.00
03.03.15	Clerk – Salary from 7 th January-3 rd March, 2015	725	£722.40
03.03.15	Clerk - Envelopes	725	£1.95
03.03.15	Cllr. Hamilton – Chairman’s Allowance	726	£70.00
03.03.15	Clerk – Household Expenses	727	£10.00
03.03.15	Clerk – Telephone Costs	727	£10.00
16.02.15	LeopardPress – Printing Woodchester Word	3	£489.00

Planning Decisions

Consent has been granted for:

- **S.14/2917/HHOLD and S.14/2918/LBC** – Knapp House, Selsley Road, North Woodchester – Single storey rear extension to the kitchen, to include some structural alteration. Also the replacement of three timber windows to the rear
- **S.14/2937/AGR** – Land West of Convent Lane, South Woodchester – Erection of an agricultural building with timber and block sides and profiled metal roof (dual pitch with main door to one end)
- **S.15/0037/TCA** – 3 The Cherries, Bath Road, Woodchester – Sallow – Fell and treat stump to prevent new growth.

Planning Applications Received

- **S.15/0145/HHOLD** – Yew Tree House, Atcombe Road, South Woodchester – Reconstruction of single storey kitchen extension and internal alterations
- **S.15/0301/HHOLD** – Roseclive, Bath Road - Alterations to include replacement of swept dormers with pitched dormers to the front elevation, new front bay window and open porch to main entrance, plus various window/door enhancements along with some internal alterations.
- **S.15/0361/HHOLD and S.15/0363/LBC** – Millbank, High Street, South Woodchester - Demolition of existing outside toilet and garden store at the rear, and the conversion of existing and old store and washroom and demolished area into a granny annexe.

