

Woodchester Parish Council

Clerk: Ann Bijkerk

6 Beech Grove, North Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 5NL

Telephone: 01453 873456

E-mail: clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk

Website: www.woodchesterparish.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 5th March, 2015 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, Warnes, Swait, Baynham-Honri and McNealey

In attendance: The clerk, District Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell, County Councillor Dorcas Binns and four members of the public

2015/24 To receive apologies for absence.

An apology was received from Cllr. Baldauf.

2015/25 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

2015/26 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

A '30mph' sign at Frogmarsh was removed following damage. The clerk contacted Amey to ask that it be re-instated. A question was raised as to what the current situation was. The issue had been raised and the clerk will chase it up.

The triangular piece of land at Frogmarsh is becoming overgrown. A resident asked the Council's opinion to the area being cut-back and tidied up by residents. Councillors responded that they saw no issue with residents carrying out the work as long as it was done responsibly and took account of the bird nesting season.

2015/27 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th January, 2015.

These were confirmed and signed.

2015/28 To receive the clerk's report.

Amey had been contacted for their support in finding a solution to vehicles parking opposite Frogmarsh Mill. The clerk had spoken with Adrian Boyes who had carried out a site visit. It is no longer Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) policy to use line markings opposite an entrance, but Amey have no issue with a polite notice being attached to the fence asking drivers to park elsewhere. The clerk will contact the owners of the site. Following a letter to the owner of Woodchester House regarding wallabies being loose in the village, they remain free and a number have been seen in South Woodchester. There is a concern that this could cause a hazard to motorists. A fence has also been erected around the field north-east of Woodchester House for black sheep. These have also been seen loose in the village. The fence has been erected across the stile on Footpath 14. The clerk will draft a second letter asking that the fencing around the wallabies be made fit for purpose; that the fencing be removed from the stile on Footpath 14 and the grass be cut on the route of the footpath. The potential hazard to motorists will again be highlighted with regard to sheep and wallabies being loose in the village.

Item 2014/43 was discussed at this point after which Cllr. Binns left the meeting.

2015/29 To note the latest financial statements.

These were noted.

Initials.....

- 2015/30** **To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**
These were approved.
- 2015/31** **To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.**
These were noted. Since the clerk's report was written, an application has been made for a Certificate for Existing Lawful Use to prove whether the 'petrol filling station' landuse adjacent to Woodchester Garage still exists. The Planning Committee are due to meet on 11th March to agree a response.
- 2015/32** **To agree an increase in the clerk's salary to spinal column point 21 to take effect from 1st April, 2015 as a result of her gaining the CiLCA qualification.**
This was agreed.
- 2015/33** **To appoint an internal auditor.**
In the next financial year small Parish Councils will be exempt from external audits. The clerk outlined a new service being offered by the GAPTC which will look at all aspects of Parish Council procedures. Councillors resolved to appoint Iain Selkirk as internal auditor for 2014/15, but the services offered by GAPTC will be considered more thoroughly for 2015/16.
- 2015/34** **To approve final arrangements and expenditure for the litter pick on 29th March.**
The clerk will order more refuse sacks from Stroud District Council (SDC) and will arrange for the refuse to be collected on 30th March. The clerk will display posters around the village and it was agreed that Miss Daisy be asked to provide refreshments.
- 2015/35** **To agree the format for the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 21st May and to discuss and agree key issues to include in the Parish Council report.**
In the past, voluntary groups, schools, churches etc. have been asked to produce a written report for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that this be carried out again this year. It was agreed that an update on the Village Shop, the proposals for Q Park and news from the Mansion might attract more residents.
- 2015/36** **To discuss and agree a quote for metalwork to enable an aluminium board to be attached to the existing wooden post at Rooksmoor.**
It was resolved to accept the quote. The clerk will contact Ironworks and purchase an aluminium board.
- 2015/37** **To agree the siting of seats in the bus shelters following site visits by the clerk and Ian Smith.**
It was resolved to site all the seats along the back of the bus shelters. This will mean they are not affected by the rain and there will be more space for residents to sit.
- 2015/38** **To agree a course of action on the Woodchester Word following discussion with the editor as a result of a resolution that the Woodchester Word becomes independent of the Parish Council.**
Cllr. Lead explained that Iain Dunbar had transformed the Woodchester Word from a one-page document to a magazine. The Woodchester Word is now edited by Rod Harris and the Parish Council are grateful to Rod for his enthusiasm in producing a newsletter which residents enjoy reading. The funding of the Woodchester Word was initially the responsibility of the Parish Council, but is now self-funded by advertising. Councillors feel that it should now be independent of the Parish Council.
Rod Harris agreed that he would be happy in principle to take over full responsibility, but that if the newsletter suffers a loss for any reason, the liability should not fall on the editor's shoulders.
Councillors resolved to underwrite the cost of one edition of the Woodchester Word and agreed that they will provide at least one page of 'Parish Council News' for each edition. The editor was in agreement with these proposals.

Initials.....

- 2015/39 To discuss and agree a response to the Local Transport Plan consultation.**
Councillors looked particularly at the section concerning the Stroud area. Councillors felt there needed to be a greater understanding that decisions regarding The Local Plan were not yet in place until the inspector has agreed the document. Councillors agreed that the document does not sufficiently deal with the proposed increase in houses in our area, particularly the impact on transport from the proposed development west of Stonehouse. The clerk will respond.
- 2015/40 To discuss and agree a response to the Stroud Local Plan: Consultation on Post submission Proposed Changes.**
Following discussion it was resolved that no response would be sent at this time.
- 2015/41 To receive an update from the Rights of Way Committee and to agree any recommendations agreed at the meeting held earlier in the evening.**
A stile has been obstructed on land belonging to Woodchester House. This was mentioned earlier in the meeting. Footpath MWO2 as it becomes MKS73 is often boggy. This may be a project the Cotswold Wardens would be willing to consider at some stage. The provision of dog bins in the village was discussed and it was felt that one sited along Atcombe Road, where footpaths MWO19 and MWO20 join the road would be beneficial. The clerk and Cllr. Warnes will investigate siting a bin and report back at the Parish Council meeting in May.
- 2015/42 To agree recommendations put forward by the Website Working Group, following a meeting held on the 9th February.**
The working party made recommendations for the website including changes to the title bar, updating the business directory and ensuring that all material was current. They have also set up a Facebook page for the village where residents can find information and post views, photos etc. Cllrs. Baynham-Honri and McNealy agreed to be administrators.
- 2015/43 To receive an update on the bike trails.**
The solicitor for GCC is meeting with John Lane (Pubic Rights of Way Lead Officer at GCC) on the 9th March and hopefully a lease agreement will follow shortly after. The clerk has applied for funding from the Langtree Trust and Jack Lane Charitable Trust.
- 2015/44 To receive feedback from Cllr. Hamilton on a Planning Forum meeting held at Ebley Mill on 19th February.**
Cllr. Hamilton outlined the content of the meeting which focused on Neighbourhood Planning. We already have a Parish Plan and Village Design Statement and after discussion, councillors resolved not to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan at this time.
- 2015/45 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
Members of the public asked about a specific planning application they have been involved with. Councillors from the Planning Committee gave their opinions.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Initials.....