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Minutes of the meeting of Woodchester Parish Council on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Lead, Hamilton, Dunbar, Baynham-Honri.

In attendance: Cllr Robinson, Cllr Smith, Carol Novoth (SDC Neighbourhood Warden) and the Clerk.

**2022/89 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Noon, McNealey and Hasinski

**2022/90 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

Cllr Lead declared an interest in two planning applications in the Parish for which he is acting as an advisor. They are SDC planning references S.22/1389/VAR and S.22/1433/HHOLD . These will be considered under agenda item 2022/97

**2022/91 To offer a half hour open forum for discussions and questions.**

Carol Novoth introduced herself as SDC Neighbourhood Warden with responsibility for Woodchester, she has been the warden here for two years with over 14 years of experience it total. She reported that her role was related to safety in the community, dealing with fly tipping and fly posting, safeguarding and Careline and working with the PCSO's and other agencies as required. She is a contact between the community and the relevant authorities and can often point residents in the right direction for their issue. Cllr Baynam-Honri asked her about SDC approach to travellers on public land. She says her approach would be one of concern for their welfare, and she would also be happy to help if there are concerns in the community. She would like to offer pop in sessions for the community and was open to suggestions. Cllrs offered to advertise such sessions through social media and notice boards as well as the Woodchester Word if time allowed. It was agreed she would start by attending 'lunch with friends' if possible. **Clerk to put her in touch with Cllr Noon.** Carol Novoth left the meeting.

**2022/92 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.**

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

**2022/93 To review actions from the Parish Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.**

Cllr Lead reported that contacts regarding the archive were ongoing, all other actions completed. Regarding the archive; Cllr Hamilton reported that the Village Hall Committee planned to add airbricks to the storage room as an interim measure. Regarding the proposed new recreation field; Cllr Lead reported that a quote of £500 +VAT had been received from the landowner's solicitor, the lease would replicate the current one for the football club and would be for one year. This quote will be considered along with other costs of the project at the September meeting.

**2022/94 To receive County and District Councillor reports**

Cllr Smith updated the Council on the political makeup of Stroud District Council and the progress of the Local Plan. He offered to meet Councillors individually if they had any concerns they wished to discuss. Cllr Lead raised the Parish Councils' frustration about the

Initials.....

lack of enforcement by SDC at properties of concern in Woodchester. He stressed that communication from SDC planning department to the Parish Council was poor and asked Cllr Smith to keep the Parish Council updated with any developments.

Cllr Robinson reported that Paul Helbrow is still away from work due to ill health, but he has a meeting with Paul's new deputy next week. He reported that The Elms in Stonehouse has been closed along with three other care homes in Gloucestershire. This is the third one GCC has closed in Stroud in the last 4 years. GCC say this is because older people are more likely to want to stay in their own homes. This decision has been called in to a Special Adult and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 20/7/22, Cllr Robinson is on that committee and will attend. Stroud Library will be moved to 5 Valleys Centre. Work on flood alleviation and the mini roundabout in Nailsworth is scheduled for September. This will involve road closures in George Street and night time closures on the A46. Cllr Robinson reported he is continuing to chase the new double yellow line markings requested in the recent TRO. He is hopeful that it will be resolved soon. Cllr Robinson reported that he has been elected Chair of the County Police and Crime Panel. The role of the panel is to scrutinise the work of the County PCC. Gloucestershire Police are currently in Special Measures. There will be a special meeting of the panel in September to look at how the Commissioner, working with the Chief Constable, can improve the situation. Cllr Robinson also reported that work has begun on the damaged bridge at Frogmarsh.

**2022/95**

**To receive the Clerk's report.**

This was received. The Clerk reported additional rolling road closures effecting South Woodchester (Bospin Lane, Station Road and High Street) during week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> July. Also, there are trees scheduled to be felled (by GCC) closing sections of the 'cycle track' in Woodchester between 13-15<sup>th</sup> July. The NT guided walk organised by Cllrs Hasinki and Noon is planned to go ahead for Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. They currently have 17 people booked to attend. The clerk reported that repairing the back of the Frogmarsh notice board is £445 + VAT plus postage both ways, as the back is riveted on. Price for a new wall mounted notice board from the same company is £665 plus VAT and £10 delivery. **Cllr Baynham-Honri will look at simply replacing the cloth backing of the board.** Cost of Perspex for the Pauls Rise notice board is about £60. The maintenance contractor is concerned about the state of the wood supporting the Perspex and about rot in the supporting legs, so he's unable to give a definite quote. A new freestanding noticeboard is around £700-800 depending on style and features. **Cllr Lead to have a look at the condition of the board.** A resident has asked if it would be possible to have a water butt, gutter and downpipe from the bus shelter for the Frogmarsh Triangle. Councillors felt this was too formal and would be at risk from vandals, they also queried whether it was necessary for a wildlife garden. **Cllr Baynham-Honri to feed this back to the resident.**

**2022/96**

**To note the latest financial statements.**

These were noted.

**2022/97**

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

These were noted.

Two additional planning applications were considered and the following comments agreed. S.22/1389/VAR Variation of Conditions 2 (plans) & 6 (trees) of application S.22/0560/FUL Greystones Convent Lane Woodchester Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 5HR:

*No comment.*

S.22/1433/HHOLD Construction of a wall with seating. (Retrospective) | Peppercorns Atcombe Road South Woodchester Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 5EP:

*No comment.*

Clerk to submit comments to SDC.

2022/98

**To approve expenditure and approve cheques as per annex.**

These were agreed. There was an additional cheque for £605 agreed for the first quarter of maintenance work (payable to maintenance contractor).

2022/99

**To consider and agree funding of two new benches in the Parish**

Cllr Lead has obtained two quotes for the new benches previously agreed. A simple oak bench with two slats and no arms used by other local Parishes, £245 +VAT and delivery. This would be suitable for the Village green location where the legs need to be in contact with the earth. A softwood bench with arms would be £160 +VAT plus delivery, this would be suitable to stand on the concrete plinth opposite the Village hall, it would need fixing to the plinth. These quotes are from Hayley Wood Sawmills Ltd. He has also had a quote from Simply The Best in Stroud, of £600 inclusive of VAT for two teak, three seater benches, plus £30 for delivery. These both have short legs so the Village Green one would need fixing with a postcrete base in the ground. The Village Hall bench (on the concrete base) could just be fixed on with angle brackets as before. Materials to fix the benches would be around £70-£100 with no costs for labour. Councillors agreed unanimously to purchase the two teak benches as it was felt they would be longer lasting. **Cllr Lead to arrange purchase and delivery.**

2022/100

**To receive an update on Woodchester play area and agree a way forward**

Cllr Dunbar reported that, disappointingly the Parish were not successful in their bid for lottery funding. Cllr Dunbar had previously circulated to Councillors a document proposing reverting to the previous, cheaper option provided by Discovery Play Timber Limited. Costings for the Discovery Play option are included in the proposal and assuming no costs for tree felling, the total required would be £20,095 (with no contingency). Cllr Dunbar also circulated a table showing all the funding that has been promised which comes to a total of £18,295. Assuming all that funding is forthcoming that leaves a shortfall of £1800. It was noted that there is currently a reserve of £1296 of un-issued grants to the community that can now be re-allocated, there is also CIL funding of £871.24. It was proposed that these sums (total £2167.24) could be spent on the play area if Cllr Dunbar is unable to obtain further funding. This was unanimously agreed. The current earmarked reserve for the play area stands at £6659.33 (but some sums from the play area budget have already been spent e.g. new fencing for MTB trail). It was unanimously agreed to revert to the Discovery Play Timber proposal.

Cllr Lead raised two concerns about the lease: 1/ The play area described on the lease is the old version and needs updating to the Discovery Play Timber proposal. 2/ the lease states that the Parish Council are responsible for the trees in the area covered by the lease. Three of these trees have already been marked for felling by GCC, but they have now stated that felling these trees is not planned for this year. Cllr Lead pointed out that the Parish Council shouldn't be responsible for the felling of these trees after taking on the lease, also that felling them at a later date will be more difficult/expensive for GCC as there will be play equipment on the ground. The Parish Council has been separately advised that further trees should be felled. **Cllr Dunbar to liaise with GCC legal department to amend the play area description and to discuss bringing forward and extending the tree felling with his contacts in Assets Management at GCC.**

2022/101

**To receive an update on the future organisation of the Parish Events Committee and agree a budget to the end of 2022/23 financial year.**

Minutes from a recent meeting of Woodchester Events Committee had been previously circulated and are available from the Clerk. Cllr Lead reported that it had been agreed at

