

## Clerk's Report to 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

- **Bike Tracks** – The lease and access map have now been agreed by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The documents are being prepared. The clerk has made contact with Back on Track to keep them informed of the situation
- **Amey** – Several issues have been reported including pot holes, a faulty streetlamp in Church Road and blocked drain on Station Road. In a conversation with Adrian Boyes it's evident that no funding remains for non-routine projects until the new financial year. The clerk will contact Amey again in March concerning the issues of poor drainage at the bottom of Station Road
- **Parish Council Elections** – Following boundary changes and the consequent move to whole council elections, every parish and town council within the Stroud district is due for election on Thursday 5 May 2016. The clerk will receive nomination packs at the beginning of March which will need to be returned by hand to SDC by the 7<sup>th</sup> April. If there are more than seven nominations an election will need to be held. SDC will send Notices of Election during March for display on noticeboards.
- **Dates for PC Meetings** – Due to these elections, the annual meeting of the council should be held within fourteen days of the council coming into office, that is, between Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 27 May. Therefore the date of this meeting (which was due to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May) will now be held at 6pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> May before the Annual Parish Meeting
- **Council Tax Bills** – As Stroud District Council are no longer paying the Local Council Tax Support Funding Grant, many Parish Councils have been forced to increase their precept for 2016/17. However due to the grants not being paid, the tax base for many of these councils will rise. Therefore, although when residents receive their bills they will see a percentage increase in the precept, in real terms the impact will be less. SDC have agreed to show both the % increase in precept and the amount of change this will create in £/p.
- **Precept request form** – This has been sent to SDC.
- **Invoices for the Woodchester Word** have now been sent to seven companies with two more likely to advertise. At least four more are required to fully fund four editions.
- **Audit Update for 2017/18** – At the January meeting councillors agreed to opt-in to the scheme provided by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd. (SAAA). More information has been received on this. If neither income nor expenditure is above £25,000 no external audit will be required, but an Annual Return will still need to be completed and published. If income or expenditure is above £25,000 which it will be when the mountain bike trails are completed, an external audit will be required, where the auditor is provided by the SAAA.
- **Report from the Parish and Town Council Forum held on 14<sup>th</sup> January**
  - Waste – Carlos Novoth
  - Changes have begun and are planned for waste and recycling.
  - Since September 2015 there has been a charge for bulky waste collection. Concern was raised that this may increase the amount of fly tipping which did see a slight increase in October, but in November and December there was a decrease on the previous year.
  - From February 2016 there will be an opt-in garden waste collection service. This will replace the green bag collection service. This will mean for residents whose homes are inaccessible to large refuse lorries, they will not be able to dispose of their garden waste through SDC. However it is hoped that a bag service will be made possible some time during the year.
  - From July 2016 a new contractor Ubico will take over from Veolia.
  - From November 2016 a food waste collection service will begin. A 23l bin will be provided for each resident together with a small 7l kitchen caddy. There will be much more communication about this in the coming months. Beige bags will be provided for those who cannot accommodate a wheeled bin.
  - Carlos gave a reminder that an 'assisted collection' service is available for residents who struggle to take their bin/bags to the road.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

- This charge for developers is calculated per sqm on developments over 100sqm, although the charging level relates to the viability of the scheme. It is payable on the commencement of the development.
- 15% of this must be reinvested in the neighbourhood; 25% for those parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan. With s.106, specific projects need to be identified at the time planning permission is granted. This is not the case with CIL. The charge will be calculated and Parish and Town Councils will receive their 15%/25% of that figure.
- By the end of 2106, SDC hope to be a CIL charging authority. S.106 will remain for larger strategic sites.
- It was unclear what input Parish Councils would have in the remaining 85%/75% of the charge. This money will be spent on infrastructure projects and SDC will look into a process for enabling parishes to put forward schemes for the Infrastructure Plan.

### Cheques signed/to be signed since the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

07.01.16	Clerk Salary – 11.11.15-05.01.16 – 8 weeks @ £102.60	756	£820.80
27.01.16	Cllr. Hamilton – Chairman’s Allowance and reimbursement for paper and printer cartridges	757	£158.68
27.01.16	SLCC – Membership Renewal	758	£149.00
27.01.16	Leopard Press – Printing Woodchester Word	007	£395.00
27.01.16	St. Mary’s Church – Use of the Undercroft Room in 2015	759	£50.00
01.02.16	Village Hall Hire 2016	760	£84.00
25.02.16	Epicado – Domain Renewal for two years	761	£42.00

### Planning Decisions

#### ***Consent has been granted for:***

- **S.15/2695/AGR** - Woodchester House, Woodchester House Drive - Erection of a steel framed agricultural building 12.2m X 18.3m
- **S.15/2667/FUL** – Land at 4 Southfield Cottages, Manor Drive – Erection of a dwelling
- **S.15/2805/HHOLD** - Dinglewood House, Bospin Lane, South Woodchester - Erection of a detached garage with living accommodation above to be used in conjunction with Dinglewood House. (Revised layout received 2.2.16)
- **S.15/2867/FUL** - Land Adjacent Treetops, Bath Road - Proposed new dwelling (Revised drawings received 26.1.16)
- **S.15/2923/TPO** - Chester Hill House, Convent Lane - 2 Norway Spruce and Thuja group - Fell
- **S.15/2445/TPO** - 20 Lawns Park, North Woodchester - Lime Tree - remove branch "A" and remove minor branches sprouting from main stems
- **S.15/2602/TCA** – 1 Hillgrove Villas, Bath Road – Poplar x 1. Pollard back to previous points
- **S.15/2692/FUL** – Q Park, Bath Road – Installation of 5 no. flues.

### Applications Received

- **S.16/0188/HHOLD** – Leewood House, Bownhill – 2 single storey extensions
- **S.16/0282/HHOLD and S.16/0283/LBC** - Old Brewery Cottage, Rooksmoor Mill – Single storey rear extension.

