

### Clerk's report for period until November 4th, 2010

The new notice board has now been erected on the High Street in South Woodchester and has attracted a number of positive comments.

At the last Parish Council it was agreed to put a business directory on the website. In the next edition of the Woodchester Word Editor, Iain Dunbar, will include a piece to help identify local businesses and skills that would benefit.

In January 2008 the Government launched a feasibility study to consider whether it could support a tidal power project in the Severn Estuary and, if so, on what terms. The study conclusions published set out Government's view that;

- There is not a strong enough strategic case for Government to proceed with a scheme at this time
- Given the scale of the energy and climate change challenge and potential risks of other technologies not deploying to time, cost or capacity, the Severn could well play a role in the future – although it is unlikely that Government would consider it again before 2015

Alec Lawless has confirmed that he has now sold the whole library relating to the Roman Pavement.

District Councillor Stephen Glanfield sadly passed away several weeks ago. Cllr Bastin wrote to Mrs Glanfield on behalf of the Parish Council to pass on condolences and Cllrs Bastin and Swait attended his funeral on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Stephen had requested that any donations go to Rencomb Ward at Cheltenham Hospital.

Highways have written to all Parish Councils drawing attention to a new snow code publication which has been issued by the Department of Transport. This guidance document explains that there are no laws against clearing footpaths in a sensible manner. It is hoped that the document will encourage the public to "self-help" themselves and others in severe weather conditions.

Gloucestershire Highways have now carried out a review of their winter policies and procedures which have included a review of their grit bin provision and restocking based on their experiences of the last two severe winters.

The outcome of this policy has been to first of all to confirm where grit bins should be placed on the network:

*New grit bins are not provided by GH, however bins can be provided by the local parish or town councils if the location is agreed in writing by GH. Bins shall only be located at strategic points on steeper inclines and on some tight bends or if there is significant levels of pedestrian usage. Grit bins will only be provided on key routes in exceptional circumstances. Grit bins on secondary routes may be provided at key locations if deemed appropriate and subject to the criteria.*

Secondly it is hoped that our review will encourage parish/town councils or local communities to support our winter actions:

*Unsecured grit bins are often subject to theft and vandalism and when the salt contained within is used by members of the public during winter weather it is often spread in far greater quantity than is necessary for de-icing purposes and the supply is exhausted prematurely. For these reasons the control of a local stock of salt by the parish/town council is encouraged. Arrangements for specific communities will vary, however GH will work with local snow wardens to establish suitable means of local salt use and distribution. A suitable secure storage area would be a minimum requirement for any such agreement. GH will supply a limited amount of bagged salt and training to parish/town councils to allow local communities to direct resources to locations in most need attention. In instances where Town or Parish councils elect to take control of salt supply and distribution with the community existing salt bins will be removed.*

*The control of local salt stocks by responsible and trained members of the community will help to make efficient use of the resources by spreading at the correct rates, reducing theft from road side stores, and allow the management of that stock level within the community during times of severe winter weather when restocking may not be possible.*

*It should be noted that during periods of severe winter weather GH's resources are generally prioritised on a 24-hour shift pattern to maintaining the strategic road network. Resources are therefore unlikely to be available for restocking of bins until after the severe weather conditions have passed."*

#### **Cheques signed/to be signed since last meeting October 7th, 2010**

<b>Cheque Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
526	Donation for accommodation hire to Convent of Poor Clares	£20
527	GAPTC – Clerks CiLCA training, mentoring days	£250
528	GAPTC – Clerk's training, CiLCA registration	£150
529	Woodchester Word printing	£334
530	Donation for accommodation hire to Convent of Poor Clares	£20
531	Clerk's salary	£370

#### **Planning Update**

##### **Planning Decisions Received**

Permission granted to:-

- S.10/1887/TCA Woodlands Cottage, Station Road – Works to various trees - Holly,

Eucalyptus, Photinia, Conifer, Prunus lusitanica, Weeping Cotoneasters, Laurus nobilis and various unknown

- S.10/1725/TCA Summerwells, Convent Lane – Felling of two Lawson Cypress

### **Planning Applications Received**

- S.10/1710/FUL Longford Farm, Nympsfield – Change of use of land to mixed agricultural, livery and equine therapy centre. Erection of timber tack shed and rest room.

Stroud District Councillor Ken Stephens has highlighted SDC's Cabinet recommendation for changes to the Scheme of Delegation.

Under the present system, if the parish council objects to a planning application then it is removed from delegated powers and sent before the planning committee.

The proposed amendment is that this automatic removal from delegated powers will no longer take place. Instead the Planning Officer will make the planning decision, taking the parish council opinion into account.

Eastington Parish Council regards this as a detrimental step, and is looking to engage other parish councils in Stroud District to seek their opinions.

As part of the District Council's aim to provide an effective and efficient service to the community as of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 paper copies of planning decisions will no longer be sent out as these are now published on the website for all to view and print. The clerk will provide updates at planning meetings.

### **Resident's correspondence**

None received.

### **Correspondence received**

Volunteering Gloucestershire fliers  
Parish Matters Autumn 2010  
Cotswold Conservation Board – e-letter Aug/Sept 2010  
SLCC Newsletter – October 2010