



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present:, Pam Sissons, Rob Torrington, Joseph Welsh, Steve Lennon (Jt Chair), Rebecca Prince (Jt Chair)

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 9 members of the public

245. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Harries and Calam

246. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

247. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 8th October 2024

The Minutes agreed but with Cllr Sissons amending the wording of item 239 which she had participated in and requested that be amended to “ Cllr Sissons reported that she had spoken to the Planning Inspectorate and the Kayte Lane appeal hearing is scheduled for 14th January 2025 but it may become an Inquiry if the enforcement applications are heard at the same time. With regard to Green Orchard the conditions of the permission have not been met but TBC do not seem to be taking any action and TBC had been urged to take action regarding the stable block”

248. Receive reports from Parish Councillors/Speed Watch Team

Traffic Data – to receive volume/speed reports – no report available

Staffing Committee – Cllr Lennon, Prince, Torrington A review of the Clerk’s salary scale is overdue by 2 years in the meantime the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed on pay rates applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. For all spinal column points to 43, the agreed award was a flat payment of £1,290 per annum pro rata. For the scale points above, the increase was 2.5%. – Council to action mandatory pay increase – **Council accepted the increase to be backdated to April**

Village Hall – Cllr Prince – a busy time for the village hall committee with plenty of events i.e. the Autumn Fair, Pub Night and Christmas Light Switch On

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons reported that she had dealt with footpath from Lye Lane now passable. Cotswold Wardens to clear ASM7 and stile damaged on ASM16 and Mushroom Farm footpaths

Councillor Advocacy – Cllr Welsh – has met with the PCSOs who advised that house burglaries were on the increase in the area

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

Councillor Training – Cllr Sissons had attended a councillor training session and had asked for information about volunteers – a policy was available from GAPTIC

Remembrance Day Parade – Cllr Lennon reported a successful event with help from the WI laying on refreshments and members of the public assisting with the road closure

Clerk/Councillor Reports:

Grit Bin – waiting for removal of old bin by GCC – now removed – the new bin was filled by kind volunteers

Biodiversity Action Plan – progress may be made via the Coronation Community Orchard Scheme

Graffiti – removed by volunteers

Community Engagement Event – Cllr Sissons will check policies and insurance in the first instance and will then arrange a Village Walkabout to assess what can be done to improve visual amenity

Website Working Group – councillors to consult with the public on what they want to see from website

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

- Coronation Community Orchard Scheme – trees requested for Noverton open spaces
- Update on noise issues – Cheltenham racecourse Cllr Adcock reported that Cheltenham Borough Council have agreed to monitor an event next year. Cllr Lennon expressed disappointment that the Borough Council has not explained the monitoring carried out to date and the reason for the relocation to the helicopter field – would there be data to compare, why was this new location chosen and what alternatives were considered?
- Cllr Adcock commended the report on the COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE – ‘value-add’ achievements in FY 2023-24

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

- A resident noted the Kayte Lane closure and wanted this put out via email
- A resident noted that the drain in Old Road (top of Southam Lane) still overflowing

251. Planning Consultations

1. Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/G1630/C/24/3350803 Enforcement No: 23/00112/ENFB Kayte Lane unauthorised caravan site – Council to decide on their representation at the Public Inquiry – Cllrs. Lennon, Prince and Sissons to attend – **Cllr Lennon will set out requirements for legal representation and obtain a quote**

2. New M5 Junction to bypass Ashchurch Garden Town – council to comment on suggested routes – **councillors will send comments to the clerk**

3. Gloucestershire County Council – A435 Cheltenham to Bishop’s Cleeve Cycleway – Section 2.1 (North) Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway Bridge to Bishop’s Cleeve Major Project 2024 – **councillors will send comments to the clerk but generally agreed that the crossing to Webbs might be dangerous with the new road layout**

Proposals

1. To introduce continuous footway crossings along the A435 Evesham Road/Cheltenham Road across private accesses; and

2. To introduce pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities along Evesham Road and Cheltenham Road and surrounding roads; and

3. To introduce a pedestrian refuge island along Evesham Road (A435); and 4. To make improvements to the existing A435 Evesham Road/Cheltenham Road Cycle Route by upgrading parts of the existing footways by reshaping and resurfacing, introduce sections of

shared use footways/cycleways by upgrading some of the existing footways and introduce new sections of segregated footways/cycleways.

252. Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council

None received

253. Finance & Governance

1. To approve payments in November – Payments were approved as follows:

Payments November

CPRE (membership)	36
HMRC	101.2
Office Expenses	52.6
Administration	524.93
RBL - donation for wreath	30

2. To approve the October bank reconciliation and October budget report

Cllr Welsh checked and agreed the bank reconciliation at 25289.67

Payments to end October £10539.04 Receipts £38979.36

3. To consider CIL projects for costing and consultation **A CIL receipt of £19063.20 was noted and clerk to look at higher interest accounts to hold it** – initial thoughts on expenditure were:

Microphone system for the village hall

Land for allotments

The Clerk had provided a list of possible expenditure items to each councillor for consideration and comment:

Maintenance of existing equipment and spares for the MVAS

Kissing Gates to replace stiles

Children's play equipment

Seats and other street furniture

Land for natural parkland (external funding needed)

4. Receive the draft budget for 25-26 pending notification of the tax base rate – the draft budget was received – the clerk had provided a list of possible reserves with the exception of the planning donations which might be used up in the current year

5. Consider a Grant application by the Church

No application received to date

254. Date of Next Meeting

10th December 2024