



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm

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

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 15 members of the public, County Councillor David Gray, Borough Councillor Cheryl Agg, Chairman Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club

267. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Harris, Cllr. Calam

268. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

269. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 10th December 2024

The Minutes were agreed as a true record. Cllr Sissons requested addition of words “ via zoom” in relation to meeting with MP

270. The Chairman of Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club will be present to explain a planning application

The Chairman explained the Rugby Club planning application with copies of the drawings and answered questions re: catering, car parking spaces, cladding colour and traffic management. An approach has been made to the adjoining landowner for additional land. The Club is in the process of applying for funding for the build costs.

271. Receive reports from Parish Councillors/Speed Watch Team/Clerk

Traffic Data – Community Speed Watch Team – an increase in traffic observed on Southam Lane with occasional speeding

Staffing Committee – Cllr Prince, Lennon, Torrington – meeting to be arranged

Village Hall – Cllr Prince – successful New Years Eve party and film night. Open to suggestions about future film titles.

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons – ASM5 tree down dealt with by landowner, ASM2 tree down reported to PROW.

Councillor Advocacy – Cllr Welsh next meeting 18th Feb

Cleeve Common Trust – Cllr Torrington/Harris – no report

The clerk has reported the vehicles staying overnight in the laybys B4632 – litter etc will be dealt with by Tewkesbury Borough Council

Clerk/Councillor Reports:

Community Engagement Event – Date of event – the date of 1st March at 10am was proposed by Cllr Sissons meeting at the War Memorial and Noverton noticeboard

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

- Coronation Community Orchard Scheme – trees requested for Noverton open spaces – waiting for transfer of land to TBC Cllr Agg reported there is some discrepancy in the transfer plan which means the land is still with the developer for maintenance
- Update on noise issues – Cheltenham racecourse – response to questions at Nov. meeting – Cllr Agg meeting the Borough Council in February

Cllr Agg reported Council busy with discussions on devolution which may mean a united Gloucestershire, she has also attended a taxi licensing committee meeting. She reported that grasscutting verges would be done 4 times a year by TBC but on GCC owned verges the cut will be 2 times a year as the workload is now split.

Cllr Gray reported that the County Council have set their budget at £650,000,000. The Devolution White Paper gave GCC 14 days to respond as to whether they want a combined or unitary authority. There is political divide on the subject. In his opinion the Council were in a good position to form a unitary authority with 2 million budget surplus at the end of the year and a population of 659,000.

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

Residents urged their Borough Councillor to ensure the constant noise disturbance from events was taken seriously and properly measured 1 metre from nearby dwellings and that an explanation of the change in location was given.

A member of the public spoke to an issue in Gravel Walk.

What enforcement will the Parish Council progress with reference to the regular vehicle obstructions on Gravel Walk, which led to a serious road traffic accident, when a car tried to pass a commercial vehicle parked in the road on 7th August, 2024 and ended up being recovered from the brook. It is understood that Gloucestershire Constabulary have received a number of vehicle obstruction reports and advised on an application from the Parish Council to Tewks BC, to erect no parking signage is the best way forward. This should act as a warning to vehicles impeding vehicular and pedestrian access to the road, which was blocked regularly from April to December, 2024. Causing both school children, walkers, cars, cyclists and horse riders to use the verge or turn back from this public highway. Secondly, what actions will the Parish Council take with reference to the light nuisance and associated pollution in Gravel Walk? On 18th December a high powered light was erected on the front of Maple Cottage, Gravel Walk. This is not a security light with a sensor setting but a permanent on and off light. It has since been switched on for long periods during both daylight hours and darkness and is positioned directly at adjacent properties and land. This has caused light intrusion affecting other residents and polite requests both in writing and face to face have not stopped this occurring. Would the council unanimously agree that leaving industrial style flood lights on permanently is a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Health Act (1990)? Whilst these behaviours are also unneighbourly and very much not in keeping with the wider spirit of community evident across our village.

The Chairman explained that other complaints had been received from residents of Gravel Walk and were already being investigated. The response from Glos County Council highways was that a traffic regulation order would be required to make it impossible for residents to park in Gravel Walk but that they were surprised that anyone would block the road by parking. County Councillor Gray offered to take this up with the County Council.

The question of light pollution has been referred to Tewkesbury Borough Council. Another complaint re: delivery of parcels was a matter for the resident to resolve with Royal Mail

274. Planning Consultations

24/01020/FUL Malvern View Care Home conversion to a hotel with additional car parking – concern about the 50mph speed limit which may impact of vehicle access

24/00936/FUL Replacement outbuilding for garage and household storage Old School House , School Lane, Southam –

1. **Roof:** Described as reconstituted roof tiles, but no colour is stated. It would be preferable if the roof finish colour, could be in keeping with other materials used on the house.
2. **Walls:** Described as rendered. The existing outbuilding walls are brickwork, so that would be preferred, but if render is to be used, the finished colour should be in keeping with the house finishes.
3. **Sliding gate:** From the drawing it is unclear whether this is to be a timber gate or metal gate. As all other properties in the location have timber gates, that would be preferred.
4. **Planting:** Where practicable, retention of a large proportion of the existing planting, which currently screens the location, would be ideal.

24/00999/FUL Extend existing dwelling to front, rear and side Lark Rise, Southam Lane, Southam - the developer had removed many trees and hedges prior to the application and has erected a high fence giving a defensive appearance which is not conducive to biodiversity. Fencing should be removed and replaced with hedging to improve the natural environment and return the biodiversity.

24/01024/FUL Removal/variation of condition 2, planning permission 21/01422/FUL, new garage application to overwrite position of garage. The Fold , New Road, Southam – No Objection

24/01050/FUL Access track from Southam Lane - The operation of the access track seems to work and it is unlikely that the changes are required for current uses. Therefore, the permission seems unnecessary.

24/01048/FUL adaptations to B & B Garden Cottage Cockbury Court – no objection

24/00953/FUL Newlands, Southam Lane – new sports building and carparking - We are concerned about the visual impact on the landscape in terms of scale, materials and colour of facade. The appearance should blend with current building and be less industrial. We are concerned about the level of parking being sufficient and the effects on the busy junction with the A435 of further traffic particularly as it clashes with events in the field opposite

24/01039/FUL Haymes, Haymes Drive – swimming pool and pool house – No objection

- Appoint a task force to work with GRCC re rural exception site for affordable housing - deferred

- Update from Planning Inquiry (Kayte Lane) – Cllr Sissons explained that the Inquiry had been cancelled and downgraded to written submissions. Still not clear whether there will be an opportunity to make further comment.

275. Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council

No notifications

276. Finance & Governance

1. To approve payments in January – Payments were agreed as follows:

Payments January	Total
Village Hall Hire	60
PATA (payroll services Jan- March)	52.35
HMRC	105
Administration	419.46
Office Expenses	59.85
	<u>696.66</u>

2. To approve the December bank reconciliation and December budget report
Cllr Welsh checked the bank statement and vouchers and the current account balance was agreed at £4110.07. The December budget report was noted.
3. Review the grass cutting contracts – **The Council agreed to renew the contracts with 5 cuts in 25/26.**
4. Consider the projected reserves and draft budget for 25-26 pending notification of the tax base rate and fix the precept – **The Council resolved by unanimous vote to request a precept of £15110**
5. Consider a Grant application by the Church – none received
6. Agree expenditure on a new website/email accounts in April 25 and appoint supplier – Cllr Torrington/Prince requested a zoom meeting with 2 contractors before proceeding
7. Approval of savings arrangements – **The Council unanimously agreed to invest £10,000 with Redwood Bank**

277. Date of Next Meeting

11th February 2025

At the conclusion of the meeting Councillor Welsh tendered his resignation from the Council in order to pursue his career. The Council thanked him for his invaluable input and help over the last two years and wished him well in his career.