

Woodchester Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on September 8th 2011 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Hamilton, Brown, Swait, Bastin (in part) and Wigzell (in part)

In attendance: The clerk, two members of the public and Chris Riley from GCC Highways

2011/84 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Syrett.

2011/85 To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda and to sign declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2011/86 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity

There were no questions.

2011/87 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting July 7th 2011

These were confirmed.

2011/88 To agree a protocol for action regarding overgrown hedges and communication to landowners

Chris Riley from GCC addressed the meeting. He confirmed GCC Highway's approach to overgrown hedges. This is currently a 3 stage process. GCC Highways write to the landowner requesting that the hedges be cut back. Landowners have 28 days to take action. If no action is taken a second letter is sent from GCC Highways advising the landowner that if they do not take action within 14 days they will either be prosecuted or GCC will do the work then charge them for doing the work plus an administration charge. If action is still not take the matter is passed to GCC's in-house solicitors. Chris confirmed that 9 times out of 10 the first letter is sufficient and that he is not aware of any case actually ever going to court. In a number of parishes the Parish Council write the first letter on behalf of the Highway Authority. This is copied into GCC. The advantages of this are that Parish Councils tend to be aware of problems and know who owns the land and this means action is taken quicker.

Cllr Bastin arrived at 7.10pm.

Cllr Swait asked what would happen during nesting between April to August. Chris Riley confirmed that if it is an immediate danger then action will be taken regardless of nesting. Cllr Lead also asked to what point should hedges be trimmed back and Chris Riley confirmed to the boundary of the highway.

The Parish Council agreed the merits of Woodchester Parish Council sending the first letter as long as it clear that they are acting on Highways authority but confirmed that

they would be unwilling for second letter to go out from the Parish Council. It was agreed that Chris Riley would send letters to the clerk to circulate to the Parish Council for comment.

Chris Riley also confirmed that a snow plough operator has been authorised – Peter Brown. He will be provided with a snow plough to fit onto his JCB. He will also be able to store a supply of salt. If there are specific problem areas in parish that a small number of trusted individuals could be given a small supply. Chris Riley reiterated that salt is for use on Highways and should be used for public good not for individuals driveways. Chris happy to do demo about how much salt should be used on a road or footpath. Predictions are for an early and cold winter.

Cllr Swait confirmed some bins are missing. Bins can be moved around the parish if they are not being used. Some new bins may be authorised. Grit bins should have lids. As part of community offer grit bins and winter maintenance will be offered to PCs at cost, including a push along salt spreader at a 50/50 contribution of £100. 1 bag of salt would do 350 meters so extremely cost effective.

Cllr Hamilton thanked Chris Riley for coming.

2011/89 To receive an update on matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on July 7th 2011

The draft vegetation guide circulated by Cllr Syrett with a request for comments was discussed. It was agreed this needs further review.

Cllr Wigzell arrived at 7.40pm

2011/90 To receive the Clerk's Report

This was received. In addition the clerk confirmed that in response to tenders sent out for restoration to the war memorial one quote has been received from Colin Deakins who did the work last year. Cllr Lead confirmed that Iain Dunbar was standing down as editor of the Woodchester Word in December. Cllr Hamilton confirmed he will be submitting a piece based on clerks report and asked for prompt responses. Cllr Swait advised that the phone box has been vandalised.

2011/91 To note the latest financial statements

These were noted. As chairman of finance committee Cllr Bastin confirmed these looked in order. Finance committee due to meet in October when figures will be scrutinised further. Cllr Lead asked about money for VDS, it was confirmed that this was in earmarked funds from last year.

2011/92 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex

These were approved

2011/93 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC

A summary was provided by Cllr Lead. SDC's move to E consultation was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council should look into the cost of a projector and whether a grant may be available.

2011/94 To note correspondence received

This was noted.

2011/95 To receive an update on events

The Flower and Produce show takes place this Saturday in the Endowed school hall and on the green, rain or shine and there is a photography exhibition in the church. Cllr Lead suggested asking the parish for volunteers to organise future events, particularly with the Diamond Jubilee next year. Cllr Hamilton will include something in the Parish Council contribution in the Woodchester Word. The carols will be held on Tuesday 20th December 2012. Cllr Hamilton will also include something on Remembrance Sunday.

2011/96

To agree a response to Stroud District Council's car park review

Cllr Swait summarised SDC's proposal and the main consultation questions. The Parish Council agreed the following responses:

Question 1: Do you agree that the Council providing and running public car parks is important in supporting the district's economy?

Yes.

Question 2: What priority do you think SDC should place on the different car park user groups. Which group is the highest priority to you?

1 - Shoppers and visitors, 2 - Local businesses and their employees and 3 – residents.

Question 3: Do you think that the cost of public car parks should be met by the motorists who use them or by the council tax payer?

Council tax payer.

Question 4: Do you think that it is important that short-stay spaces are available for shoppers and visitors throughout the day?

Yes.

Question 5: Do you agree that parking charges help promote the turnover of spaces?

No.

Question 6: Do you agree that SDC should continue to own and/or manage car parks in these (Berkeley, Cainscross, Cam, Dursley, Kings Stanley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Painswick, Stonehouse, Stroud and Wotton-under-Edge) centres?

Yes.

Question 7: Do you think that SDC should continue to own and manage these (Arlingham, Chalford, Horsley, Randwick and Rodborough) car parks, should this be done more locally, or should they be sold and the money used to reinvest in services?

Yes.

Question 8: Do you agree that charges should only apply in Stroud, Stonehouse and Painswick?

Woodchester Parish Council believes the first hour should be free then a progressive charging structure applied.

Question 9: Do you think that SDC should introduce charges in its car parks in Dursley, Nailsworth and Wotton-under-Edge?

No.

Question 10: Do you think that car parks in Berkeley, Cainscross, Cam, Kings Stanley and Minchinhampton should remain free of charge?

Yes.

Question 11: Do you think that the proposed charges for Dursley, Nailsworth and Wotton-under-Edge are too high/too low/about right?

Woodchester Parish Council does not believe charges should be introduced but if they were believes the first hour should be free then a progressive charging structure applied.

2011/97

To agree dates for Parish Council meetings in 2012

It was agreed to maintain the current format of the first Thursday in alternate months with a few exceptions. The following dates were agreed:

January 5th, March 1st, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, September 6th, November 1st

It was also agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May 2012

It was agreed to arrange a date for the next Finance meeting by email.

2011/98

To note the report of CPRE "Communities, Planning and Localism Bill"

Cllr Hamilton summarised the report. This was noted.

2011/99

To note the outcome of the Bus Review

2011/100 Full details had been covered in the Clerk's Report and the outcome was noted.
To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting
There were no comments

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chair.....

Date.....