

Clerk's report for period until September 2nd, 2010

Cllr Wigzell attended a Standing Order's training course on Tuesday 13th July.

The clerk and Cllrs Lead and Brown are attending a Planning Training course on Monday 6th September.

Cllr Hamilton has contacted the new owner of the land opposite the Royal Oak regarding the Japanese Knotweed. Dawn Lead has contacted Highways about the Japanese Knotweed on the cycle track behind Q Park.

The clerk has set up a separate bank account specifically for income received for the Woodchester Word. This has a balance of £1,040.

Cllr Lead has further investigated putting benches into the bus shelters. He advises that a bench along one side, rather than all the way along the back, and with legs would be necessary.

Following a meeting with Chris Riley, the Stakeholder Manager at Gloucestershire Highways to discuss an underpass/crossing point on the A46 the clerk has written to Mr Riley to confirm the main points of what was agreed. Mr Riley has confirmed that he has put wheels in motion regarding the dropped kerbs and bollards but will have to wait for the signs as Highways are currently reviewing our budget on all signing work. He will let me know when we have a date for the works.

The clerk has also contacted the Bowmen of Minchinhampton who practise archery on the land alongside the A46 to find out who owns the land to ask for the trees to be pruned to improve visibility.

The clerk has received a License to Cultivate form to complete which needs to be sent back to SDC along with a plan of the area concerned and the required fee.

Cllr Lead has asked if the Parish Council could subscribe to Online Parish Mapping. This would allow the Parish Council illustrate and communicate everything from litter bin locations to a full Parish Plan. It can also be used for local events to indicate temporary car parking or preferred traffic routes, in fact anything a Parish might wish to put on a map.

The clerk is due to commence CiLCA training in September. This will involve an additional 2 hours paid study per week.

The Dog Warden has confirmed the suitability of the 2 sites, one on Little Hill at the Church Road end and the other on the cycle track by the old cross at Station Road. Once confirmation is received from the Parish Council regarding the colour (green or red) and whether a post is required to fix the bins too the clerk will order the bins.

Cllr Swait has written to Highways to confirm that he is still the Snow Warden for Woodchester PC, to find out if David Excel's services were required as a Snow Plough

Operation, to seek clarification on the subject of insurance cover for volunteers clearing snow and to confirm that Woodchester would be unable to hold a stock pile of salt and distribute it in adverse weather conditions unless it could be incorporated into the duties of the Snow Plough Operator.

The clerk has received an update from GCC detailing what budget cuts mean for road safety and improvements, the main areas are as follows:

- No capital investment in speed cameras
- Withdrawing of £150,000 from operations and enforcement and review of speed cameras
- A reduction of £60,000 in road safety education
- In respect of road improvement schemes they will concentrate on repairing and maintaining existing roads rather than delivering new improvement schemes.

Woodchester does not have any schemes immediately affected by this year's cuts

- By the end of the year every school in Gloucestershire that wants one will have a school travel plan but cuts in this area by the Government mean that GCC will be withdrawing the level of funding and support they offer.

The clerk has been contacted by Kath Gay to ask if bookings for 2011 could be made as soon as possible.

The clerk has received a request from the Stroud and District Citizens Advice Bureau asking to be considered as a potential grant recipient.

Cllr Lead has contacted Margaret Lister at the Stroud Museum about the possibility of purchasing the library associated with the history of the pavement. Margaret has confirmed that the museum would be very interested but only have a budget of £300, far below the estimated value of £8,500. Cllr Wigzell is in discussions to find out if potential support could be found amongst those who were interested in donating funds to purchase the replica pavement.

A first draft of the VDS has been produced and is being read by a solicitor.

The clerk has received a quote from Ian Smith, the maintenance contractor, to erect the notice boards and the dog bins, as follows:

Notice Boards - £360

Dog bins - £110

If there are problems with the new holes extra may be required.

Resident's Correspondence

Following correspondence received from a resident regarding rights of way in the Water Lane area, the clerk has replied to advise them that no rights of way were shown on a map of the Water Lane area and that time has expired for Modification Orders to be made to establish or dedicate new paths.

Regarding their concern about the removal of wooden fences and their replacement by wire fencing with rows of barbed wire in certain places in the village, the clerk wrote to the owner of The Old Priory asking if some mitigatory measures such as steps could be installed to reduce the risk of injury should someone fall. The land agent for the Priory has written back to advise the following:

1. The paths within the wood west of The Old Priory

In the area around the stile and footbridge they are arranging for some rails to be placed over the barbed wire, and also to trip back the pollard willow which is encroaching onto the footpath. He doesn't feel it is necessary to put steps along this whole section but some steps have been put in at the north end of the wood where the path is steep.

The other path to the west of the lake where the path gets steep is in a fairly deep cutting and the fence is not adjacent to the footway.

He notes that someone has cut the wire in the fence to the west of the stile that leads into the wood from the south which increases the risk of cattle escaping.

2. The path leading down to the cycle track/former railway

The previous owners had done little in the way of fencing for many years. Grazing cattle in these fields is good for their ecology and for wildlife but grazing cattle need strong fences – particularly along the former railway where once on track there is little to stop them for several miles. This section is due for replacement in the next few years (part has already been replaced) and they could look at a new design at that stage. However, for the moment wire has been added to prevent cattle rubbing on the posts or trying to push through and he can see no alternative if the field is to be grazed.

Steps in this area are also an unrealistic option (the cattle would soon trample them down and Scheduled Ancient Monument consent would be required making it prohibitively expensive). They are arranging for the west side (the side away from the boundary) to be strimmed so as to make the path wider and also arranging for some fine gravel to be put down to make it less slippery in wet weather; the footpath is worn down to the underlying rock).

A resident of Paul's Rise has written to the clerk questioning the Parish Council's support of the Stroud Valley's Cycle Campaign.

Following correspondence from a local residence drawing attention to problems of post office users not being able to park their vehicle whilst using the post office, Cllr Brown met a PCSO on site and discussed the problem with him and Terry from the PO. The Officer did not consider the cars to be causing an obstruction although he could see it was all a bit inconvenient. Terry said that he didn't want any formal action taken but wants the local PCSOs to keep an eye on it.

Cheques signed/to be signed since last meeting July 1st, 2010

Cheque Number	Description	Amount
513	Undercroft Hire	£15
514	Balance for Notice Board to Simon Peirce	£711
515	Clerk salary – 4.6.10 – 1.	£333
516	Stationery	£93.66
517	GAPTC Planning Training for clerk and Cllrs Lead and Brown	£30
518	Balance for Notice Board to Woodchester Workshop	£592.50
519	Clerk salary – 2.7.10 - 27.8.10	£666

Planning Update

Planning Decisions Received

Permission granted to

- S.10/0954/HHOLD Upper Atcombe Farm – Erection of a two storey side extension
- S.10/1196/COU1475 Applegarth, Park Lane – Change the use of a garage to a single apartment for a bed and breakfast/holiday let.
- S.10/1472/TCA Cornerways, High Street – Fell Conifer

Planning Applications Received

- S.10/1392/LBC Rooksmoor House, Rooksmoor – Application to replace an existing glazed studio with artificial slates
- S.10/1437/FUL Woodchester Mansion – Application to replace an existing toilet block
- S.10/1446/HHOLD and S.10/1461/LBC Winslow House, Atcombe Road - External alterations to include roof terrace above garage. Replace existing kitchen window with french doors and addition of bay. Redesigning the car parking area and creation of a reception terrace.
- S.10/1594/HHOLD Highbank, Selsley Road – Add conservatory to the North side of the house

Planning Applications Withdrawn

- S.10/1526/FUL Inschdene, Atcombe Road – New dwelling and detached garage

Correspondence received

War Memorials Trust Bulletin May 2010 No 45

GAPTC News Update Summer 2010

LCR Summer 2010

Gloucestershire Police Authority's Annual Report 2009/10

Being a good employer – A guide for parish and town councillors

Clerks & Councils Direct July 2010 Issue 70

No need for nuclear campaign newsletter August 2010