

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council meeting held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 20th August 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), James Hackett, Alan Bryant, Gloria Smith, Jon Gadsden, Pippa Maytham and Jonathan Maytham.

11. Apologies for Absence

None received.

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

None declared.

13. Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 18th June 2020

Resolved: the minutes were passed and will be signed as a correct record when Covid 19 lockdown restrictions have been lifted and meetings in person can be arranged.

14. Public Participation

Non in attendance.

15. Welcome to new members

- a. The Chair introduced newly co-opted members – (returning member) Gloria Smith and Jon Gasden and all members extended a warm welcome.
- b. The Clerk confirmed the new members had completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Member Interests.

16. Finance

- a. Members were provided with the 2020/21 account summary and no queries were raised.
- b. Members reviewed outstanding 2020/21 projects.

Resolved: in the hope that lockdown eases, aim for all projects to be completed during this financial year but if not, projects and funding to be carried forward for completion in 2021/22.

Resolved: Cllr. Bryant to take over cairn repair project by seeking to arrange for a quote for the works and an estimate of timescales for works to be completed. Cllr. Hackett, as advised in an email to the Chair, suggested tractor works were needed on the commons to clear brambles - £25.00 per hour @ 20 hours = £500.00 and improvements to footpath at Goose Green to improve access - £1,300.00, total £1,800.00.

Resolved: It was noted £2,000.00 was set aside in the 2020/21 budget for commons improvements therefore, Finance Committee to give consideration to

identified projects and report back to members.

c. Members were asked to put forward project ideas for consideration for inclusion in the 2021/22 budget. Cllr. Hackett, in his capacity as Chair of the Friends of Siston Commons group, advised members that the group would need funding in order to arrange works to maintain/improve the commons and hoped, as the commons were proven to be viewed as a significant asset in the parish, that members would view the request for funding of £5,000.00 for works next year would gain approval. **Resolved:** Finance Committee to consider this request for inclusion in 2021/22 budget.

d. Given the Clerk claims Home Working Allowance in recognition of parish office running costs, members were notified that HMRC had increased the allowance from £4.00 per week to £6.00 payable from April 2020.

Noted.

e. Members were informed the allotment holders had made a request for a noticeboard to be installed at the Station Road allotment site. Cllr. Bryant confirmed there would be no cost implications for the parish council simply approval was sought for the installation.

Resolved: members approved the installation of a noticeboard at the site, Cllr. Bryant to arrange.

f. Members reviewed the allotment rents and considered whether to arrange for an increase which would apply from 2022.

Resolved: members unanimously approved rents to remain unchanged.

g. Members were advised a ditch had appeared at the allotment site and had been taped off awaiting repair.

Resolved: as a health and safety matter, the ditch repair to be arranged as soon as possible at a potential cost of around £60.00.

NB not noted on the agenda – members were advised the membrane on the pump at the allotment site had eroded. Cllr. Bryant to advise if he held a spare, Clerk to check if membrane was covered under guarantee.

17. Planning

- a. Planning Applications – see attached.
- b. Planning Decisions – see attached.

18. Correspondence

a. Resident to report traveller/homeless van parked on Francis Way, Bridgegate. Members were advised the matter had been reported to South Glos Council for investigation. Van has since moved on.

b. Resident with on-going complaints about recycling lorries using weight restricted section of Carsons Road on non-collection days. Members were advised the matter had been passed by South Glos Council to the contractor Suez on the

understanding the if lorry drivers failed to observe the Highway Code that the resident intended to take the matter further and prosecution and fines could follow.

c. Resident to request attention to overgrown Oak tree at Goldney Avenue. Members were advised this had been passed on to Tree Officer, South Glos Council but that no update had been received despite following up with email and telephone message. The Clerk believes this tree was inspected by the Tree Officer within the past month and had been advised that works would be prioritised based on health and safety but was hoping the Tree Officer could confirm this fact. Clerk to continue to follow up.

19. Accounts for Payment

a. Members received the monthly payment approval spreadsheet and authorised the on-line payment of the following items:

- 1. NEST pension provider – auto enrolment – Direct Debit - £115.13
- 2. E. Kenny – salary & expenses - £1,340.03
- 3. Netwise UK – website size upgrade - £37.53
- 4. South Glos Council – re-installation of Station Road noticeboard - £511.20

20. Any Other Business – for information purposes only

a. Remembrance Sunday – enquiries to be made with local groups etc. on a ‘what if’ the service can be held basis. Cllr. Smith advised Remembrance Sunday would appear on the Warmley Community Centre agenda for review and she would report back to council.

b. Finance Committee meeting to be arranged in September to review 2021/22 draft budget with a view of presenting to members at the October full council meeting.

Date of next meeting: 15th October, 2020 (TBC as easing of lockdown restrictions may allow for meeting 17th September 2020)

Meeting closed at 20.10

Confirmed and signed Chairman.....

Date.....