

# Woodchester Parish Council

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## Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2012 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Lead, Bastin, Dunbar, Swait and Warnes.

In attendance: The clerk and Rhiannon Wigzell, District Councillor.

**2012/222 To receive apologies for absence.**

An apology was received from Cllr. Baldauf.

**2012/223 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2012/224 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.**

Rhiannon Wigzell is now a part of a group within SDC looking at playgrounds. Part of this involves looking at where s.106 money is available.

The coffee morning for John Fairley in aid of the Marah Foundation has been agreed for the 24<sup>th</sup> November. Help from councillors would be gratefully received.

**2012/225 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

These were confirmed.

**2012/226 Matters arising from the minutes of September 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

**Issues regarding safety on the A46 following a meeting with Richard Gray from Gloucestershire Highways and correspondence from Garry Handley, Road Safety Officer and from a concerned local resident.**

This issue arose from a circular from Highways to introduce speed signs. The PC felt that this was expensive and that it would be more effective to reduce the speed limit. The speed was measured by members of the PC on the A46 where the majority of cars were within the limits, but there were a number of high figures.

A meeting was held with Richard Gray from Highways who outlined the process leading to changes taking place. Many factors need to be taken into account such as speed and accidents.

Rhiannon Wigzell commented that Minchinhampton PC supported our suggestion for 30mph and that Renishaw have been given permission to renovate a building with an exit onto Grove Villas and through Giddinap Lane. This may add to the difficulty in crossing between St. Dominics and Pollys Nursery.

It was clear from the meeting with Mr. Gray that not enough criteria were covered in order to reduce the speed limit. Other changes such as vehicular activated signs were also very expensive to implement.

The clerk distributed a document from Richard Gray outlining the process of Traffic Regulation Orders and alternatives to a reduction in the speed limit. The clerk apologised that this was not given out sooner and it was sent several times by Richard Gray, but was not received by the clerk due to a problem with the email account.

Initials.....

The clerk will thank Richard Gray for his correspondence, will ask for clarification on the cost of the proposed signs and will ask about the possibility of using this money on another scheme.

The clerk will send an email to the concerned resident of Manor Gardens who has also met personally with Richard Gray to let her know what the PC plan to do.

Cllr. Lead will summarise the document from Richard Gray to submit to the Woodchester Word.

**2012/227 To receive the clerk's report.**

In terms of broadband speed, no further action will be taken as the clerk only received four requests for an improvement following a request for support in the Woodchester Word.

Following ongoing issues at Rooksmoor Mills, the clerk will write to SDC asking that they respond to our parishioners, particularly following the meeting held earlier in the year at Rooksmoor Mills where SDC stated they would monitor the site more closely and take action if required.

**2012/228 To note the latest financial statements.**

These were noted.

**2012/229 To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**

There were approved.

**2012/230 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.**

These were noted.

Cllr. Lead asked why the PC had not discussed application S.12/1808/FUL. The clerk had not received notification of this application and will contact SDC to let them know that because of this, comments from the PC will be sent a few days after the deadline.

**2012/231 To note correspondence received.**

This was noted.

The clerk will put the crime prevention posters on notice boards and the website.

The information from the GRCC about advice on neighbourhood planning was passed to Cllr. Lead.

**2012/232 To receive a report from the Finance Committee.**

This was received.

It was hoped that the finances for the Woodchester Word could be separated from the PC finances. However the PC still need to contribute to the costs of printing. In the future it may be necessary to cut back on the number of pages or to try to increase income from advertisers.

All other expenses are in line with the budget. The maintenance budget may be slightly more than budgeted.

As a result, the precept can be held at the same figure as last year.

**2012/233 To discuss the annual village maintenance contract.**

This was agreed an increase of £200 for next year as removal of graffiti earlier in the year will push the maintenance budget slightly over the £2000 set for this year.

The path between Woodchester House and Church Road was discussed and Cllrs. Bastin and Hamilton will aim to speak to the landowner to ask that this mud encroaching onto the path is cleared. Cllr. Swait felt that a drainage channel in the valley bottom would help.

The clerk will look into any grants available for the improvement of footpaths.

**2012/234 To discuss two quotes for maintenance to an ash tree off Church Lane and agree which quote to accept.**

Initials.....

This was raised by the Finance Committee. Cllr. Bastin will look into land ownership and a further quote for the work. A decision on this will be brought forward to the meeting in January.

**2012/235 To confirm arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.**

The timings at the War Memorial and church have now been agreed. The clerk will amend the posters accordingly and put them on notice boards. Cllr. Hamilton will lay a wreath on behalf of the PC, Andrew Pemberton on behalf of the PCC and Cllr. Bastin will arrange an Old Comrade to lay the third wreath.

Cllr. Bastin will also try to arrange with Andrew Pemberton that the bugler play at the War Memorial as well as the church.

The clerk will find the order of service details and pass to Cllr. Bastin.

**2012/236 To feedback on Cllr. Hamilton's meeting with the Chief Executive of SDC, Kim Bedford of GAPTC and other local parishes with the aim of strengthening relations between parishes and district level.**

The document drawn up by the group focuses on four main areas.

1. Recognising that two-way dialogue is very important.
2. That SDC consult PCs on all issues likely to affect their local area.
3. That SDC allow at least six weeks for PCs to respond to consultations.
4. That PCs are able to add items to the agenda of SDC meetings.

Our primary contact should be our local District Councillor, Rhiannon Wigzell.

*Cllr. Dunbar left the meeting at 8.07pm*

**2012/237 To discuss any issues to be raised at the Parish and District Highways seminar evening on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.**

The clerk will raise the issues of the proposed £10,000 to County Councillors for works to highways and footpaths and the issue of pot holes. Measurements are taken before any pothole is filled. This then leads to Highways revisiting the same site several months later to fill the remaining potholes which have by then increased in size.

**2012/238 To receive an update from the Website Committee.**

The clerk outlined the changes which have taken place to the website including an 'Events' section. Local groups have been contacted to provide information on their news and events. The website will also have a section on 'Local Walks' in the near future. The group looked into the possibility of using RSS feeds, but it appears that this may be more complicated for residents to use than was initially thought.

Cllr. Lead mentioned adding a link to the Stroud Beekeepers website.

**2012/239 To receive an update from the Snow Warden.**

A snow plough was delivered earlier in the year along with stocks of salt. The salt bins have been topped up throughout the village. Three salt bins are missing from the top of Lawns Park, the bottom of Bear Hill and half-way up Frogmarsh. Cllr. Swait will approach a local company for containers.

**2012/240 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**

Cllr. Bastin was thanked for his work in making arrangements for Remembrance Day and Rhiannon Wigzell thought the Order of Service for the laying of wreaths is available on the web.

Rhiannon Wigzell will pass the Wordpress file for the website to the clerk.

Initials.....

SDC are due to make further investigations and communicate with residents concerning numbers 5/6 Southbank which have been empty for a number of years due to subsidence.

Regarding local youngsters, Cllr. Dunbar will speak to both local head teachers about how to facilitate a greater involvement of teenagers in the village. He would appreciate any ideas on how to improve consultation with this age group.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Chair.....

Date.....

Initials.....