

Woodchester Parish Council

Clerk: Duschanka Sutherland
Tulip Cottage, Windsoredge, Nailsworth, GL6 0NP
Telephone: 01453 833313
E-mail: clerk@woodchesterparish.uk
Website: www.woodchesterparish.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on May 20th 2010 in the Endowed School, North Woodchester at 7pm

Initials.....

Present

Cllr Hamilton (Chair)
Cllrs Brown, Swait and Lead
Clerk Duschanka Sutherland
Plus seven representatives of organisations and the public.

Welcome

Cllr Hamilton acted as Chair in the absence of the Cllr Wigzell. He welcomed everyone.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:
Cllrs Wigzell, Bastin and Syrett
District Councillor Glanfield
Margaret Smith, St Dominic's School
Gordon Soutar, Woodchester Endowed School
Jackie Hayes, Brownies and Guides
Nigel Brooke-Smith – Woodchester Historical Society

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting May 7th, 2009

The Council approved the minutes of last year's meeting as a true record.

Verbal report by Cllr Brown on the Woodchester Produce & Craft Show and other Events

Cllr Brown addressed the meeting, thanked all those who have contributed towards and supported events such as the Fete and Christmas Carols and spoke about the forthcoming Produce and Craft show, planned for September 11th 2010. Parishioners were asked to get planting and knitting! There will also be a flower demonstration in St Mary's Church on the same day. Cllr Brown also spoke of possible future events such as Open Gardens covering the whole of Woodchester and a village picnic. Cllr Brown had to leave the meeting to attend the AGM of the WI which was being held at the same time at the Village Hall.

Report on Parish Council Business over Past Year

In Cllr Wigzell's absence Cllr Hamilton presented Cllr Wigzell's report of the Council's progress over the past year. This included introducing Duschanka Sutherland as the new clerk, and talking of the different ways the Council works such as acting as an initiator and asking others for help in endeavours such as the fete and the Village Design Statement. This wouldn't be possible without the extra help given by parishioners. Last year's fete was a great success and it is hoped that another will be held soon. The website is another example where local talent in the form of John Fairley has enabled significant progress to be made. John has taken on the voluntary role of Webmaster and with the help of Epicado has updated and upgraded the website. Cllr Hamilton urged parishioners to help keep the site current. Further plans include a notice board function and a directory of Woodchester based businesses. John Fairley and Epicado were thanked for all their efforts. Cllr Hamilton also praised the new updated and extended Woodchester Word which is flourishing under the new editorship of Iain Dunbar. The South Woodchester Amenity Land Trust have approached the Council asking if they would help facilitate a playground on the Trust's land. As the provision of a playground is a key action point in the Parish Plan the Council have expressed their willingness to do so and Cllr Syrett has offered to join the working group. Cllr Hamilton spoke of the hard winter and the damage this has done to the roads. Cllr Swait as the Snow Warden has had a busy few months and continues to do so even into summer reporting on grit bins and pot holes throughout the parish. He was thanked for his efforts. The council continues to lobby Highways about the dangers of crossing the A46 and pressing for an underpass at the Frogmarsh end of the village. The Council have reviewed both the condition and siting of notice boards in the Parish and it was confirmed that two new double boards for South Woodchester High Street and Rooksmoor have been commissioned and should be in place by the end of June. The existing board in North Woodchester will be moved slightly up the road to outside the post office and the existing single board in Rooksmoor will be moved to Paul's Rise. Cllr Hamilton concluded by speaking of the Emergency Plan which he has updated this year. Woodchester is only one of a few parishes who actually have a plan in place.

Cllr Lead gave a report on behalf of the Planning Sub-Committee. He clarified how the planning system works and confirmed that the council is sometimes given very short notice by SDC. Often planning meetings are not attended by any residents. An article explaining the planning process has been featured in the current (May) edition of the Woodchester Word. In 2009 19 applications were permitted, 4 refused, one a appeal and there are 3 outstanding. A resident asked about the wall at The Lawns which needs repair. Cllr Lead will make enquiries. The condition of Goring House was also raised and the clerk agreed to investigate with SDC.

A resident made a complaint that the parish's notice board are not being kept up to date and there are often all notices left on even after events have passed. In addition it appeared that the Annual Parish Meeting was not notified on the North Woodchester Notice Board . The clerk noted this complaint but pointed out that posters had been put on all of the Parish's notice boards and explained that the Parish cannot always control what is put up or taken down as the majority of the notice boards are not lockable, only part of the one in North Woodchester is and this has been temporarily dominated with notices on the recent local elections. Another resident voiced concern at the prospect of the Roman Pavement being lost to the local area. Councillors confirmed they share this worry but spoke of the

efforts made locally to try to secure its future. Unfortunately efforts have been hampered by a very short period of time to do anything as well as trying to raise an unknown amount without knowing where the Pavement could be re-homed as well as the costs of then building a suitable structure to house it in.

Organisations making Verbal Presentation

Jill Atkinson presented a verbal report on behalf of the Priory Church of the Annunciation. For the first time in 165 years the catholic church is without a resident priest but Father Bill from St Joseph's in Stonehouse has taken over from Father Piers. St Mary's Hill House is to be let and the Parish Office is moving to a room in the Poor Clare Convent. Small meetings will take place in private homes, St Dominic's School or The Quiet Place at Poor Clare Convent. The meeting was reminded of the excellent facilities provided by the Quiet Place for meetings. Sisters at the Convent would welcome bookings from interested organisations.

Malcolm Swait as treasurer of the Village Hall confirmed that the Village Hall continues to thrive. The lighting has been updated and the boiler will be replaced in August. The finances are very healthy and hire rates will be held for the next year. The Hall is available for public hire at weekends but as much notice as possible is recommended as it is very popular. Then as the treasurer of the South Woodchester Land Trust, Malcolm Swait confirmed that the area of land has been cleared, the allotments are doing well. Plans for a playground would be expensive and are on the backburner.

Cllr Lead gave a presentation on the Village Design Statement. He confirmed that following public consultations and displays at last year's fete, the Endowed School and St Dominic's an online survey was promoted throughout the Parish and paper copy distributed to every household. The final design statement will be produced by the end of the year.

Andrew Pemberton provided a verbal report on St Mary's Church. He confirmed it is a big and expensive building to maintain. A recent architect inspection has resulted in a programme of works which they hope to carry out in the future although funds will need to be raised. The church is open for community events and carries out fundraising for local charities such as the Nelson Trust. "Messy Church", a monthly event held for children has been very well supported. Andrew Pemberton then spoke on behalf of the Seys and Bridges Educational Foundation. This gives grants of around £5,000 each year to school children within Woodchester who attend the local schools. Applications by individuals were encouraged.

Further comments and questions were then invited. One resident complained that seven days notice is not being given for meetings. The clerk confirmed that only 3 clear days is required. The location for the Annual Parish Meeting was not confirmed in the Woodchester Word. Another resident thanked the council for acting on their request to move the notice board in North Woodchester. A resident also voiced concern that the website is not accessible to all members of the community. The council confirmed that notice boards are still used to communicate with the Parish as well and that requests for any information such as minutes of meetings can be provided by request to the Clerk. Another resident asked if it was possible to see how many of the parishioners used the website. John Fairley, the

Webmaster, confirmed it is not possible, only servers can be identified. Another resident asked if a member of the council attended the annual GAPT meeting. Cllr Hamilton confirmed that this was normally attended by either the clerk or a councillor.

Cllr Hamilton thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm followed by refreshments.

Chair

Date