

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 8th February, 2017 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 8pm

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

In attendance: The clerk and six members of the public

Before the main business of the meeting, Cllr. Hamilton briefly outlined the background to the project which rose from a need for a children's recreation area, identified in the Parish Plan. The response of children from both primary schools was very positive. Grants were received from several companies and charities, the majority of funding coming from Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together Grant. Since the initial planning stages in 2013 there have been a number of setbacks which prompted a decision by Councillors on the future of the project.

2017/23 To receive apologies for absence.

An apology had been received from County Councillor Dorcas Binns.

2017/24 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2017/25 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th January, 2017.

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

2017/26 To receive a summary to date for the proposed Mountain Bike Trails.

The clerk distributed a summary to members of the public (copy attached to these minutes). Cllr. Lead and the clerk gave a summary of the current position with regard to issues such as leases, funding and access.

The lease with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is for 25 years whereas the lease for land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hill will be for 10 years. At the end of this lease Mr. and Mrs. Hill may decide not to renew the lease or may not be in ownership of the land to make that decision. It was agreed that as the design of the trails is such that the 'blue grade' track is to be solely on land owned by the Hills and the 'green grade' track on GCC land, if the Hill's lease were not to be renewed, the 'green grade' track could remain fully functional.

Councillors agreed that as long as the pavement in Paul's Rise is boarded by Trailcraft, the risk in damaging the pavement is small.

Trailcraft have asked for no payment until the work has been completed to a satisfactory standard and any damage to the cycle path or site has been repaired. Councillors agreed that a post-installation inspection, although not a requirement, should be carried out as best practice.

Since 2013 costs have risen, creating a shortfall in funding. This is expected to be in the region of £5,000.

2017/27 To receive comments and questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

Members of the public agreed it important to involve local children and young people in fundraising ideas for the track and helping with ongoing maintenance.

Initials.....

Cllr. McNealey outlined plans being put to Stroud District Council for funding of £300,000 for a Walking and Cycling Strategy in the Stroud District. This may include improvements to the Stonehouse to Nailsworth cycle path and canal paths. Should the Woodchester Mountain Bike Trails go ahead, this would make them part of a bigger network of opportunities.

Councillors confirmed that the trails would be open at all times. The Neighbourhood Warden would be approached to include the site as part of his patrol.

2017/28

To discuss and agree the future of the project and any subsequent course of action.

Councillors resolved to make £5,000 available from Parish Council reserves as required. At the earliest possible stage some of this funding will be replaced with alternative funding.

Councillors resolved to go ahead with the mountain bike trails and to accept the quote from Trailcraft subject to additional terms.

Actions:

- The clerk will confirm acceptance of the quote from Trailcraft subject to additional terms.
- The clerk and Cllr. Lead will respond to the requirements of Mr. and Mrs. Hill's solicitor.
- The clerk will telephone BPE solicitors to advise that the lease with GCC can be sent and to ask that they check the lease from Mr. and Mrs. Hill at their earliest convenience.
- Cllr. Hamilton will print and sign the Schedule 2 Statutory Declaration in the presence of a solicitor.
- Local residents in Paul's Rise will be notified of planned work.
- A steering group will be set up to consider additional fundraising and maintenance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

Initials.....

Woodchester Mountain Bike Trails – Summary

Leases

- A lease between Woodchester Parish Council (WPC) and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has been signed and is being held by BPE solicitors.
- A lease between WPC and Mr. and Mrs. Hill has been received for agreement. BPE solicitors have been asked to check it for anything they feel unnecessarily onerous. We are awaiting a response.
- The boundaries of both leased areas have been pegged out in agreement with Mrs. Hill.

Access

- Alternative access via Paul's Rise has been agreed by John Lane of GCC.
- This access has been assessed by Trailcraft and is felt to be appropriate.
- Adjacent properties would be notified in advance of any work commencing.
- There is a risk of liability of lorries crossing the pavement to holding area. It has been agreed with Trailcraft that they will board the pavement to reduce the risk.

Start Date

Trailcraft are able to start work on or near the 28th February and work should take no more than three weeks.

Referees

A phone call was made to a Mr. Peter Farnell of North Petherton, Somerset who set up a community group for a similar project to that proposed by WPC. He spoke very highly of the company and had no hesitation in recommending them.

Payment Terms

- Full payment would be made by WPC within 30 days of safe and satisfactory completion of the tracks, a post-installation inspection and signing off.
- Photos and videos of the site would be taken prior to any work commencing as a means of comparison after completion of work.

Initials.....

Finance

Total Funding	£23,500	Grants from Active Together (GCC) £16,000, Renishaw £2,500, GPFA £2,000, Langtree Trust £500, Jack Lane Trust £500, Summerfield Trust £2,000
Expenditure to Date	£1,389	GCC solicitor £480, Mr. and Mrs. Hill's solicitor £909
Total Remaining	£22,111	£20,111 held in Lloyds account 66463160 and £2,000 promised from GPFA payable on receipt of invoice
Future Expenditure		
Trailcraft	£22,607	
Fencing	£1,142.37	
Solicitor for Mr. and Mrs. Hill	£1,500	
Post-Installation Inspection	£395	
Land Registry Fess	£80	
Additional Insurance	£100?	
Signage – Board at entrance and way markers	£300?	
Bin?	£150	
Total Expenditure	£26,274.37	
Shortfall	£4163.37	

Parish Council Reserves

Amount held in Lloyds account 7527828 - £20,195.33.

Ongoing Financial Commitments

- Annual safety check (best practice) - £66.50
- Maintenance to prevent surrounding vegetation encroaching
- Maintenance to fencing, signage etc.
- Replacement/topping up of surface material every year/two years
- Insurance

Ongoing non-Financial Commitments

- Weekly safety checklist tick sheet (best practice)
- Three monthly safety check (best practice)

Initials.....