

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 3rd September, 2015 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Lead, Baldauf, McNealey, Swait, Warnes

In attendance: County Councillor Dorcas Binns, the clerk and three members of the public

2015/104 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hamilton and Baynham-Honri and following the meeting from District Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell.

2015/105 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

2015/106 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

The kissing gate on the lane between Woodchester House and Bospin Lane is in a poor state of repair. The post has rotted near ground level. Cllr. Swait will investigate responsibility.

The 30mph sign at Frogmarsh has still not been replaced. The clerk will contact Amey. A member of the public wishes to seek the advice of the tree expert at SDC before carrying out work on an oak tree at Frogmarsh. The clerk will contact Mark Hemming.

2015/107 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2nd July, 2015.

These were confirmed and signed by Cllr. Lead.

2015/108 To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

In addition the clerk had received information that work at Southbank has been put on hold until drainage matters are resolved with Severn Trent Water.

SDC have published information about changes to refuse collections. There will now be a charge for the collection of bulky waste, an optional garden waste collection will commence for which charges will apply and from late 2016 there will be a weekly food collection. The details of this will be published in the next edition of the Woodchester Word. Residents will also be reminded that they are able to leave refuse sacks in dustbins near the roadside for collection. This should remove the need to put bags out early in the morning or risk them being torn by birds and animals.

2015/109 To note the latest financial statements and approve cheques as per annex.

These were noted and cheques signed following the meeting.

A couple of suggestions were made of businesses who may wish to advertise in the Woodchester Word in order to ensure it remains self-financing. The clerk will send a current list of advertisers to councillors.

2015/110 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.

These were noted. The Convent are running as a hotel despite it being a condition of the planning permission that the driveway be in place before business commences. In conversation with the Planning Department it appears that the hotel can continue to

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operate legally, but that the Enforcement Team can ensure the driveway is constructed. Cllr. Binns agreed to make some enquiries at Stroud District Council.

- 2015/111 To receive an update on the planning application for Rooksmoor Mills.**
Following the decision by the Development Control Committee to grant permission for the development, enquiries have been made by private individuals into the legality of the situation.
- 2015/112 To note the approval of the external audit.**
This was noted. Although the audit was approved, Grant Thornton drew attention to an error in Box 8 where the sum did not agree with the figure for the bank reconciliation due to the omission of outstanding cheques. A minor error by the Internal Auditor should have been noted by the clerk and amended by the Parish Council. All details have been published on the website.
- 2015/113 To agree the dates for next year's Parish Council meetings.**
These were agreed as being:
January 7th
March 3rd
May 5th
May 12th (Annual Parish Meeting)
June 2nd
July 7th
September 8th
November 3rd
The clerk will confirm Village Hall availability for these dates and will then publish the confirmed dates on the website.
- 2015/114 To discuss and agree a course of action resulting from the Housing Needs Survey.**
It was agreed the summary be placed in the next edition of the Woodchester Word asking for suggestions of possible affordable housing sites from residents. Only one potential site was identified by councillors which is believed currently to be restricted by a covenant. Therefore councillors agreed that no further action be taken at this stage.
- 2015/115 To discuss and agree a response to SDC's request for a voluntary contribution towards the emptying of dog bins in the parish.**
Due to the high cost of emptying dog bins, SDC have asked Parish Councils to contribute towards this cost for the bins they own. Woodchester currently owns six dog bins and this would mean a total cost of £446.16 per annum. Councillors agreed that this was not a contribution a Parish Council should be asked to pay. The clerk will respond and turn down their request for any contribution.
- 2015/116 To receive feedback on the meeting to discuss parking in the High Street and Frogmarsh held on the 11th August and to agree a course of action as a result of suggestions made at that meeting.**
SWALT applied for planning permission for parking several years ago, but were turned down. At their next meeting they will discuss whether they should re-apply for planning permission, possibly with access to gardens along the High Street
It was also felt that road markings would be useful in several locations and a group of residents are looking into this as a possibility.

Cllr. Swait left the meeting at 7.45pm.

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- 2015/117 To discuss and agree whether to provide a portable toilet in the layby on the A46 following discussions with Environmental Health, Gloucestershire Highways and Zurich Insurance.**
 No issues arose from Environmental Health, however it has emerged the land behind the layby is not owned by GCC. This may have implications in terms of insurance. The clerk will find out more information on this and more precise costs involved in hiring a toilet if maintenance is not required.
- 2015/118 To receive an update on progress with the mountain bike trails.**
 The lease can progress once we have a plan of the site entrance from Back-on-Track which is required by GCC.
- 2015/119 To receive an update on footpaths and rights of way.**
 The cycle path is currently overgrown. Cllr. Binns will request that it be cut back.
- 2015/120 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**
 The Produce Show will be held on the 12th September. Schools have been given entry forms to be distributed in book bags and posters and forms have gone to the Catholic Church.
- 2015/121 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
 There were no comments from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

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