



Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Lead, Hamilton, McNealey, Baynham-Honri and Noon, Dunbar

In attendance: Cllr Robinson, the Clerk and two members of the public.

2022/23 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Hasinski

2022/24 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interests

2022/25 To offer half hour open forum for discussion and questions

Issued Discussed

1/ cars parking near post box on Selsley Road especially in peak times (7.30-8.30am), cars mounting the pavement further down the road and the resulting risk to children walking down the road for the bus. 2/ fallen branch on Convent Lane (Clerk has reported to Highways) 3/thank you to Julian Foxon for organising temporary repair of the swinging gate between North and South Woodchester.

2022/26 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6th Jan 2022.

These were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Lead

2022/27 To review actions from the Parish Council Meeting of 6th January, 2022.

These have all been completed. The enforcement query on Frogmarsh Mill Cottage is now with a different officer and is progressing slowly. The project to decorate bus shelters has been put on hold for now due to costs.

2022/28 To receive County and District Councillor reports

The following report was given by County Cllr Robinson.

The annual budget was agreed at Full Council last week with a 2.99% increase, which includes 1% for Adult Social Care. Each political group was given the opportunity to include an amendment up to £500,000. The Labour Group asked for £300,000 to support rural bus travel. Also £40,000 to set up a Climate Change Jury for Gloucestershire. We were unsuccessful in both. The Liberal Democrats asked for funds for more rural charging points and were also unsuccessful.

Councillors may be interested to know that I am currently talking to Bill Carr, the Senior Head of Public Transport at GCC about the No. 40 service which serves the Nailsworth Valley through Horsley to Wotton-under-Edge. This service is procured until January 2023. Both John Bloxsom (County Councillor for Rodborough & Cainscross) and I would like to see this service include Cainscross and Amberley.

The patching work on Church Road and St Mary's Hill has been carried out at a cost of £13,000. I have asked about the refreshing of the SLOW sign at Frogmarsh and this will be done when the weather improves.

The hiring of the equipment and the workers to do the pavement on the A46 cost, unbelievably, £5,000.

The resurfacing of Selsley Road is scheduled to take place between 22nd March to 5th April.

OFSTED arrived at Shire Hall last week to inspect Childrens' Services. An early indication on their findings is expected soon. We all hope that the service will at least have a 'satisfactory' rating.

I have recently been asked by a parishioner about road closures over the Platinum Jubilee Celebration weekend and I was able to pass on the relevant information.

A consultation will take place this month regarding moving Stroud Library into 5 Valleys Centre, close to the new doctors' surgery.

The TRO for the area has been submitted and the TRO officer inspections are expected.

District Councillor wasn't present.

2022/29

To receive the Clerk's report.

This was received. The Clerk also reported that 1/ the Council has become aware of a discharge of conditions relating to the footpaths at Rooksmoor Development. Despite previous assurances to the Parish Council, Coln Residential have decided to close the permissive path which currently provides access to the 'cycle path', due to complaints from new residents. The route of the Northern path (described on the plan as a 'permanent right of way') has been changed (S.22/0327/DISCON). Councillors had the following comments: a) concern that the path exits the site through the main vehicular entrance which opens onto the A46 north of Scotts Crossing. This could increase the risk to residents using a narrow pavement or attempting to cross the busy road; b) the public footpath needs to be clearly signposted as it winds through the residences c) the path needs to be fully accessible for cycles/wheelchairs and pushchairs as for example parents will use it to get to school and d) there is no gap in the current fencing so it is not clear where the path will start. Cllr McNealey also queried the exact designation of the path, would it be a public footpath with permitted cycle access? **Cllr Lead to contact SDC with Councillors concerns.** 2/ A resident has raised the issue of the plinth describing the Woodchester Roman Pavement. It is currently just outside the wall to the old Churchyard. The resident feels it is tatty and in an unsuitable position. Councillors were of the view visitors are interested in the pavement and its useful to provide information, however they agree it needs some maintenance. **Clerk to investigate ownership** 3/the first of the new benches (installed by Stroud Valleys Project) is now in position at Frogmarsh.

2022/30

To note the latest financial statements.

The financial statements circulated have not been updated this month due to the transfer to Scribe accounting. **Clerk to circulate updated financial statements when they are ready.**

2022/31

To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.

These were approved. Additional cheque of £50 to GAPTC for Councillor training (cheque 984) and £25 to 'the IT girl' for IT support (cheque 985).

2022/32

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

These were noted

2022/33

To note recommendations made at Councillors informal meeting: To earmark a sum of £5000 from reserves for the play area, to begin ground and tree work for the play area and to subscribe to Scribe Accounting.

These were noted and agreed.

2022/34

To review representations received in the public consultation on Woodchester play area and discuss contactors to undertake the work. (Cllr Dunbar)

Cllr Dunbar reported that on 4th Feb a planning application for the play area was submitted. However it has since been confirmed by Ceri Porter at SDC that if the Parish Council has a 25 year lease from GCC and will be managing the land then the right to put equipment on that land would be permitted development and hence not require planning permission. She suggested however that it may be prudent to seek formal pre-application advice on this or submit a certificate of lawful proposed development (cost apx £60).

As part of the planning application a tree survey was completed and five trees will need to be felled at an estimated cost of £5000, the arborist also suggested growing local woodland trees in their place and a costing will be provided for this. There is also a need for a ground contamination survey at £380. It was agreed these works should be complete as part of the Councils duty of care.

There has been a public consultation, all comments have been recorded and a summary is available from the Clerk. There have been many positive comments but some negative

comments from residents in the immediate vicinity, concerned about noise and antisocial behaviour. Cllr Dunbar has identified a new site north of the current MTB trail which is about 20m longer, more level and further away from the residents concerned. (Plan showing previous and new locations available from the Clerk). Cllr Dunbar is waiting for confirmation from GCC about moving the site of the proposed play area to the Northern location. There will need to be further discussions with the arborist about this site and also a meeting with the owner of the land to the rear of the site to determine the exact boundary. Cllr Dunbar proposed withdrawing the current application, moving the proposed site and submitting a certificate of proposed development as above. This was agreed. **Cllr Dunbar and Cllr Lead to action.**

Cllr Dunbar summarised proposals provided by three different well-established firms (summary available from Clerk) and Councillors agreed to progress with 'Touchwood' who offered an 'organic' style of play equipment. Exact details of equipment to be confirmed, but indicative cost for basket swing, timber triangle, tree crown talking stumps and xylophone (accessible from cycle track therefore assessable to people in wheelchairs) with all ground work, tree work and other preparation work, industrial floor matting with woodchip surface, 1m high stock wire and self-closing gate would be £61,000 of which the Council has £12,000 already promised or secured. Ongoing maintenance costs to be confirmed. The supplier requires a 20% deposit then there is a 12 week lead time.

Inspections: Cllr Dunbar has completed a play area inspection course and is now qualified to offer weekly and monthly inspections, although the annual inspection still needs to be independent. Cllr Dunbar will compete risk assessments and then combine MTB trail and Playground inspections into a new inspection program. The cost to outsource inspections if that became necessary would be £320 annually for quarterly inspections (plus the annual inspection currently apx £82.00).

Actions: Cllr Dunbar to progress conversations with GCC regarding the new lease. Once agreed next steps will be to establish the tree work required at the new site (initial work and ongoing inspections) and ground work, preparing the site. Cllr Dunbar to discuss proposals with Touchwood, including possible play equipment options and ongoing maintenance costs and report back to the Council.

2022/35

To discuss Woodchester FC and agree a way forward

A representation has been received from the current chairman of Woodchester Football Club, who plans to step down, that the Parish Council take on ownership of the club on behalf of the community. Cllrs agreed that while they are happy to support finding a new chairman where possible, they are unable to take on ownership and responsibility for the club.

2022/36

To receive an update on highways and road safety (Cllr Dunbar)

Cllr Dunbar had previously circulated a document related to road safety on Selsley road (available from the Clerk). There have been three recent proposals re Selsley road. 1/ traffic calming e.g. sleeping policemen. 2/ yellow lines opposite Southfield road. Cllrs agreed the cost of a TRO for these could not be justified and double yellow lines were unlikely to be enforceable with the considerable pressure on parking in the Post Office area. 3/ white lines to mark the centre of the Selsley Road on the sharp S bend near Church Road. Cllr Dunbar advised that while no TRO would be required for this, Glos Highways often take the view that no markings is safer as it makes drivers more cautious. Cllrs agreed to write to GCC asking that 'Slow' markings be added both up and down hill at both that site and at the sharp bend further up the hill at the entrance to Boundary Court. **Cllr Dunbar to contact GCC**

2022/37

To receive an update on plans for the Queens Jubilee (Cllr Noon)

Cllr Noon would like Jubilee Committee to have terms of reference. **Clerk to look into this.**

Initials.....

Deadline for road closure notice is now known to be 22nd April. Jubilee Committee to organise a consultation with residents and agree if Church Road would be the best location and be closed for the Street party to occur. The committee has four subcommittees organising 1/ street party (a closed road for residents to bring picnics and WI might also do food) 2/ bunting (using recycled material and existing village bunting) 3/ activities and games 4/ a possible village run. Cllr Noon will keep in touch by email as no Full Council meetings until May. The events committee have £500 available for the Jubilee events. Church plans are being taken into account.

- 2022/38 To receive an update on the Parish Plan (Cllr McNealey)**
The review of the Parish Plan is to be a shorter version of the current plan, Cllr McNealey is currently drafting it.
- 2022/39 To agree three projects for 2022 (Cllr Lead)**
Three projects were agreed
1/ Jubilee events
2/ Parish Play Area
3/ Improving the environment in the Parish by: 1/increasing areas with seating for rest and reflection (bench now added to Frogmarsh Triangle and current discussions regarding adding a bench to the Village Green, also replacing/restoring the bench at top of Berryfield).
2/ building on the NT seed project last year, identifying and creating wild flower areas in the village.
- 2022/40 To agree the format for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 12th May and to discuss and agree key issues to include in the Parish Council report.**
The APM will be conducted in the Village Hall, with members of the community who run local clubs/organisations being invited to submit a report and attend. There will be presentations on the play area (Cllr Dunbar) and Jubilee celebrations (Cllr Noon). Cllr Lead to complete the Parish Council report to cover traffic and the updated Parish Plan. It will be preceded by the Annual Meeting for the Parish Council. **Clerk to contact local organisers and request their reports**
- 2022/41 To approve an internal auditor**
Iain Selkirk was approved as the internal auditor for this year. His fee is £110 (£5 increase on last year). **Clerk to confirm the appointment with him.**
- 2022/42 To receive an update from the events committee (Cllr McNealey)**
The Village show is planned for 10th September, with organisers currently deciding on the classes.
- 2022/43 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.**
1/The Perspex pane in the Pauls Rise notice board and the green felt backing in the Frogmarsh Notice boards, both need replacing. **Clerk to speak with contractor about this.**
2/ please can the Parish Council encourage people to follow the rules and show courtesy on the cycle track e.g. using cycle bells when passing walkers and keeping dogs on the lead. **Clerk to add to Parish section of Woodchester Word.**
- 2022/44 To note date of next meeting: May 12th Annual Meeting at 6pm, Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm at Woodchester Village Hall.**

The Meeting Closed at 9.35pm

Chair..... Date

Initials.....