

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Woodchester Parish Council held on 6th July, 2017 in the Village Hall, North Woodchester at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Lead, Baldauf, Baynham-Honri, Grundy and Warnes

In attendance: The clerk, County Councillor Steve Robinson and three members of the public

2017/89 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hamilton and McNealey and District Councillor, Phil McAsey.

2017/90 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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

2017/91 To receive questions from members of the public and those attending in an official capacity.

County Councillor Steve Robinson presented a report.

Each County Councillor is awarded £30,000 for highways projects within their division. £1,000 has already been allocated to Woodchester for a dropped kerb at Paul's Rise to allow emergency access to the Bike Trails.

Cllr. Robinson reported that Woodchester Parish had received one week of Lengthsmen time for 2017/18. This was queried by Councillors as the list of issues previously submitted to the Highways Manager was for work to be carried out with funding from 2016/17 and many of the jobs on the list have not yet been carried out. Cllr. Robinson agreed to seek clarification on this.

A grant of £5,000 is available for Children and Young People. The clerk will pass this information to organisations running groups for young people such as the Guides and Brownies, Playgroup and Messy Church.

Cllr. Robinson had been asked to find out why Park Lane had recently been resurfaced when there appear to be greater priorities for spending in the village. Councillors were told the foundations of the road were in poor repair and therefore it was cheaper to resurface the road rather than repair.

Cllr. Robinson was asked to approach the Highways Manager regarding parking at the top of St. Mary's Hill on the corner with Cow Lane. Drivers regularly park on this corner causing an obstruction for emergency vehicles and restricting visibility from Cow Lane.

Cllr. Robinson agreed to consult with Mr. Middlecote.

It was also reported that Gloucestershire County Council had received a damning report from OFSTED on its child services as a result of which two senior officers have now resigned. An independent review will follow.

A resident reported an issue with loose kerbstones at Frogmarsh. The clerk will report this to Gloucestershire Highways.

The clerk will also contact the Neighbourhood Warden Dom Everiss and ask that he remove signs on the fence at Frogmarsh (and throughout the village) which do not relate to local companies or events.

2017/92 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 1st June, 2017.

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

Initials.....

2017/93

To receive the clerk's report.

This was received.

The s.106 claim for £1686 from Stroud District Council (SDC) for the kissing gates has been transferred to the Parish Council account.

Simon Pierce kindly repaired the left-hand door of the notice board on the High Street free of charge and will also replace the hinges on the right-hand door. A quote had been received for £150 from Ian Smith to sand and varnish this board and the one on Selsley Road. This was agreed by Councillors.

Communication had been received from John Lane, Public Rights of Way, regarding consultation on the designation of the 'cycle path'. A meeting of stakeholders will take place to gauge opinion on the possibility of the 'cycle path' becoming a designated bridle way.

The clerk had received a Gloucestershire Highways satisfaction survey. A response will be drafted and sent to Councillors for comment.

SDC had arranged the strimming of the Old Churchyard.

A resident asked that Councillors be made aware of plans currently in very early stages and under discussion to improve outdoor play facilities at the Endowed School which has the backing of the PTA. Councillors commented on the benefits for residents of these facilities being available out of school hours should that opportunity arise.

2017/94

To note the latest financial statements.

These were approved. As there were insufficient funds in the Bike Trail account to pay for the project in full, the VAT for the project (£4521.40) was paid for from the reserve account. The clerk reported that a VAT refund of £5955.90 had been received and £4521.40 transferred back to the reserve account.

2017/95

To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

These were approved.

2017/96

To note planning applications, decisions and appeals from SDC as per annex.

These were noted. Cllr. Lead questioned whether any conditions had been placed on the application by Woodchester House (S.17/0849/FUL) to use a barn for storage and livestock. The clerk will confirm this.

2017/97

To receive an update on the issue of traffic speed and volume in the village and to agree any further course of action.

Issues of road safety are an ongoing issue in the village and have been raised as concerns by residents for a number of years. Three years ago a '20 is plenty' scheme was introduced. The issues remain. Selsley Road, used as a 'rat run,' is of particular concern with drivers regularly going too fast and driving on the pavement to avoid cars coming the other way. There are other issues such as drivers parking on the bridge at the bottom of Selsley Road, restricting visibility.

Several responses had been received from residents following an article in the Woodchester Word. Cllr. McNealey has sent responses.

The clerk had been in contact with local P.C.S.O. Steve Phillipson regarding the training and use of speed cameras to increase driver awareness. There are currently limited resources to deal with training and there may be issues in trying to finding a safe location to stand on Selsley Road. Mr. Phillipson has contacted the Special Constabulary in Stroud to ask if they are able to help.

The process for any highway safety improvement is a long process and a costly one. Any proposal will require a Traffic Regulation Order with typical costs of £10-£15,000. Each proposal put forward is then put through a priority assessment process.

Councillors agreed that Steve Robinson arrange a meeting with Andrew Middlecote, the clerk and interested Councillors to look at what options might be feasible.

Initials.....

- 2017/98 To discuss any areas/projects in the village to put forward for the Gloucestershire Highways Lengthsmen scheme or Highways Local funding.**
Many of the jobs put forward for the Lengthsmen in 2016/17 have not been fulfilled and therefore the list will remain much as it was. The clerk will contact Andrew Middlecote.
- 2017/99 To discuss and agree a response to a consultation from Stroud District Council regarding a review of Dog Control Orders.**
The details of the four current Dog Control Orders were outlined. Councillors discussed whether they felt these should be amended or removed. Councillors resolved to agree with advice from SDC that DC01-03 remain as they are, but DC04 be amended the designated areas to include only cemeteries as area where dogs should be kept on a lead.
- 2017/100 To receive an update on footpaths and rights of way.**
Gloucestershire Highways have cleared the mud on Water Lane, although several large pot holes remain. The cycle track remains overgrown and this has been reported to Amey.
- 2017/101 To receive an update on the Bike Trails.**
The Bike Trail Working Party are due to meet on the 10th July to discuss various issues including safety and the provision of a permanent board. Fencing around the site has been completed to prevent dogs straying onto the trails. Black 8 Bikes have agreed to pay for two bins and a sign for the site; these should be erected shortly.
- 2017/102 To receive an update from the Events Committee.**
Open Gardens was a successful event, attended by many. The next event will be the Produce and Craft Show on the 16th September.
- 2017/103 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
It was reported that the defibrillator event was very informative. There had been discussion as to whether a second defibrillator was planned for South Woodchester. Councillors confirmed this was not currently planned. Cllr. Grundy had looked into refurbishing and re-painting the boxes, but concern was raised that the paint may contain lead and therefore there may be particular safety requirements for its removal. The clerk will contact the resident's group in Box for information regarding recent renovation of their telephone box.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

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

Initials.....