

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2019 commencing at 7.30pm (view online at www.sistonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Present - Councillors' Andrew Stacey (Chair), John Hunt, Alan Bryant, James Hackett, Paul Jermy and Becky Tose.

109. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs. Jacque Stephens, Pippa Gibbs and Jonathan Maytham

110. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted 19th July, 2012

Cllr. Jermy declared an interest in items connected to allotments.

111. Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 17th October 2019

Resolved: the minutes were passed and duly signed by Cllr. Stacey as a correct record.

112. Public Participation

Five residents in attendance - three with an interest in item 5. Raleigh – Humber cycle sign, one to observe and one to enquire about the Mangotsfield Sort It Centre planning application specifically, concerns about the potential increase in traffic causing further congestion. Cllr. Hunt assured the resident that at the re-arranged South Glos Council meetings/presentation about the planning application on 18th/19th December that members would not simply concentrate on the diversion of the public footpath but all aspects in relation to development of the site.

113. Raleigh – Humber cycle sign

a. Cllr. Hunt advised the interested residents and members that, since the residents brought their concerns about the deterioration of the sign to the attention of council and their hopes that it could be restored at the October meeting that much progress had been made – South Glos Council Planning and Conservation Officers had been most helpful and had sought and been granted permission by the freeholder of the property that works to restore the sign could be done. Two specialist restoration companies had been approached but only one had said they would be interested in quoting for the work – F E Stacey – and a site visit to assess the soundness of the rendering and sign itself would take place within the next few days with a quote being provided soon thereafter.

114. Matters arising

None raised.

115. Bund funding

a. Cllr. Hunt advised members that a response had been received from South Glos Council in relation to enquiries made about South Glos Council's decision to part fund the Alveston bund installation when no funding was provided for the bund installed in Siston. Cllr. Hunt stated the reasoning provided was 1. Change in Council leadership 2. Healthier Council finances 3. Safeguarding Children's play area.

Cllr. Hunt recommended members approve a letter be sent to the relevant Cabinet Member stating SGC Officers and Councillors repeatedly stated that the bund in Siston could not be funded by SGC as this would set a precedent and that it was this factor alone which was used to justify no shared funding and so the decision to fund identical work at Alveston is viewed as a total reversal of this stance.

Siston Parish Council had met the total cost of the bund, in excess of £18,000.00, and in the process had saved SGC thousands of pounds in not having to deal with 3 – 5 traveller encampments each year and members should now request these savings be recognised by way of a late contribution towards the cost of the bund.

RESOLVED: members unanimously approved.

116. Commons

a. Members were provided with a report prior to the meeting in anticipation of time constraints. Most notably, Cllr. Hackett informed members Becky Tose had been appointed Secretary of the Friends of Siston Commons. The AGM was well attended and membership of the group had increased significantly.

Cllr. Hackett provided receipts for materials purchased using money from the grant awarded by Siston Parish Council (as requested, to validate donation towards running costs) of circa £127.00.

117. Remembrance Day Service

a. Cllr. Hunt said the Service had again been very well attended and was well organised. It was suggested letters of thanks be sent to Warmley Community Centre, Streetcare and the Police in recognition of the contributions made which lead to a successful event.

RESOLVED: members unanimously approved.

It was suggested a master list of contacts and points/notes to consider for the organisation of future events should be held centrally by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Hunt to provide information.

118. VE Day

a. Members considered which day of the anniversary weekend (8th – 10th May) should be chosen to hold an event.

RESOLVED: members decided event be held Saturday 9th May.

Members considered the formation of a project team to work on the theme, organisation, group participation, transportation etc and Cllr. Stacey stated ex-Councillor Ian Adams had confirmed he would be happy to be part of the project team and Cllrs. Bryant and Tose also volunteered.

RESOLVED: from January, event to feature on every agenda.

RESOLVED: aim to produce annual newsletter for distribution in April in order to promote event to all residents.

b. Cllr. Stacey suggested the band be booked for the event to ensure availability.

RESOLVED: members unanimously approved booking the band.

119. Finance

a. Members were advised of the need to arrange telephone banking in order to meet HSBC Banks' requirement to conduct verifying/safeguarding checks be made by telephone appointment on council accounts and that members approval was necessary.

RESOLVED: members approved telephone banking be arranged in the Clerk's name and the form was duly signed as per the mandate.

b. Members were provided with the 2019/20 account summary and, once checked, the HSBC account statements were duly signed by the Chair, Andrew Stacey.

c. Members received the 2020/21 budget and Precept justification papers showing all information previously considered by members with a view to giving final consideration and approval at the December meeting.

d. Members considered potential additions to the budget – Raleigh – Humber cycle sign cost as yet unknown and an additional bench to be sited near the Signal Box.

RESOLVED: with regard to restoration of cycle sign, members to consider implications on 2020/21 budget once the quote for works were known.

RESOLVED: Clerk to re-assess 2019/20 finances with a view to determining if purchase of additional bench could be accommodated in current financial year.

e. Members were notified of increase applied by Warmley Community Centre to room charge of 5% with effect from 1st December, 2019 taking new room hire rate to £12.08 per session.

NOTED.

f. Members received the Health & Safety (inc. Lone Worker and eye tests) policy prior to allow for full review and were informed the proposed policy was necessary in order to meet Internal Auditor recommendation.

RESOLVED: members approved adoption of the Health & Safety Policy with immediate effect.

g. Members considered whether to increase allotment rents in 2021 giving consideration to the fact the rents had increased in the current year to £20.00 for a single and £40.00 for a double plot with those living outside of the parish paying double these rents.

It was brought to members attention that an allotment tenant had queried what

'do tenants get exactly for the money paid' but members agreed that for a single plot at a cost of less than .50p a week it represented good value for money.

RESOLVED: members decided not to increase rents in 2021, matter to be considered again next year.

120. Planning

a. Cllr. Hunt provided members with a report on the current position with regard to the Joint Spatial Plan which is considered not fit for purpose and in need of re-writing and of the possibility that development land in Warmley being identified as an alternative (providing scope for the provision of 2,500 homes) to land previously considered in the north of South Gloucestershire.

Cllr. Hunt recommended the parish council be at the forefront of monitoring, organising and responding to any such future development proposals and suggested that an item entitled 'Planning for the Future' should appear as an agenda item every month from January 2020 onwards. Cllr. Hunt said he would consider all proposals and report back to members each month.

RESOLVED: members thanked Cllr. Hunt and agreed to his recommendation that this planning matter feature on every agenda.

b. Planning Applications – see attached.

c. Planning Decisions – see attached.

121. Allotments

a. Cllr. Bryant advised members that a couple of complaints had been received from tenants relating to interference from neighbouring allotment holders but these had been looked in to and resolved.

b. Members received the revised tenancy agreement noting that two clauses had been added 1. Only organic material from the plot to be incinerated and 2. Tenants should not interfere with another tenants plot or produce without permission.

RESOLVED: members approved the tenancy agreement for use during from 2020.

122. Correspondence

a. Resident – to report fear of walking along Siston Lane and to request footpaths be installed for safety reasons. Clerk confirmed, with the residents permission, details had been passed to District Councillor Steve Reade to follow up with Highways, South Glos Council.

NOTED.

b. Resident – to report being knocked by a car whilst walking along Siston Lane. Clerk, with the permission of the resident, confirmed details of the incident had been passed on to District Councillor Steve Reade to follow up with Highways, SGC.

NOTED.

b. Resident – to express thanks to the parish council for organising the Remembrance Day Service noting how well attended the event was.

NOTED.

c. South Glos Council – notification of tree planting from 18th November, 2019 in Warmley Forest Park.

NOTED.

d. Resident – copied parish council in to correspondence to Streetcare and United Housing Association regarding the problem and need to address issues of fly tipping and litter along the Bristol to Bath Pathway between Mangotsfield Station and Ridley Avenue bridge.

NOTED.

d. South Glos Council – notification of AGC Chair’s Community Awards 2020 and request for nominations of individuals or groups.

RESOLVED: Clerk, on behalf of members, to nominate the Friends of Siston Commons group in recognition of the great work they do.

123. External Committees

No reports received.

Cllr. Jermy reported problems obtaining details of dates of future Warmley Community Centre management meetings.

RESOLVED: Clerk to make contact to seek information about future dates.

124. Accounts for Payment

a. Cllrs. Stacey, Jermy and Bryant were instructed, by Council, to authorise the on-line and cheque payments of the following items as set out on monthly reconciliation approval form:

- 1. NEST pension provider – auto enrolment – Direct Debit - £115.13
- 2. TDP Ltd – Felicity Park bench - £361.25
- 3. E. Kenny – salary & expenses - £1,327.98
- 4. Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – cheque - £17.00
- 5. Crofts End Silver Band – Remembrance Day - £100.00

125. Any Other Business – for information purposes only

a. Cllr. Tose advised members that at the Friends of Siston Commons AGM, the members suggested there were insufficient litter/dog waste bins in the parish and asked what options there were to arrange for more to be available.

RESOLVED: item to appear as agenda item December for discussion by members.

b. Cllr. Tose advised members that, also at the AGM, those living near to the underpass had reported incidents of vandalism, drug dealing and setting things alight. It was recommended residents be advised to report each and every incident to the Police via the website in order for this area to become notable as a hot-spot in the hope it is identified as in need of increased Police presence.

c. Cllr. Jermy asked that the use of the QR code on the defibrillator to advise of

checks being completed at a cost of £4.99 per month be included as an agenda item in December for consideration by members.

RESOLVED: To appear as a December agenda item.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th December , 2019

Meeting closed at 21.30

Confirmed and signed Chairman.....

Date.....