

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 2nd November, 2017 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Hamilton, Baldauf, Lead, McNealey and Warnes

In attendance: The clerk, County Councillor Steve Robinson, District Councillor Phil McAsey and five members of the public.

2017/123 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Grundy and Baynham-Honri. Councillors noted this to be the second consecutive meeting Cllr. Grundy had been unable to attend due to professional commitments, also having an effect on active participation in discussion. In the light of another resident having expressed an interest in taking up a role in the Parish Council, Councillors resolved that the Chair write to Cllr. Grundy asking whether he wishes to consider standing down from the role as Councillor, but to suggest he might be involved in other areas of village life.

2017/124 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

2017/125 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

Cars have been parked obscuring the dropped kerb at the bottom of Frogmarsh Lane, making access for disabled and pushchair users more difficult. Councillors agreed a polite notice from the Parish Council be attached to the wall and some polite notices prepared which could be placed on windscreens of offending vehicles.

2017/126 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th September, 2017.

These were confirmed and signed as a true record by Cllr. Hamilton.

2017/127 To receive the clerk's report.

In addition to items recorded on the clerk's report, Stroud District Council (SDC) had requested a payment of £239 per year for emptying dog bins in the village. Councillors had agreed by email that this was not appropriate as it would require an increase in the precept. Stroud District Council have been informed.

Mr. Smith had removed and varnished the wooden notice boards in Selsley Road and the High Street. He will shortly replace the wooden seat on the bench at the entrance to Lawns Park.

2017/128 To note the latest financial statements and approve cheques as per annex.

These were noted and cheques approved.

2017/129 To note the approval of the external audit.

This was noted.

2017/130 To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from Stroud District Council.

These were noted. Two enforcement issues are on-going. The owners of Hillgrove House were sent a letter from SDC asking whether they intended to appeal the planning decision on the erection of a fence. The clerk had sought an update, but was yet to receive a response. The clerk will contact SDC for an update on the situation regarding the garage in the layby on the A46 opposite the entrance to Selsley Road.

Initials.....

A date had not yet been confirmed for the Rooksmoor Mills application to be discussed by the Development Control Committee. If on the agenda for the 21st November, the Planning Committee and interested parties will meet in the Ram at 6pm on the 16th November.

2017/131 To discuss the Stroud District Local Plan Review with feedback from Cllr. Hamilton on the Stroud Valleys Cluster meeting and to agree responses.

Discussed after item 2017/135.

Cllr. Hamilton outlined the key points raised at a recent cluster meeting. As a result of the 2017 Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA), two sites in North Woodchester had been put forward as having potential for development. However, ownership of site NWO001 just west of Lawns Park has altered recently and is no longer available for development. The land is now divided into several plots, with separate ownership. All the land in question is subject to a covenant preventing development. After discussion, it was resolved that Cllr. Hamilton draft a response to the document for comment before submitting to SDC by the 5th December.

2017/132 To receive feedback on a recent traffic survey in Selsley Road and to agree a further course of action.

The key findings of a recent traffic survey were outlined by Mr. Dunbar (included with minutes).

A suggestion was made that the Police be contacted when drivers are observed driving on the pavement, particularly when sharing that stretch of pavement with pedestrians. Councillors had hoped to borrow speed guns from Nailsworth Town Council, but Councillors there have requested a hire agreement be drawn up before the guns are loaned out. However, the clerk at Nailsworth had passed on the contact details for Debbie Powell, Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer with the Police. It was resolved the clerk make contact to ask about the possibility of Speedwatch equipment being loaned and also to invite Ms. Powell to meet with Councillors to offer advice on the issues on Selsley Road.

Councillors resolved that Cllr. McNealey recommend the Village Shop promote their car park and restrict parking immediately outside the shop as this greatly restricts visibility for shop users when exiting the shop.

Cllr. Robinson is currently trying to source a vehicle-activated sign for use on Selsley Road.

Mr. Dunbar was thanked for initiating the survey, the results of which will be passed to Gloucestershire Highways. It was suggested a similar survey be repeated regularly.

2017/133 To discuss final arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

Apart from a bugler, arrangements are all in place. Cllr. Hamilton will represent the Parish Council and George Bastin, the Old Comrades.

2017/134 To receive feedback on a review of the state of grit bins in the village and to agree any further course of action.

Most grit bins had been found to be in good condition, although the majority lacked lids allowing salt to be leached by rain. One grit bin on Cow Lane had been omitted from the list and will be added. It was suggested a bin on Selsley Road would be better sited slightly higher up the hill near the entrance to Boundary Court.

It was resolved that bins would be gradually replaced as necessary, but that clearing access to both schools and the Village Shop were priorities.

Cllr. McNealey agreed to draft an article for the Woodchester Word on the use of grit.

- 2017/135 To discuss Stroud District Council having removed refuse bins from the village and discuss possible replacement.**
 A letter had been sent to SDC following removal of three litter bins from the village. The Parish Council were not informed that the bins were being considered for removal which was reported to be due to them being, 'broken or damaged'. In the letter to SDC, Cllr. Hamilton expressed dissatisfaction at the way the issue was handled and asked that poor communication be avoided in future.
 Councillors discussed replacing the three bins. District Councillor McAsey agreed to find out the official situation from SDC regarding emptying of bins. As long as SDC agree any replacement bins will be emptied, Councillors resolved to replacing the bin on Selsley Road.
Cllr. McNealey left the meeting.
- 2017/136 To agree dates for Parish Council meetings in 2018.**
 Dates for 2018 were agreed as 4th January, 1st March, 10th May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 1st November. The clerk will confirm availability of the Village Hall for these dates.
- 2017/137 To receive an update on footpaths and rights of way.**
 Cllr. Warnes reported a tree had recently come down blocking a footpath near Convent Lane. It was swiftly removed. The path behind the Old Priory, improved by the Cotswold Wardens is dealing well with the wetter weather and the condition of the path is much improved as a result of the work they carried out.
 Only a narrow width of verge was cut back on the cycle path by Gloucestershire Highways earlier in the year. The clerk has been in touch to ask that a more thorough job is undertaken.
- 2017/138 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**
 Cllr. Lead reported a profit of £473 from the Open Garden event, due to be split between Stroud Foodbank and BuzzClub. The Produce Show raised £312. Next year it's hoped to have greater engagement with the schools as entries in the children's categories were down this year.
 Carols will take place on Monday 18th December.
- 2017/139 To discuss and agree content for submission for the next edition of the Woodchester Word.**
 After discussion, Councillors resolved to include articles on the removal of bins by SDC, the use of grit bins and information on the Rooksmoor Mills application, if available before the edition goes to print.
- 2017/140 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
 County Councillor Steve Robinson gave a report and it was agreed an agenda item would be given to reports from both County and District Councillors at future meetings.
 Cllr. Robinson commented that the flow of traffic on Selsley Road may be reduced once the Horsley Road is re-opened which is now expected to be the second week in December.
 Work will be carried out at the bottom of Station Road which suffers from standing water, paid for through Cllr. Robinson's Highways funding. Andrew Middlecote is currently negotiating a quote for the work.
 Although the official consultation on the designation of the 'cycle path' has not yet begun, feedback from an article in the Nailsworth News was generally not in favour of a change to a bridleway where horses, cyclists and pedestrians would be sharing the same limited space. A public consultation is planned.
 Street lights in the District are gradually being replaced by LED lighting, dimmed later in the evening.

Cllr. Robinson reported that the Head and Deputy in charge of the Children at Risk Service for Gloucestershire have now both lost their jobs as a result of a damning OFSTED report. Cllr. McAsey reported little progress with development at Southbank and suggested the possibility the houses may, once built, be available as a part-purchase scheme. Concern was expressed by a resident that traffic on Selsley Road had become recognisably worse over the past 12 months. The resident felt the situation would be improved with restrictions to stop people speeding such as chicanes and enforcement. At times when there is less traffic, vehicles are perceived to be going faster. Councillors suggested that incidents of inappropriate driving which compromise the safety of other road users should be reported to the Police.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.

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

Initials.....

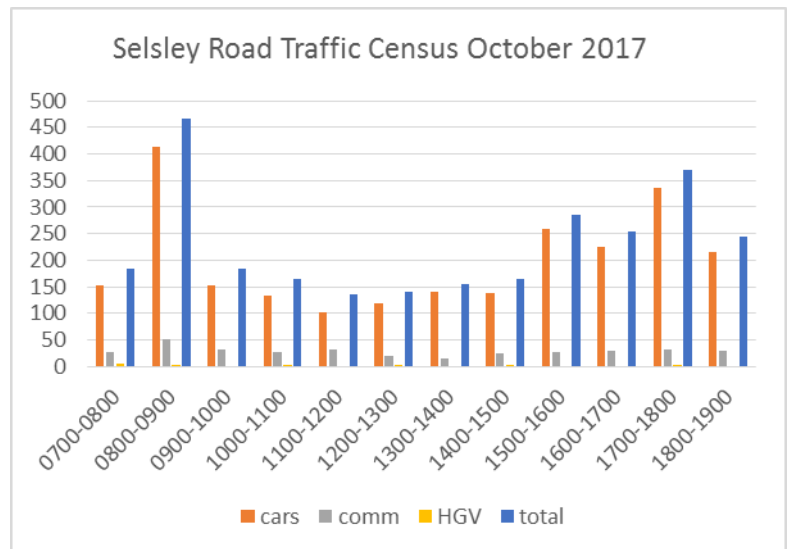
Selsley Road Traffic Survey, October 2017.

A survey of traffic using Selsley Road was carried out on behalf of Woodchester Parish Council. Traffic was surveyed in one hour periods between 07:00 and 19:00. The survey was carried out mid-week during term time in October 2017 at the junction of Selsley Road and Southfield Road, with vehicles counted in three categories – cars and motorcycles, commercial vehicles, and HGV's.

The total number of vehicle movements during the 12-hour period was 2,745. The peak period was between 08:00 and 09:00, with 466 vehicle movements, representing an average of one vehicle every 8.7 seconds.

It was noted that during the morning peak period there were significantly more vehicles traveling down Selsley Road than up, and that this trend was reversed during the evening peak period, with significantly more vehicles traveling up Selsley Road than down.

time	cars	comm	HGV	total
0700-0800	152	28	5	185
0800-0900	414	50	2	466
0900-1000	152	31	0	183
1000-1100	134	27	3	164
1100-1200	103	32	0	135
1200-1300	119	19	2	140
1300-1400	141	14	0	155
1400-1500	139	24	2	165
1500-1600	258	27	0	285
1600-1700	224	29	0	253
1700-1800	336	33	1	370
1800-1900	215	29	0	244
TOTAL	2387	343	15	2745



Observations by those carrying out the survey included:

- There were numerous incidences of vehicles mounting the pavement in the area of the Post Office Pinch Point; on three occasions pedestrians had to take avoiding action as vehicles encroached on the pavement.
- Observers believe that numerous vehicles were exceeding the recommended 20mph speed limit and in some cases the mandatory 30mph speed limit, especially during periods of lower traffic flow.
- Numerous vehicles were not observing the Highway Code recommended vehicle separation of 30m at 30 mph, or 20m at 20mph.
- It is believed that some HGV's exceeded the mandatory 15-tonne weight limit for the bridge at the bottom of Selsley Road.

Initials.....