

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council meeting held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present** – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, Jon Gadsden, James Hackett and Nathan Reed.

**74. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies from Gloria Smith.

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

Apologies from Jon Gadsden who left after 40 mins due to Internet/technical issues that he was not able to resolve.

Apologies from Alan Bryant who had difficulties attending for the first 35 mins.

**75. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

Councillor Bryant item – Grant application from the Friends of William Champion’s Garden.

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

**76. Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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. Proposed Cllr Stacey, Seconded Cllr Reed

**77. Public Participation**

A resident attended out of general interest. District Councillors provided the following updates –

**Councillor Ben Stokes** – Wanted SPC to be aware of the hardship fund that is going to be available in a Grant support scheme. More information will be coming very soon via the Clerk

**Resident** – Talked about issues with Suez lorries using an unsuitable road. Improvements have happened this week but is concerned that there will be another occurrence in a few months. SPC can’t do much ourselves but we are happy to support and forward any info that comes in to us.

**Councillor Steve Reade** – In response to the resident – issue has been raised at the CEF recently. Asked resident to let him know if the issues occurred again. Further to last month’s meeting Cllr Reade has discussed assets in the Parish. We can add any other historical items of interest. Cllr Bryant has started a list of the historical assets.

**Councillor Kim Scudamore** – In response to a resident he has looked into the issue with Suez drivers using unsuitable roads. He has been told that the site has looked

at driver tracker recordings and certain drivers have now been told not to use Siston Hill or Webbs Heath if they are not collecting in that area. Another resident has raised an issue with the pond in Felicity Park. Cllr Scudamore has spoken to open spaces and is going to continue to pursue this although he notes that the issues there have been going on for many years with little progress. Finally he has been looking at the issue of queuing traffic at the Recycling centre on several days each week. He is pushing for the No right turn from Mangotsfield to be enforced and for some traffic management to be tried to prevent excessive queuing on the highway.

**78. Finance**

a. Grant application from Friends of Siston Common – Grant approved.

b. Grant application from Friends of William Champion’s Garden – Grant approved.

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. No issues or questions raised. All approved for payment.

e. The Clerk informed all Members that things with the Humber sign have still not progressed and that this will have to be carried forward as a project to the new financial year.

f. Councillors discussed putting a sign by the Defibrillator to say that is was sponsored/maintained/serviced by SPC. It was felt that some wording may result in the Council being seen as responsible for it which concerned some. It was decided that a sign should be added and the acceptable wording is “Supported by Siston Parish Council.”

g. Councillors discussed the purchase of a new Tommy figurine for the War Memorial Garden. This was voted on and agreed. The clerk will discuss with Cllr Bryant and arrange the purchase.

h. The clerk informed members that there is one more invoice expected which did not arrive on time, which is for the Bus shelter cleaning. Councillors agreed they were happy for this to be paid when it arrived.

**79. Friends of Siston Common**

Councillor Hackett talked about what the organisation would like from SPC moving forward which was detailed in his report sent ahead of the meeting. He is asking for SPC to set aside more money in future years to be allocated for Commons work. Cllr Stacey pointed out that the budget for 2021/22 was already set. Consideration will be given to Cllr Hackett comments when it comes to the 2022/23 budget. Cllr Reade advised that the Friends group should be looking for funding from other sources. He advised that they look to SGC’s Area Forum Grant, the availability of a Suez Grant and WECA funding. These are all options and they hold a bigger purse than SPC. Cllr Reade said he would be happy to help Cllr Hackett directly with this

matter.

#### **80. Allotments**

South Glos Council have decided to prohibit Fires on their allotments. SPC discussed if this was something they would also like to do. It was agreed that this was a sensible course. The Tenancy agreement for 2022 will be amended to include this update. There was discussion about whether SPC needed to think about providing Compost bins if no more fires are allowed but it was felt that almost all the plots have their own composting facilities already.

The Clerk also raised the issue on the last remaining tenancy agreement which has not been received. Although paid for this tenant is in breach and the Chair felt they should no longer be allowed to have the plot. Cllr Bryant is to approach the tenant as a matter of urgency to get a signed copy of the tenancy agreement.

#### **81. The Week In**

Members discuss our page in the Week In in May. All members to think about what they would like included. Bitton parish have just submitted their copy. This will be circulated by the Clerk so Members know the format etc.

#### **82. Meeting dates for the coming year.**

The Clerk informed all members that due to the current legislation, which allows Councils to hold virtual meetings, coming to an end on the 7<sup>th</sup> May there will be a period of time between then and the 21<sup>st</sup> June when Councils will not be able to hold Virtual or Physical meetings. Members discussed the issues this is what has been agreed –

The April meeting of SPC on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 will be preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly at 19.00.

There will be an extraordinary meeting of SPC in the first week of May 2021 (date to be agreed but not the 6<sup>th</sup> May which is election day.) This will be SPC's annual meeting at which the position of a Chair is decided.

There will then not be any further meetings of Siston Parish Council until the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Which will hopefully be a face to face meeting in Warmley Community Centre.

It was decided that the Scheme of Delegation that was agreed last year which allows the clerk to maintain the Council's business while there are no meetings, will be extended to the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. This will enable matters to be handle for the Council in the absence of meetings.

Finally the dates for the December meeting were discussed. The Clerk is absent on the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec so it has agreed that the meeting that month will be moved to the second Thursday which is the 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **83. May Election for new Parish Councillor**

The Clerk informed all members that having spoken to Democratic Services they confirmed that Siston Parish does have a by-election due this year. This was triggered by a request from 10 or more electors in 2020. The important dates for this are as follows –

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 – Publication of Notice of Election

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Deadline for Nominations

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Election day

There is little work for the Parish or the Clerk in this process Democratic Services handle everything and we will then be charged for the costs incurred. The Clerk informed the Council that this cost was not budgeted for as a By-Election was not expected.

#### **84. Planning**

a. Planning Applications – Outstanding applications were discussed. Mostly there are no objections.

P/21/01374/F was discussed and it was agreed that the comments that were made in a previous application in 2017 should be submitted in regard to this one.

P21/00984/F was discussed – this application would mean that vehicles would have to reverse onto a main road and SPC felt this was a hazard. Cllr Bryant is to provide appropriate wording to the Clerk to submit.

b. Planning Decisions – all noted nothing to add.

#### **85. 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. Graffiti issues have been raised and now dealt with.

Members were happy that no further action is required by the Parish at this time.

c. Norman Rd – complaint about building work – contacted Enforcement and they have logged the issue and will be investigating.

d. New fence on Webbs Heath – Enforcement have been informed.

e. Wessex Water – damage to the Common with work carried out and new manhole installed. They have now said they will look into this after the clerk provided the exact location of the issue.

f. Recycling correspondence from residents about the endless queues on the highway on several days in the week. Request for some kind of traffic management by the Sort It centre.

#### **86. 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 - £714.78
2. HMRC Monthly payment - £221.26
3. JHA course fee - £38.93
4. Alca Membership renewal - £781.17
5. SLCC membership renewal - £178.00
6. A. Adams Exps (Zoom charge) - £14.39
7. Oldland Parish Council - £26.00
8. Friends of Siston Common - £402.00
9. Friends of William Champion's Garden - £500.00
10. Netwise - £315.00

**Resolved** - Members approved all payments.

**87. Any Other Business** – for information purposes only

Councillor Hackett raised a few points for future consideration – 1. The joint Parish Cycling Group now called the Bristol East fringe cycling and walking Group now has Six councils involved. 2. Another accident occurred this week on Siston Hill – these should be logged. 3. Biodiversity Plan – SPC needs to build on this – Chair advised that we do not have enough members for another committee at the moment. It is an issue that SPC would like to consider in more detail and once we have more members this could be looked at again and a subcommittee formed.

**Date of next meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup>April 2021 via Zoom (subject to change if covid restrictions ease).

**Meeting closed at 20.50**

**Confirmed and signed Chairman**.....

**Date**.....