



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 14th May 2024 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: Joyce Calam, Steve Lennon, Pam Sissons, Rob Torrington, Joseph Welsh

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

193. To appoint a Council Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Lennon and Cllr Prince were appointed as Joint Chairs

194. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Prince and Harris

195. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

Cllr Lennon declared an interest in Application 24/00193/FUL and did not vote on the matter

196. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 9th April 2024

The minutes were agreed unanimously

197. Appoint a Staffing Committee and representatives to the Village Hall, Councillor Advocacy Scheme, Footpath Warden, Internal Auditor

Staffing Committee – Jt Chairs + Cllr Torrington

Village Hall – Cllr Prince

Councillor Advocacy Scheme – Cllr Welsh

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons

Internal Auditor – Cllr Welsh

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

Apologies were received from Councillors.

Borough Council Report for Parishes

Full Council

We attended the latest full council meeting in April. A motion was put forward by Nigel to endorse the Cotswolds National Landscapes Interim 2 Year Management Plan. This was debated and passed unanimously.

We attended the Climate Change and Ecology Management working group Group. The group discussed significant progress made on the borough's journey towards achieving Net Zero.

Planning

Attended a seminar on planning performance updates.

Borough Council introduced fees for invalid planning applications.

Developments:

Brockworth Solar Farm application under consideration.

Large warehouse near Brockworth approved.

Application for homes near M5 rejected due to potential harm to a historic church.

Councillor Activity

Conducted a planning site visit and submitted a written report.

Met with representatives of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC).

Held separate meetings with:

A resident to discuss management companies.

Residents to address a sensitive local issue.

Attended a public inquiry hearing.

Cheryl has spoken to Councillor Heganbarth about solutions for the Cleeve to Gotherington cycle path.

Discussed a planning matter with a resident from another Cleeve Hill ward Parish.

Community Matters

Working with officers at Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) to find a solution for young people using Honeybourne meadow for Mountain Biking, ensuring their recreation can coexist with resident concerns. Or maybe with some help continue elsewhere.

Liaised with flood officers at Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) to seek advice for a resident on making a home flood safe.

Additional Notes:

This report provides a snapshot of recent council activities relevant to our parishes.

199. Receive Parish Council reports

Cllr Sissons reported inspecting the footpaths

ASM 11/CHP 12 is now blocked with a fallen tree. This is difficult to get around and footmarks show people are stepping over fence to right and then over the tree. The tree was just over the stream and has fallen on that side. Not sure if stream is the boundary.

ASM 12 still blocked on land that Ellenborough Park own and said they would deal with the fallen tree when the ground improves

The footpath from New Road to Southam now passable but unpleasant to walk. The footpath round the Mushroom Farm now cleared.

Cllr Torrington had missed the last Conservators meeting but will attend the next.

Cllr Welsh attending a Councillor Advocacy meeting in the next few days.

Cllr Lennon reported attending the ceremony of Licensing and Installation of Team Vicar Ben Williams at St Michaels B/C, serving Southam and other local Parishes.

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

A resident wanted to know if the Council would object to 4 Ratcliff Lawns
Re: the above would the Council send round via email as no planning notice
A resident commented that the Borough Council were woefully represented at the Planning Hearing into the Green Orchard traveller site and that the Hearing was badly set up.

201. Planning Consultations

24/00282/TPO To reduce approx 21 trees by 3-5 metres dependant on growth points and remove one sycamore which is leaning into neighbours gardens. Land At Rear Of Ivyhurst, Noverton Avenue, Prestbury – **No Objection**

Application for a street trading licence on the carpark of Cheltenham Rugby Club at Newlands – **Objection due to the likelihood of increased use of the carpark for other activities, litter and smell**

24/00193/FUL Erection of a two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension, and a first floor balcony on the front elevation. 4 Ratcliff Lawns, Southam, Cheltenham – **Objection due to the scale of the extension and balcony being out of keeping with neighbouring properties**

Notice of TPO on Yew Tree at Priory Cottage - **Noted**

24/00277/FUL A proposed extension to the Sports Pavilion to include 2nr changing rooms, a referee changing room, an internal store and 3nr WC's accessed externally. Bishops Cleeve Village Hall – **No Comment**

202. Finance & Governance

1. To adopt the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan with amendments made on the 9th April – **adopted by unanimous vote**
2. To agree to declare the Council exempt from a limited assurance review – **declaration agreed by unanimous vote**
3. To agree the Fixed Asset register and Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 24 –both **agreed by unanimous vote**

Reserves now:

Reserves 24/25 CIL (infrastructure) 717.6
Planning Specialist 3500
Projects 1200
General Reserve 7704.4

4. To receive the Internal Auditors Report on the 23/24 accounts - **Noted**
5. To agree the Annual Governance Statement 23/24 – **agreed by unanimous vote**
6. To agree the Accounting Statements 23/24 – **agreed by unanimous vote**
7. To approve payments in May – payments approved as follows:

Payments - May

Torrington Gdn Serv - grasscutting	120
APM expenses	49.9
Office Expenses	46.3

GAPTC Internal Audit	192.6
Administration	404.46
HMRC	<u>101.2</u>
	<u>914.46</u>

8. To approve the April bank reconciliation and April budget report

The current account bank balance was agreed at £14761.68 and the budget report approved

9. To review the Bank mandate signatories – **no changes necessary**

10. Update on public donations for planning specialist and discuss way forward

Pledges of £1900 received so far. A resident has suggested GOfund but clerk not convinced that this will work as we have offered to make refunds of unspent money and this latest communication does not do that. Cllr Sissons/Lennon/Prince taking the lead on this.

203 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th June 2024