

Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on March 3rd 2011 at the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Hamilton, Swait, Lead, Brown and Syrett

In attendance: The clerk, two members of the public and District Councillor Brian Oosthuysen

2011/23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Cllrs Wigzell and Bastin

2011/24 To receive declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2011/25 To receive a report from Sue Laurence, Libraries Representative from GCC, on the future of library services

Sue Laurence was unable to make the meeting so the library update prepared by the clerk was presented by Cllr Hamilton. Cllr Oosthuysen offered to get clarification once it was available regarding the Nailsworth and Minchinhampton libraries. Cllr Syrett voiced his concern about the withdrawal of the mobile library. The clerk advised that GCC have stated it is their intention to ensure that alternative arrangements are made for mobile library users.

2011/26 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity

District Councillor Oosthuysen updated the Parish Council regarding the funding for repairs to roads. Essentially all money is being concentrated here and planned projects such as park and rides put on hold. The Parish Council agreed to feedback specific areas of concern, these included the school runs, Church Road, St Mary's Hill, Convent Lane and Cow Lane and Rooksmoor Hill. The clerk will get a full list and forward to Cllr Oosthuysen who will liaise with Highways.

2011/27 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting January 6th 2011

These were approved.

2011/28 Matters arising from the minutes of January 6th 2011

- Cllr Lead confirmed the VDS draft has been approved by Conrad Moore at SDC and is now on the website. An advert will appear in the next edition of the Woodchester Word inviting public comment up to 10th April. After this it will be presented for approval by SDC. Cllr Lead confirmed it does not need to be approved by the Parish Council Cllr Hamilton thanked Cllr Lead and all those involved for their hard work.
- Cllr Brown does not feel it is appropriate to choose between the 3 quotes provided to clean and repair the War Memorial given the large variances in price and lack of clarity about what the work will entail. It was agreed that given the importance and sensitivity the advice of an expert should be sought which Cllr Syrett agreed to undertake. Once this has been obtained a detailed work specification shall be drawn up and a formal tender process undertaken. The clerk will forward correspondence from the War Memorials Trust to Cllr Syrett.

Initials.....

- Cllr Hamilton asked what was happening about the War Memorial at the Catholic Church in South Woodchester. This was the first war memorial erected in England after the First World War for the fallen Catholics in the Five Valleys area. The memorial is situated with the Church grounds and they are currently fundraising for restoration work.
- Grit bins have been replenished and Cllr Swait will chase up a response to outstanding queries.

2011/29 To officially note Cllr Wigzell's election as a District Councillor

This was noted.

2011/30 To receive the clerk's report

The clerk presented the report.

There were several comments made in response:

- Regarding the works at Frogmarsh, only 1 bollard has been installed and no signs. The clerk will query with Chris Riley at Highways.
- It was suggested and agreed that to improve safety the clerk would prepare and put up signs for the bus shelters advising where the safest place to cross the A46 is.
- Cllr Lead advised that the Woodchester Word now has funding in place to cover nearly all the cost of printing 4 twelve page editions for 2011/12, minus around £100.

2011/31 To note the latest financial statements

The clerk forwarded these as a PDF and unfortunately only 1 page was received. The clerk will resend as an excel document but confirmed there is nothing significant to report. The clerk is in the process of listing the relevant power against expenditure and advised the Parish Council that under Local Government Act 1972 states that a parish council may make use free of charge a room in any school maintained by the local education authority LGA 1972, sch 12, paras 7 and 23. Cllr Syrett will query whether the school hall at the Endowed school could be used free of charge. The clerk also drew the council's attention to the fact that paying for accommodation at both the Undercroft and the Village Hall supported village organisations.

2011/32 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex

These were noted and approved.

2011/33 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC

This was provided by Cllr Lead and were duly noted.

2011/34 To note correspondence received

- Regarding the query about whether someone can change the surface of the footpath from the bottom of Bospin Lane to Tower House Drive, it was agreed that the footpath was previously gravelled so there has not been a change.
- The clerk has referred the resident's correspondence about the barriers at the end of footpaths in North Woodchester which impede access for mobility scooters to the Public Rights of Way Department at GCC who will organise a site visit. Cllr Syrett advised that these barriers are employed to prevent bikes being ridden through the paths at speed and to stop children running out on to the road.
- It was agreed that the request from a beef farmer in Painswick asking if there would be any interest in Woodchester in a weekly round offering residents the opportunity to buy local beef should not be actioned as it sets a precedent and it is not the role of the Parish Council to be involved in the promotion of private enterprise. The clerk will refer him to the Woodchester Word.
- The kissing gate on Selsley Hill (into Boundary Court) has been knocked down. The clerk will report this.

Initials.....

- 2011/35 To approve final arrangements and expenditure for the litter pick**
The Parish Council approved the £20 payment for refreshments for the Litter Pick from Miss Daisy catering. Cllr Lead will be going to the Endowed School to give a talk and the clerk to St Dominic's School as part of the event.
- 2011/36 To agree the format for the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 26th May 2011**
It was agreed to stick with the format of previous years where local groups and organisations are invited to provide written reports. These are required by the middle of May. Requests can also be made to provide a verbal presentation. It was agreed that it would be a good opportunity to invite residents along to review the Parish Plan. It was agreed that refreshments would be limited to tea/coffee and biscuits, funded by Parish Plan funds.
- 2011/37 To consider the adoption of a formal Grant Awarding Policy**
This was adopted. It was noted that the adoption of a policy does not change the Parish Council's stance on providing grants.
- 2011/38 To consider providing a welcome pack for new residents of the Parish**
The welcome pack provided to new residents in Minchinhampton was reviewed was agreed that it was not a good use of public funds to approach new residents directly as the information which would be valuable to them was contained in the Woodchester Word . It was also agreed to ask the Woodchester Word to include details of who Parish Councillors are and how to contact them and this will also be put on all notice boards.
- 2011/39 To receive an update from the Events Committee from Cllr Brown**
Three events for the year have been organised
 1. An afternoon event on 29th April from 3-6 to celebrate the Royal Wedding with village games and fancy dress
 2. A village produce show on Saturday 10th September which will have a similar format to last year but with more stalls and which will run alongside an exhibition by the Photographic Society in the Church
 3. Carols on Tuesday 20th December.
 In 2012 it is likely that there will be a street party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June and the Produce Show in 2012 will run alongside an exhibition by the Historical Society.
- 2011/40 To receive an update from Cllr Hamilton on Emergency Plan revisions**
Cllr Hamilton has made the annual review of the existing plan to make it clearer and more concise. These revisions were approved by the Parish Council.
- 2011/41 To note the appointment of Moore Stephens as external auditor**
The clerk advised she has not yet been contacted by Moore Stephens so their approval as external auditor was deferred to the next meeting.
- 2011/42 To appoint an internal auditor**
Ian Selkirk was appointed as the internal auditor for the forthcoming audit.
- 2011/43 To receive an update on the Parish Plan from Cllr Hamilton**
The original plan from 2005 needs to be revised to ensure it continues to reflect the needs and aspirations of the village. Cllr Hamilton advised that a sub-group comprising himself, Cllrs Bastin and Wigzell and the clerk met to begin the review process. Many of the original action points have been carried out but the intention is to make a list of the outstanding items. Residents will be invited to comment in the next edition of the Woodchester Word. It is hoped that the review will be completed by the end of 2011.

Initials.....

2011/44

To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting

One resident advised that the grit bin in Berryfield has disappeared/been moved. This was queried. The grit bins from the top of Lawns Park and on Bear Hill have also disappeared/been moved. Cllr Swait will investigate.

It was also pointed out by a resident that this side of the A46 gets broadband speeds of 2-3 megabits per second.

The meeting closed at 8.45

Chair.....

Date.....

Initials.....