

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council meeting held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 18th February 2021 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, James Hackett, Nathan Reed and Gloria Smith.

64. Apologies for Absence

Jon Gadsden unable to attend due to other commitments.

Members Phillipa Gibbs and Johnathan Maytham did not attend and did not send apologies.

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

Councillor Bryant item – Grant application from Kingswood Heritage Museum and the Grant application from the Friends of William Champion's Garden.

Councillor Hackett item – Grant application from Friends of Siston Common Group.

66. Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 21st January 2021

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.

Cllr Hackett wanted the comments submitted after the meeting by District Cllr Scudamore to be added to these minutes. 1. The notice board on the Siston Hill Estate still has not been repaired as promised by South Glos Council. 2. Cllr Scudamore has submitted to SGC that they provide a litter bin in the turning area near Turners Farm Shop (Bridge House Farm) it is hoped this will help with the littering issues that are occurring in the area.

67. Public Participation

A resident attended out of general interest. District Councillors, Sandie Davies, Sam Bromiley and Steve Reade also attended. District Councillors provided the following updates –

Councillor Sam Bromiley – MP Chris Skidmore and himself are working on getting sound proofing fencing fitted along the Ring road stretch near Firework Close/Fawkes Close etc. Vehicles modified to generate excessive exhaust noise to be traced and Police to get involved where possible.

The bridge closure in Bath which has resulted in a diversion to take lorries through Bitton and Wick may be going to continue indefinitely. Cllr Bromiley is working to avoid this – BANES have said they have been in touch with Councillors but none present had heard anything. Councillors are objecting to this proposal due to the excessive number of large vehicles on small country roads.

Councillor Steve Reade – Raised the point that if legislation is not extended to

allow remote Council meetings to continue after the 6th May then Parish Councils need to consider holding their Annual Parish Assemblies before this date – so to avoid breaking any laws and Covid 19 restrictions etc. SPC has not considered it's Annual meeting as yet.

Cllr Reade provided a brief update on the Attenuation Pond in Warmley Forest Park, he has been in touch with Miles Harris at SGC and he is aware of the proposals. When these are discussed Cllr Hackett and the Friends of Siston Common would like to be present as they are keen to assist. Cllr Reade agreed to keep SPC aware of any meetings.

Cllr Reade agreed to talk to South Glos Council about the Turnpike sign in Siston Parish.

68. Finance

a. Grant application from Friends of Siston Common – the terms of the Grant application are not met at the moment. Cllr Smith will discuss with the Friends group how the council can progress this particular application. The general consensus is that Siston Parish Council is keen to continue to support the work on the Commons. The accounts provided are from 2019 and not recent enough to support the application.

Cllr Hackett who supports the Friends group is concerned about how the Parish Council is going to support the Commons in the future. Grant applications offer a very narrow framework for obtaining money. Cllr Hackett voiced that he believes it is the Parish's duty to support the Commons as they are an integral part of Siston as a Parish. The Chair has agreed that the Finance Committee will look at how they can support the Commons work. Cllr Smith pointed out that there has been substantial money spent on projects for the Commons over the years. It was agreed that Clerk would contact other Parish's who have commons and see if they would share how they fund and support those areas.

b. Grant application from Kingswood Heritage Museum – The application for £500 as part of an investment of £1200 was all in order. The Council voted with a majority to pay this grant as per their request.

c. Cllr Smith mentioned the grant application from The Friends of William Champion's Garden. She will look over at this and advise Full Council next month but it was agreed that SPC are keen to support this Group.

d. Members received all the accounts schedules and all were approved. Members saw the bank statement for the month and confirmed all was in order and balanced. The clerk went through the Summary to clarify everything to all members. The Clerk pointed out the money still in the Grant budget to satisfy these recent applications.

e. The Clerk informed all Members that there are now two people looking at the Humber sign. Neither have come back to take this any further at the moment. The

clerk will chase again.

f. Councillor Smith presented the Localism contract – there is no price increase this year only an advisory that there will be increases in 2021/22. All agreed for this to be signed and returned to South Glos Council.

g. The costings for a new cleaning company for the Bus Shelters and benches were provided by the Clerk. Members agreed to instruct the new company to take on these duties with immediate effect. Shelter cleaning is still to be scheduled four times a year as previously agreed. The cost of the bench cleaning is yet to be agreed and the Clerk will discuss this with the new company.

69. Asset Register

a. The Clerk informed the Members that most of the inspections have now been carried out. Only a few left to do – Councillors were reminded of their responsibilities. The Clerk agreed to talk to Cllr Bryant about a few signs that are possibly not assets and need to be removed. Turnpike signs and Stones were discussed, it was agreed that a list of these Heritage Assets should be provided to Cllr Reade and he will then pass that information to Ian Gething at SGC who will add them to the South Glos Council's Heritage register. The finance committee are to discuss the implications of adding the new commons signs to our Asset register and therefore our insurance policy. Cllr Reade agreed to talk to South Glos Council about the Turnpike sign in Siston Parish.

70. Planning

a. All new applications were discussed as per the Planning spreadsheet – Items discussed were Bridge House Farm – The Clerk read out the proposed comments to be submitted on behalf of SPC. Councillors agreed with the comments, the Clerk will submit them after the meeting.

b. Final comments were agreed on all planning applications that were still outstanding as at the 18 Feb 2021.

71. Correspondence

a. Weight Limit correspondence – Members were told in more detail of the issue of Suez vehicles using the weight limited road – Siston Hill instead of the Ring Road. The Clerk updated all that SGC have been contacted and they in turn have spoken with Suez who are going to deal with their drivers.

b. Siston Lane correspondence – The Clerk updated all on the various emails from residents for and against reduction in speed limits on Siston Lane. The consultation regarding this closed on Monday 15th Feb – SPC entered supportive comments. Members were happy that no further action is required by the Parish at this time.

72. Accounts for Payment

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

1. A. Adams Salary - £702.37
2. HMRC Monthly payment - £212.96
3. SLCC Training course fee - £54.00
4. NRB Electrical (New war memorial light) - £336.00
6. As a late addition – not on the spreadsheet - A Adams Expenses for Broadband agreed at £27.00 per month to be back dated to start date of the 1 December 2020. Total payment - £81.00

Resolved - Members approved all payments.

73. Any Other Business – for information purposes only

a. Councillor Hackett raised a few points for future consideration – 1. The joint Parish Cycling Group are looking at a bridle path extension. 2. SPC should consider supporting a reduction in speed limit on Siston Hill. Another accident occurred this week. Cllr Reade advised that SPC should contact SGC and ask for repeater signs to be put back on that stretch of road. This should hopefully raise awareness of the speed limit and hopefully slow vehicles down. 3. The Biodiversity Action Plan circulated by SGC this week requires SPC to consider this. Cllr Hackett feels there are many aspects of this Parish which mean this is an important element to consider. The Chair suggested this be added to the Agenda for the next full Council meeting in March where a subcommittee could be set up to deal with this.

Date of next meeting: 18th March 2021 via Zoom (subject to change if covid restrictions ease).

Meeting closed at 20.30

Confirmed and signed Chairman.....

Date.....