

# Woodchester Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Baldauf, Dunbar and Swait.

In attendance: The clerk, District Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell and one member of the public.

### **2014/95 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bastin, Lead and Warnes.

### **2014/96 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2014/97 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**

There had been some confusion over Stroud District Council's (SDC) Multi-Services Contract Review. This work is currently undertaken by Veolia whose contract expires during 2016. Public opinion was gauged by means of a telephone survey of residents across the district. Carlos Novoth (Public Space Manager at SDC) has confirmed that a telephone survey had taken place, but that Parish Councils were also contacted via email as part of the consultation process. The clerk has no memory of this email. The clerk will write to Mr. Novoth to ask for a copy of the email and request that as soon as a decision is made, Woodchester Parish Council is consulted along with other parishes. Before this, contact will be made with a couple of local clerks to ask whether the email was received in their parishes.

### **2014/98 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of June 5th, 2014 and the extraordinary meeting of June 16<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

These were confirmed.

### **2014/99 Issues arising from the extraordinary meeting of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014:**

#### **a. Update on the situation regarding the Post Office and stores.**

Two options were put forward at the meeting held on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Christian Dannemann proposed the Post Office being managed by a trained postmaster/mistress and residents buying shares in the shop at the existing premises. The second option was to incorporate the Post Office into the Royal Oak offering some basic services and a coffee shop. It was agreed there would be a questionnaire in the next edition of the Woodchester Word. Since then Linda and Terry have decided they would rather the Post Office moved into the pub as they will receive a sum of money from the Post Office if this happens. Mr. Dannemann has withdrawn his original proposal and this leaves The Royal Oak as the only viable option.

Leyton Barratt, Post Office Representative will visit the pub in the next couple of weeks to assess viability, looking amongst other things at the amount of space available and the business plan.

An update will go in the Woodchester Word.

Initials.....

If there are alternative options, these need to be submitted fairly promptly. We do not want to be a position where the Post Office is closed for a period of time. Cllr. Hamilton had spoken with Tony Lait who has alternative plans in place.

If the Post Office rejects the Royal Oak, there is at the moment no 'plan c'.

There could possibly be an outreach service. The clerk will look into what is required to register the Post Office as a 'community asset'.

**2014/100 To receive the clerk's report.**

This was received.

The verges on the A46 at the bottom of Selsley Road have now been re-cut.

Councillors were grateful to Leyhill workers who have done a very good job clearing vegetation along Convent Lane and around the War Memorial. They are due to come back one day per week until the remaining work is complete which includes clearing along the High Street.

The '20 is plenty' campaign saw 58 residents signing up to the pledge. Councillors were disappointed to hear that a representative from the Road Safety Partnership would not be able to visit schools to talk to the children about road safety and our campaign. The clerk will write to Gary Handley to express the disappointment and the sense of being misled following a meeting held in October 2013, particularly as the schools have been very supportive throughout the scheme.

It was suggested that representatives of the Parish Council offer to talk to pupils at both primary schools in September seeking advice from the Road Safety Partnership and then link this in with the '20 is plenty' campaign in Woodchester. The clerk will contact Peter Wilson, Neighbourhood Warden to ask for his support in this and will send a copy of correspondence to Cllr. Binns.

The state of the notice board in the High Street is disappointing and the clerk will contact Simon Peirce about fixing the lock and the general poor state.

**2014/101 To note the latest financial statements and approve cheques as per annex.**

These were noted.

**2014/102 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.**

These were noted.

**2014/103 To note correspondence received.**

Following the report on Stage 1 of SDC's Local Plan, the inspector had some concerns on 'Housing and Employment Requirements', in particular the way in which the data had been gathered and presented. SDC have made a decision to suspend the process for approximately six months until they have satisfied the Inspector's areas of concern. In the meantime, we need to keep a close eye on local development and scrutinise applications carefully.

**2014/104 To discuss and agree issues relating to the proposed mountain bike trail:**

**a. To discuss and agree a lease proposal from Gloucestershire County Council.**

Cllrs. Dunbar and Hamilton met with residents who had concerns over the proximity of the proposed track to their house and garden. An agreement was made to moderate the plan and move the green track further north (keeping the blue track as it is). Back on Track have said this is feasible and this has hopefully removed the potential objection. The land owned by Hills is still required to be included in a lease as the blue track remains on their land.

The lease agreement cannot be progressed until the results are in for the environmental survey and SDC confirm whether or not planning permission is required.

Initials.....

The clerk will contact GCC to update them on the modification of the plan.  
Cllr. Dunbar will place stakes along the cycle path to mark the new limits of the site.

**b. To consider and agree a quote for an environmental survey from those received.**

Three quotes for an Extended Phase I Habitat Survey had been received which were all considered. Councillors agreed on the lowest quote as all three environmentalists had been recommended.

**c. To receive an update on other issues including the Everyone Active Grant.**

Letters to potential sponsors are being prepared and will be sent out shortly.

**2014/105 To discuss and agree a response to Stroud District Council's 'Working Together' document.**

This is a document which has come about after much discussion between the GAPTC, Parish Councils and SDC. Councillors agreed with the statements and the clerk will respond to Kim Bedford at the GAPTC.

**2014/106 To discuss the provision of seats in the bus shelters where at present none exist.**

At present only two of the seven bus shelters have a bench. A request has been made that benches are provided in the remaining shelters. There was concern that residents sitting at the back of a shelter would not be able to see an approaching bus. Therefore, the clerk will contact Ian Smith for a quote to provide five benches to run along the width of the shelter to provide better visibility.

**2014/107 To discuss winter maintenance and approve expenditure if necessary.**

Cllr. Swait was not aware of any issues at present. A couple of bins will need to be replaced in the near future and the notices also need to be replaced ready for the winter.

**2014/108 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**

The Produce Show will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and will include a dog show and presentation to commemorate the start of World War I by the Historical Society.

**2014/109 To receive an update on footpaths.**

There were no major issues to report.

**2014/110 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**

It was suggested that the Post Office be approached to ask that they make a visit to the Village Hall to coincide with their visit to the Royal Oak with the aim of shortening the process. Councillors felt that a formal application needs to be made before an inspection can take place.

Youth funding has become available through SDC. The clerk will look into whether the criteria allow us to apply.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Initials.....