



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Joyce Calam, Marilyn Harris, Pam Sissons

Also Present: 4 members of the public, County Councillor David Gray, Borough Councillor Nigel Adcock, Clerk/RFO

224. To receive apologies

Apologies received from Rob Torrington, Joseph Welsh, Steve Lennon, Rebecca Prince

Cllr Harris proposed Cllr Sissons as Chairperson, seconded by Cllr Calam. Cllr Sissons chaired the meeting.

225. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were none

226. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 9th July 2024

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

227. Receive reports from Parish Councillors

Staffing Committee – **Cllr Sissons requested an Annual Appraisal meeting be scheduled as this was probably overdue due to changes in the Council.**

Village Hall – Cllr Prince – Village Hall request access to the PC website to make changes to their page – this means access to the whole website – council to discuss – **The Clerk advised that there was no explanation of what changes were needed and why updates could not be made by the Council. The website had limitations and there were risks in allowing dual access. Cllr Prince to explain in more detail, in the meantime updates would be made by the Council and a new website which would allow community groups access would be investigated.**

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons – Cllr Sissons had reported overgrown footpaths behind Stone House Farm and The Nest and off Kayte Lane to GCC PROW (ASM2, ASM3 and ASM78) and New Road (ASM7) It was established that it was the landowner's responsibility to clear footpaths. GCC's cyclical maintenance schedule would include footpath at the rear of Kayte Cottages. Cotswold Wardens volunteers may also be able to assist if landowners' are unresponsive.

Footpaths in Nutterswood (ASM15) and Queenwood Grove to Mill Lane (ASM112) had been cleared.

A resident of Prestbury has set up a petition to get well used footpaths in Prestbury fields onto the definitive map. **Clerk to circulate details via email.**

Councillor Advocacy – Cllr Welsh – has attended a meeting with PCSO and will report to next meeting

Cleeve Common Trust – Cllr Torrington/Harris – no report available

Clerk/Councillor Reports:

Response awaited re: meeting with MP to discuss Green Belt development

Response re unmet need is as before: that a consultant has been hired to work with GCC and other authorities in identifying the number of pitches required. Councillor Adcock to follow up on more recent unmet need correspondence from Cllr Lennon. **Liaison with TBC and GCC councils ongoing via Cllr Lennon, Prince, Sissons.**

228. Receive and request reports from the County/Borough Councillors

- Noise abatement measures for music events – Cllr Sissons pointed out that there was another racecourse based outdoor event intended 11/12 October but there had not been any consultation with the parish council. The PC would like to know whether a review of previous events would bring about better outcomes for this event and an avoidance of fireworks in close proximity to horses/cattle. Also what would be done to bring Newlands under control as the noise going on until 2am at the last event was unacceptable. **Cllr Agg to arrange meeting with organisations.**
- Councillor Adcock reported that TBC have changed their name to North Gloucestershire Council. He would continue to update the PC regarding the recent cyber incident at TBC which was disrupting communications across all departments.
- A TBC council hub would be operating in Bishops Cleeve parish offices Monday to Friday noon to 3pm.
- Councillor Adcock confirmed he would continue to work with the PC on the points raised above. Re: the Kayte Lane site he had been informed that there were 2 appeals outstanding one for an Injunction and one for Planning. Cllr Sissons advised that the application had been removed from the Inspectorate website and on enquiring she was advised that there were currently insufficient Inspectors qualified to deal with traveller sites and a great number of similar cases across the country. The target date of 20th September would therefore be missed. It was intimated that there were 9 enforcement appeals in Kayte Lane. Cllr. Sissons considered that TBC did not keep the PC adequately informed. **Cllr Adcock agreed to follow up with planning.**
- Councillor Gray commented that the Labour Government intended to grow the economy through house building. New garden towns seem to be favoured and his council is working with Cheltenham and Tewkesbury to follow this theme rather than adhoc additions to existing communities. Some transport schemes will be scrapped but it seems the A417, Junction 9 and 10 of the M5 will go ahead. Arle Court hub is open and long distant coaches may run from that site. Public consultation on a new M5 junction 9a will take place shortly. The A435 subsidence is worse than expected and cycleway has been postponed until it is dealt with.
- There will be a change of Highways Area Manager.

229. Adjournment for public participation on items on the agenda (if about another subject residents should write to the clerk clerk@southamtodayorg.uk)

Residents raised complaints about the traffic lights on New Road and the A435 which were in place for months without any work being visible. Cllr Gray explained that utility companies applied for a wide window of use so that they did not incur penalties and the expense of revisiting a site to remove signs etc.

A resident was disappointed in the low level of attendance by parish councillors.

A resident complained that cars were parked on the bend at the head of School Road junction with Old Road which caused visibility problems. **Cllr Adcock to pass on to PCSO.**

A resident had complained about the state of the planter at Noverton. **Cllr Sissons reported that she had subsequently cleared the planter of weeds. Cllr Calam also offered to water the plants when replanted.**

The Council complimented the residents who tended the Southam Lane planter which was looking splendid.

230. Planning Consultations

24/00681/FUL Erection of a detached garage. The Fold, New Road, Southam – **No Objection but a lack of information about the materials which should be in keeping with the existing and would the applicant consider rainwater harvesting in the interest of climate change.**

- New national planning guidelines – note consultation – **Councillors to respond individually.**

231. Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council

None advised

232. Finance & Governance

1. To approve payments in August/September

Payments were approved as follows:

Payments August

Administration	404.46	404.46	0
Office Expenses	40	40	0
Southam Village Hall	60	60	0
Washington Printing	130	130	0
John Preece	456	380	76
TBC Road closure fee	100	100	0
Total AV - antivirus software	29	29	0
9331.59	1219.46	1143.46	76

Payments September

HMRC	101.2	101.2	0
Administration	404.66	404.66	0
ICO (data protection)	40	40	0

2. To approve the August bank reconciliation and August budget report – **The bank statements were checked and reconciled by Cllr Harris and Cllr Calam. The Council noted the budget report with expenditure to date £9159 and income £14180 to date. It was noted that the Village Hall had made a generous contribution (£950) to the surveyor/solicitor costs incurred in registering the village hall.**

3. Update on public donations for planning specialist and discuss next steps – **Donations of £4733 received to date. The Council voted unanimously to receive the donations from Gofundme and to hold all donations in an earmarked reserve for planning on the Green Belt advice.**

4. Discuss implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan – No response to Biodiversity Wilding Competition or volunteers for litter pick. **Cllr Sissons proposed talking to a group of volunteers who already hold an annual litter pick and to fix dates for these to take place twice a year, say March to September. She would also investigate the possibility of owl and bat boxes.**

5. Grit Bins – Report circulated from Cllr Sissons:

Sunset Lane, Old/New Road - no issues.

Gambles Lane - lid cracked, but not letting in water. So ok.

Lye Lane - box fine, but no hinge attaching lid to box - but ok.

Finchcroft/Noverton Lane - crack in front of bin and bulging but not letting in water.

Haymes Drive - box and lid cracked, some water in box, but tucked away under vegetation, so probably ok for now.

Southam Lane - This is bulging at the front and full to the brim with water. Needs replacing. GCC have declined to quote for this work.

Further to discussion and an offer by Cllr Gray, the clerk will apply for funding for a new bin for Southam Lane from the Build Back Better Fund.

6. Graffiti on bus shelter – small area of graffiti noted, cost of removal by TBC £500 otherwise allow ivy to grow over it? **Cllr Sissons had inspected and cleaned out bus shelter and removed ivy. Cllr Sissons would investigate how to clear the graffiti.**

233. Date of Next Meeting

8th October 2024