



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 9 members of the public, Borough Cllr Agg (item 238)

234. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Harris

235. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

None received

236. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 10th September 2024

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

237. Receive reports from Parish Councillors

Staffing Committee – Cllr Lennon, Prince, Torrington would meet later to discuss the clerk's appraisal/pay award

Village Hall – Cllr Prince reported that the village hall would be holding an Autumn Fair and Film night

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons reported that there were no new issues. The Cotswold Wardens had cleared ASM91 Noverton Lane and ASM7 New Road. Glos. County Council aware of the problems in Bentley Lane.

Councillor Advocacy – Cllr Welsh had a walk around the village with the PCSOs who will now provide a monthly report and a quarterly report of crime stats.

Cleeve Common Trust – Cllr Torrington/Harris – no meeting but the Halifax memorial service was well attended. The Trust are now providing mobility vehicles to improve access to the common. The Golf Club are clearing trees to improve the carpark and will be marking out spaces. They have also negotiated the purchase of the Care Home and intend to develop this as a hotel.

Clerk/Councillor Reports:

Grit Bin – new grit bin now installed in Old Road courtesy of Councillor Gray but the old bin and salt still insitu. GCC have said they will deal with this.

Biodiversity Action Plan – update on actions from last meeting – the clerk has researched the various organisations recommended by a resident and will review these in the Spring to see if new projects are on offer.

Graffiti – reduced quote obtained £120 – **The Council resolved to accept this quotation**

Cheltenham Parish Councils collaboration event (Cllr Sissons) – event cancelled

CPRE Planning Training (Cllr Lennon) the training had given an insight into the changes proposed by the new Government, questions had been invited and Cllr Lennon would contact them re: traveller sites and unmet need.

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

This month has been dominated by the Cyber incident. We can add no more than has been released as Comms from Borough Council. The Council is now in the recovery phase with many services returning.

The latest service to return being Planning. The Portal is again open to examine and log comments. We have only just had access to our emails. Apologies to any Councillors or residents who are expecting replies. We would not be averse to you sending again.

Over the last month or so very few meetings have taken place. A meeting that did take place being one that Nigel attended. A statutory sub committee meeting of the Licensing committee.

Cllr Agg also reported that officers from Tewkesbury and Cheltenham had met to discuss noise issues from the racecourse event and she was awaiting a report. She was concerned that the noise measurements did not take into account the landscape of the venue.

Cllr Adcock meeting with Highways and will try to resolve the temporary traffic light issue on New Road.

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

Residents raised concerns about the materials being proposed on planning application 24/00731 Darrel Ley which were out of keeping with neighbouring properties

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.

240. Discuss Community Engagement – how to encourage volunteering (self-help i.e. emergency planning)

Cllr Sissons stated that she had cleared out the bus shelter, removed ivy, also had cleared the base of the war memorial with the assistance of an elderly resident. She felt that the community needed to be encouraged to do their bit to help and that it would be better to have an organised event where people worked as a group. **Cllr Sissons/newsletter editor to arrange**

241. Planning Consultations – none notified

24/00777/FUL – Larkrise extend front/rear/side – the developer had removed many trees and hedges prior to the application and has erected a fence giving a defensive appearance which is not conducive to biodiversity. Fencing should be removed and replaced with hedging to improve natural environment and biodiversity

24/00731 Darrel Ley extension and alterations – the grey sheet metals do not match the Cotswold stone of neighbouring properties and may present an eyesore when viewed from Cleeve Hill. Concern that the flat roof does not allow for rainwater harvesting and is against our Biodiversity Policy for Southam.

24/00681 – The Fold detached garage – no objection but provides an opportunity for rainwater harvesting which could be considered by the applicant

242. Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council - none notified

243. Finance & Governance

1. To approve payments in October including purchase of new printer – **The following were approved:**

Payments October

HMRC	101
Administration	404.46
Office Expenses	52.6
Washington Printing (newsletters)	130
ICO data protection fee	40
Southam Village Hall (meetings)	40
M Prince (plants for village planter)	9.97

A new printer costing £97.99 was approved.

2. To approve the September bank reconciliation and September budget report
Cllr Welsh approved the bank balance at £9942.77 The budget balances were noted Expenditure £10602.68 and Receipts £18613.23

3. Funds now collected in from GoFundme (£1308.23) Deposit A/C for reserve? **The Council agreed to open a separate Deposit Account for the Greenbelt Fund until needed.**

4. Receive and discuss quotations for new website (aims and objectives) The Clerk obtained 4 quotations and provided links to websites. At the last meeting it was proposed to find a website that could be accessed by third parties for changes to their pages. This was not recommended due to GDPR and website accessibility issues. The remaining matter was whether the Council wanted to improve WCAG 2.2AA compliance and also switch to a gov.uk address. The Clerk explained that at the same time it would be beneficial to change the email accounts but this was quite complex due to hosting 3rd party aliases. Renewal dates for both existing systems were February 2025. **A Working Group was proposed – Cllr Prince, Welsh, Torrington**

5. Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday – attendance and marshalling the road closure - **Cllr Lennon to seek volunteers**

6. Consider support to the Church Appeal – the Clerk has written to the Church inviting their application and the Council were mindful that their budget was very restricted.

244. Date of Next Meeting 12th November 2024