

# Woodchester Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

### Present

Councillor Hamilton (Chair)

Councillors Grundy, Lead, McNealey and Warnes

Neighbourhood Warden, Dominic Everiss

7 members of the public

Clerk, Ann Bijkerk

### Welcome

Cllr. Hamilton welcomed all those present to the meeting.

### Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 12th May, 2016

Cllr. Lead proposed the minutes were accepted as a true record of the business transacted, seconded by Cllr. Grundy. Cllrs. resolved to approve the minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

### Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Baynham-Honri, District Councillor Philip McAsey and Jenny Bailey.

### Presentation of the Village Annual Report

Cllr. Hamilton began by summarising the Parish Council report.

The most positive achievement of the Parish Council this year had been the construction of the Bike Trails, an idea initiated in 2013 by the then Councillor Iain Dunbar. Cllr. Hamilton thanked Councillors and the clerk for their work in bringing the project to fruition and to Mr. and Mrs. Hill for their part in the project. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), charities and companies who contributed financially were thanked as well as the contractors, Trailcraft.

There may be the opportunity in the future for a play area for younger children as discussions have taken place over the purchase of a piece of land at Frogmarsh and parents have shown some interest in looking into the possibility of a small play area adjacent to the Bike Trails.

The Parish Council have now adopted both telephone boxes in the village. The box on Selsley Road will be used for a defibrillator. No decision has yet been made about the box on the High Street and both boxes need some work to bring them to a good state of repair.

Improvements have been made to footpaths through the provision of kissing gates funded through s.106 from developers and from the support of the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens.

There have been few contentious planning applications other than the ongoing application for development at Rooksmoor Mills. Councillors' belief is that the application does not fit with Stroud District Council's (SDC) Local Plan. The application is due to be discussed on the 6<sup>th</sup> June although this date may be altered due to the general election taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Initials.....

Cllr. Warnes expressed thanks to the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens for their recent work in the village. The letter on the front page of the latest edition of the Woodchester Word was addressed. Disappointment was expressed that clarification on issues raised had not been sought by the author from either the Rights of Way Committee or indeed the landowners themselves before such a letter was printed. Members of the public present felt the letter had been a misuse of the Woodchester Word; that it should be for village information and factual, rather than opinion-based. A meeting with the editor was discussed at the preceding Parish Council meeting to discuss financing the Word as advertising will not cover the costs this year.

The issue of road safety both within the village and on the A46 was raised. The Endowed School had also had recent growing concern for the safety of pupils walking to and from school. Councillors and residents expressed concern over an apparent increase in the number of parked cars, particularly in Selsley Road, leading to drivers mounting the pavement and reduced visibility. Concern was raised, should the Rooksmoor Mills application be granted permission as to where the additional vehicles will park. It was agreed that the village would benefit from joint discussion with Rodborough and Nailsworth to work together to improve safety on the A46.

A resident raised concern about a recent planning application to alter the use of a barn off Church Road to house livestock. Although the resident did not want the livelihood of the landowner affected, he had concern that continuous use of the barn for livestock may lead to noise and smell in the vicinity of his property. Councillors suggested comments be submitted to SDC.

Stroud Local History Society's Annual exhibition at the Museum in the Park in Stroud in July was mentioned. The Priory Church are looking for old photos of the Endowed School or St. Dominic's. Cllr. Warnes is also involved in sourcing photos for the event and put out a request to residents for old photos of the Old School on Atcombe Road, the Village Hall (used for education in the past) and the Endowed School.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> June there will be a Rededication Service for the Wayside Cross, the oldest War Memorial in the country. The event will be attended by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. Efforts are currently being made to track the relatives of those on the Memorial.

**Presentation by Buzz Club's Peter Lead on their link with Ghana**

Cllr. Lead gave an interesting visual presentation on recent work in Ghana where BuzzClub are working alongside Bees for Development. They have increased the number of schools they are working with from two to six to create a sustainable income for families through the sale of honey and beeswax.

**Thanks and close**

Following voting having taken place during the meeting, the winner of the Bike Trail Logo Competition was announced as Poppy Davies from the Endowed School.

Cllr. Hamilton thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

Initials.....