

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

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

In attendance: The clerk and two members of the public

**2016/81 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Baynham-Honri and Neighbourhood Warden, Dominic Everiss.

**2016/82 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

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

**2016/83 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**

A question was raised as to whether the oak tree in the triangle of land at Frogmarsh, planted to mark the Millennium might be considered for a commemorative plaque. A response to this question was given later in the meeting under item 2016/91.

**2016/84 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016.**

These were confirmed and signed as a true record by Cllr. Hamilton.

**2016/85 To receive the clerk's report.**

This was received.

Following a visit from James Watkins, a revised quote for the bike trails had been received. Unfortunately it was considerably higher than that of three years ago. The clerk will contact another local company to provide a second quote.

In response to a letter from the Parish Council regarding an encroaching hedge, the clerk received a letter from residents in Bospin Lane who confirmed the hedge had been cut back, but could not confirm who owned the adjacent footpath. Gloucestershire Rights of Way were contacted and although they have no access to information on ownership, they confirmed responsibility for the surface of the footpath. The clerk has since requested the path be cut back and added to Gloucestershire Highway's maintenance list.

A resident was concerned about an electric fence recently installed attached to a stile on a public right of way. A conversation with Sarah Macaulay-Lowe of Gloucestershire Rights of Way confirmed that the landowner is within his rights to do this providing there is clear signage. Councillors agreed it was not appropriate to ask the landowner to insulate the fence adjacent to the stile as there was no requirement for him to do so.

The Neighbourhood Warden visited a resident of Park Lane to discuss signs to deter parking. Any reference to suggest drivers park at the church has been removed.

Councillors agreed that they would also like to see some of the signs removed to leave one or two. The clerk will contact Dom Everiss and ask that he re-visit the property.

Cllr. Hamilton completed a Local Transport Questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

The clerk emailed councillors for their comments. A response will be sent before the deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**2016/86 To note the latest financial statements and approve cheques as per annex.**

Initials.....

- These were noted and cheques signed at the close of the meeting.
- 2016/87 To note the 2016-17 national salary award for clerks from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 and the 2017-18 salary award to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.**  
 These were noted. Councillors agreed that should the clerk feel additional hours are required to do the job, this would be considered.
- 2016/88 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.**  
 These were noted.
- 2016/89 To discuss a quote for a new bus shelter at Frogmarsh and agree further action.**  
 Following arson attacks on bus shelters at Frogmarsh, councillors agreed that a replacement more resistant to vandalism should be considered. A quote had not yet been received and therefore discussion on this was deferred to the Full Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2016/90 To discuss speed of vehicles and safety on the A46 following further concerns from residents and to agree an appropriate course of action.**  
 For many years residents have been concerned about the speed of vehicles both along the A46 and within the village. Measures have been taken to aim to improve the latter, but any improvement with regard the A46 requires the backing of Gloucestershire Highways and a level of funding. In the past attempts to make improvements have not proved successful.  
 The situation was discussed following renewed concern from residents and councillors agreed an action plan:
- The clerk will attend future meetings of the local Road Safety Group
  - Gloucestershire Highways will be contacted to:
    - enquire about the possibility of the loan of a vehicle activated sign
    - ascertain the criteria for reducing the speed limit on the A46 from 40 to 30
    - discuss options to improve safety on the A46 with measures such as a crossing at Frogmarsh, traffic island etc. The criteria for agreement and how these might be funded will form part of that discussion.
- The clerk will draft a letter to Cllr. Dorcas Binns outlining the action plan and formally requesting consideration for Highway Local funding in 2017 towards a project agreed between councillors and Gloucestershire Highways.
- 2016/91 To receive an update on the Millennium lime tree on the Church Green and agree any further action.**  
 The clerk met with Mr. and Mrs Hemming to discuss work required to ensure the lime tree remains healthy and free from disease. This work is best carried out in the autumn. Councillors were in agreement that the work should be carried out professionally. The clerk will contact a resident of the village to ask for a price to carry out the work. The structure around the tree needs to be removed and a plaque installed at ground level. The clerk contacted one of the Church wardens for their approval. Once approval is received, Ian Smith will be asked to remove the structure around the tree and a plaque will be ordered. Following a question under item 2016/83, councillors agreed that a plaque should also be purchased for the oak tree at Frogmarsh.
- 2016/92 To receive an update on s.106 funding for stiles in the village and agree further action.**  
 SDC are in receipt of the £1686 contribution from the application adjacent to Treetops. Therefore the Parish Council are able to go ahead with two kissing gates. Permission has provisionally been given by two landowners for the replacement of stiles on their land. The clerk will measure the sites and contact two companies for quotes.

Initials.....

**2016/93 To discuss a suggestion the Parish Council adopt the telephone box on Selsley Road for use as a 'lending library' and agree a course of action.**

The clerk reported that the cost of adopting a telephone box from BT would be £1; electricity for the light continues to be provided free of charge. Presuming the telephone box were maintained, cover for public liability would already be covered under the existing insurance policy. The additional cost of cover for damage would be £15-£20. Box Village Society were contacted; in their situation a librarian was appointed to remove excess books and rotate them. Councillors agreed to apply to BT for adoption of the telephone box in Selsley Road. A 90 day consultation with SDC will then take place.

**2016/94 To receive an update on the gate post between Tower House Drive and Bospin Lane following a note from the Parish Council to residents concerning ownership. To agree any further action.**

The clerk was contacted by several residents concerned about the possibility of the kissing gate being removed. No response had yet been received from Woodchester House. The gate was set in concrete about twelve years ago before being removed to allow large vehicles through. Since then the post has been unstable. Cllr. Swait agreed to talk with one of the key holders and feed back to councillors before the Parish Council make any decision on a course of action.

**2016/95 To receive an update on footpaths and rights of way.**

Cllr. Warnes had nothing more to report.

**2016/96 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**

The Produce Show will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> September with displays in St. Mary's Church by the Historical Society and Woodchester Mansion Trust.

**2016/97 To receive feedback from the latest meeting of residents looking into the possibility of finding suitable land in the village for a play area.**

Stroud District Council informed the group that a tenancy agreement for land at Southbank expires in November 2018.

The group recently met with Helen Richards from the GRCC who provided helpful advice. A questionnaire for residents will go out with the next edition of the Woodchester Word. This will help gauge support for a play area in the village. The group hopes to gain feedback on what residents would like to see in a play area and if they are aware of any pieces of the land which might be investigated.

**2016/98 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**

A resident impressed upon councillors the desire for a replacement bus shelter at Frogmarsh sooner rather than later as elderly residents in particular make use of the bus shelter seat.

A resident is due to meet with a member of Environmental Health at SDC concerning Japanese knotweed at Frogmarsh. Councillors expressed concern that this might spread further into the village if left untreated and fully support the resident in communication with the Environmental Health Department.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Chair..... Date.....

Initials.....