

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 20th October 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Alan Bryant (Acting Chair), Mandy Dixon, Ros Mahoney, Nathan Reed and Aled Rees. Ward Councillors Stephen Reade, Kim Scudamore (left 20:46) and Sam Bromiley (left 21:31).

98. Apologies for Absence Parish Councillors Jon Gadsden, James Hackett and Andrew Stacey. Ward Councillor Ben Stokes.

99. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2022

Ros Mahoney – Secretary of the Friends of Siston Common Group (min ref 108)

Cllr Alan Bryant – William Champion Gardens (min ref 108)

100. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 18th August 2022

Resolved: the minutes were passed and signed as a correct record.

Full Council Meeting on the subject of Neighbourhood Planning – 29th September 2022

Resolved: the minutes were passed and signed as a correct record.

Finance Committee Meeting – 6th October 2022

Resolved: the minutes were passed and signed as a correct record by those present at the meeting, Councillors Dixon, Mahoney and Reed. And noted by Councillors Bryant and Rees.

101. Public Participation

One member of the public was in attendance

102. Police Attendance

This agenda item was moved forward by the acting Chair to allow the police to leave and attend other work.

Police Constable (PC) Joshua Milward and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Anais Taylor attended the meeting. They and one other colleague form the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the Staple Hill and New Cheltenham Ward. They explained they would normally have 3 Police Constables and 4 Police Community Support Officers to the team, but they are challenged by resourcing and the crime reports in the area are low and this has determined how many officers are in the team. They work on a shift pattern of 4 nights and 4 days with days off in between. They are the only team, so when they are not on shift, Response Officers will attend reported incidents. They cover from the Horseshoe Pub to Siston Hill only. They also advised at Staple Hill Police Station, there are two teams in situ and both teams totalling 15 Officers only have access to two police vehicles. They advised that the two police teams based at the Staple Hill Station work closely together (the other team is Team 206, which covers Siston), but the third Kingswood Team (which covers Bridgeway), even though it covers our parish, work with colleagues in Bath. Information is therefore not shared across all the teams in the parish. They can submit intelligence reports, which help gather information across all teams if accessed.

They apologised to those present for the delays in attending earlier and advised there had been a major restructure of the teams within the area and this had caused the failure to attend the parish meetings prior.

PC Milward explained that he was aware of some drug use in the small car park on the corner of Siston Hill/Siston Common. This area is being regularly attended by the police and there have been at least 20 stop and searches in that area recently. Some have had cannabis removed from their possession, deemed to be for personal use. PC Milward explained that a person who has drugs

removed from them are asked to attend a drug use course which is one day long. A second stop of the person after that further action would be taken. A person who is caught in the possession of several bags of a drug, could be arrested for intent to supply. Driving whilst having taken drugs is also an offence. Action is determined by the attending Officer. PC Milward advised that it is not the same people he has stopped and searched, but they know that if they make returned visits to the same area, it deters people from gathering and using areas to take drugs. The police have powers to disperse gatherings of a large group of people and if they are causing a problem with loud music.

The other substance, which is also causing an issue is Nitrous Oxide (NOS). PCSO Taylor explained that although littering is a problem from the cannisters. It is not illegal to possess or take NOS. It is illegal to buy it with the intention of taking NOS as a drug. Both PC Milward and PCSO Taylor confirmed to make the law change to cover NOS being taken would need to start at the top-level of Government. PC Milward confirmed to Ward Councillor Reade that he could support this effort, by lobbying the local MPs for a change in the law.

A Parish Councillor reported a concern about drug taking at Turners Farm during the day. This was in the Staple Hill/New Cheltenham Neighbourhood Team patch, so PC Milward advised he would patrol that area when he was next on day shifts. A further description was provided by the Councillor of the car that is regularly seen there.

A further report was noted by Ward Councillor Bromiley of drug use in St Barnabas Church graveyard on Sunday afternoons. Ward Councillor Bromiley will inform the Kingswood Neighbourhood Team, which were not present at the time.

A Ward Councillor reported that there had been a burglary on 12 The High Street, Warmley. He felt it was likely that the individual would re-offend and may move around the parish, due to extra security measures being introduced at the burgled address and an ongoing drug user issue. PC Milward confirmed that he was not aware of the incidence, as this would be dealt with by a different team. The Ward Councillor advised that it would be prudent for PC Milward and PCSO Taylor to look at this incident, as the individual is well known and may move into the Staple Hill/New Cheltenham Road area.

It was noted By Ward Councillor Reade that the way the police are operating was very disjointed and this had been a known issue, which was acknowledged by PC Milward.

Ward Councillor Kim Scudamore asked for a combined beat meeting of the Kingswood and Staple Hill/New Cheltenham Ward areas for the public, as he advised that residents get confused over which police teams cover their areas. He also advised everyone that the police teams mirror the ward areas.

Ward Councillor Bromiley advised that there is a public meeting in his area at Juice with the police and this seems to be working well.

Parish Councillor Mandy Dixon asked if there could be a telephone number and email to keep in touch with PC Milward and PSCO Taylor, as previously PC Busvine had been a good contact. PC Milward that he was happy for the Clerk to share his contact details with the Councillors. He reminded that due to shift working, Councillors cannot expect an immediate response and crime is best reported immediately.

The Police Officers present encouraged reporting of crime in the area, as this will allow better funding for the parish and in turn resources.

PC Milward and PSCO Taylor left the meeting and were thanked for attending (20:05). PC Taylor advised that she would like further engagement with the Parish Council and the Clerk advised that the meetings are held on the 3rd week of each month.

PC Milward confirmed he would send a map of the police team areas to the Clerk.

103. Councillor Vacancy

A planned co-option did not occur, as the candidate was not present.

104. Ward Councillor Update

Ward Councillor Kim Scudamore gave an update:

- The new Carsons Road slip road is well underway. Councillor Bryant asked if there will be any other development in the new land acquired. Ward Councillor Bromiley confirmed that the vehicle depot will be moved from Cow Horn Hill to the new area. He also confirmed there are no plans known for development of the area which the vehicles will vacate at Cow Horn Hill. Ward Councillor Reade advised that the new amenities site is expecting more vehicles, so the new land acquired would allow for more vehicles. Parish Councillors were also reminded that the current refuse contract between South Glos. Council and Suez will expire in 2025 and there is likely to be a big review of waste being undertaken.
- There is a new notice board in place in the Siston Hill Estate, which can be used if required by the Parish Council

Ward Councillor Stephen Reade gave an update:

- There have been rumours on social media about the large black bins, which are not correct. He asked this to be noted.

Ward Councillor Sam Bromiley gave an update:

- On the 21st October 2022 he will be visiting Britton House with the South Glos. Council Head of Children's Services. He said they are looking for young adults who move to Britton House to stay in the area. He has plans to engage them in local volunteering such as Friends of Siston Commons. He asked for feedback from those present and a positive response was given.
- The acoustic cameras have been confirmed in one of two places, either at Deanery Road North or near Cock Road, by the new roundabout. There have been 50,000 pieces of feedback, some positive and some negative. It was noted that these cameras are recording speeding and dangerous driving which could be reported to the police for action, once they are up and running. Initially there will be no fines for noisy vehicles, as it is a trial. In the future, Ward Councillor Bromiley advised he hoped there would be more, to prevent people using cut throughs in the area, to avoid the cameras.
- A further project is being worked on to get a public protection order for the ring road from Anchor Road roundabout to the Aspects Complex roundabout.

105. Grant Application for Warmley Community Centre

Councillors discussed the grant application in detail.

Councillor Reed reminded all present that the grant policy determines that £500 should be awarded as a maximum. Annual project proposals would be the correct submission for larger sums.

Ward Councillor Stephen Reade proposed perhaps the Parish Council could pay the invoice for Warmley Community Centre and claim the VAT, which Councillor Rees and the Clerk advised is not possible.

Ward Councillors present felt that area wide grants may be more appropriate, but not in the present year, as Warmley Community Centre already have a grant pending to replace the heating. One to fit accessible doors could be requested in 2023/24.

Other alternative grants could be obtained from SITA or from the Community Voluntary Service, who may look at the request to modify buildings for to make them more accessible for everyone favourably.

Councillors voted to decline the application and the Clerk was asked to advise Warmley Community Centre accordingly. Councillors agreed they would look at a further application of £500 in the future, if other funding had been secured.

Resolved - All Agreed

The Clerk was asked to alter the grant application to note the maximum £500 award to remind applicants, when completing the form.

Resolved – All Agreed

106. External Auditor Report and Certificate 21.22

Councillors received the report and certificate and noted the except for comment of the typo in box 7. The Clerk confirmed an amended copy had been displayed in the required timeframe and the Report and Certificate and Conclusion of Audit was displayed from the 16th September 2022 on the website and notice boards as required.

Resolved - All Agreed

107. Community Awards

In his absence Councillors Stacey's request to nominate a resident for their contribution to the June Community Event was approved.

Councillor Stacey is to make the nomination to South Glos. Council.

Resolved - All Agreed

108. Budget 2023.24

All Councillors confirmed receipt of the Finance Committees recommended 2023.24 budget in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Reed (Chair of the Finance Committee) confirmed the highlights of the report; the increased grant budget to £5000 and detailed all the projects approved by the committee, totalling £15652. Ward Councillor Reade reminded the Parish Council that other parishes had accounted for a big increase in inflation and an increase in the Clerk's salary from 1.4.2022 (backdated). It was confirmed that there was £20,000 set aside (£16,000 cash reserves and another £4000 contingency fund), which help to protect the funds from movements in inflation.

Councillor Mahoney challenged the reduction of £500 from the amount proposed for Friends of Siston Commons, which was debated by the group. She received supportive comments from Ward Councillor Reade. Also discussed was the view that due to the cost-of-living crisis the precept should not increase significantly. It was noted that the work completed by Friends of Siston Commons was invaluable to the Community and beyond. Also advised was that in 2023.24 Friends of Siston Commons could submit a grant application for requirements known at the time.

The budget was then approved by Majority.

Resolved – By Majority (4:1)

A review of the 2022.23 remaining budget and recommendations from the Finance Committee were also discussed.

Renovation of 3 remaining Bus Shelters (1 on Station Road/2 by the Griffin Pub on the London Road) was proposed. Full Council agreed to obtain quotations for the renovations of the Bus Shelter on Station Road. Renovation of the bus shelters on London Road would be deferred for photographs and the conditions of these shelters to be determined, to prevent spending money unnecessarily.

Resolved – All Agreed

Purchase from CIL funds of a bench for Chapel Lane Play Park

Resolved – All Agreed

Establishment of a Warm Hub at Warmley Community Centre for winter 2022.23

Resolved – All Agreed

109. Anchor Road Bus Shelters and Stickers for all Bus Shelters

Councillors approved payment of the Roofs of the renovated bus shelters on Anchor Road

Resolved – All Agreed

Councillor Aled Rees advised he would obtain alternative quotations to the one presented to have stickers made for the bus shelters, which would be later considered by the Council.

Resolved – All Agreed

110. External Auditor Review – Smaller Authority Audit Appointment Review

Councillors agreed to remain with the recommendations of the review

Resolved – All Agreed

111. Remembrance Day Service

An update was given by the Clerk and Ward Councillor Bromiley on the actions taken in preparation of the service.

112. Asset Check

The Clerk advised the review was almost complete. There is a small piece of graffiti that needs removing at the next clean of benches and 3 numbers missing from benches in the memorial park. Councillor Bryant has agreed to complete his areas of responsibility and to put numbers of the benches in the park. The asset check will then be complete.

Resolved – All Agreed

113. Finance

- a) Members received statement of accounts (receipts and payments) to the 29th September 2022
- b) Members received and approved the bank statements 29th September 2022.
- c) Members received Bank Reconciliation to 29th September 2022.

Resolved - All agreed.

114. Accounts for Payment

Members received the monthly payment approval spreadsheet and authorised the on-line payment of the following items for October 2022 –

1. S Thomas (Salary) - £743.50
2. HMRC PAYE - £211.81
3. S Thomas (Expenses) - £806.66 (Councillors were reminded that a laptop was purchased)
4. PFK Littlejohn (External Audit 21.22) - £240.00
5. D&M Property and Maintenance (Bus Shelter Clean) - £116.00

Resolved – All agreed

115. Clerks update and correspondence

Update

- Councillor Hackett identified a potential tree felling of an Oak on Norman Road, which was reported to SGC by the Clerk for investigation on 13th September. SGC advised that the tree did not have a TPO. The tree was diseased, and they were in agreement with the action being taken by the tree surgeon.
- A review of bus services in the combined WECA will commence if funding agreed, led by Metro Mayor Dan Norris. (Please see note under correspondence)
- Cllr Hackett received a complaint about a tree on land owned by SGC that is overhanging the new Community Garden at St Barnabas Church. Reported to streetcare on the 22nd September 2022.
- An article about the progress with Felicity Park and Warmley Forest Park ponds went into The Week In edition 749 on the 27th September 2022.
- A remittance for £20,000 representing the second half of the precept was received on the 27th September 2022.
- The SGC Quarterly check of the Skate Park has been completed, with no action required.
- Oldland Parish Council have approved the installation of a new Wybone bin for litter and dog poop next on Tower Lane, the pathway next to Siston Brook. The original site was proposed next to Jolley's Pet Store to Siston Parish Council. Jolley's pet store who proposed it have been informed.
- Sustrans have confirmed that signs to show the railway path as a shared pathway can be installed between Warmley and Teewee Hill. These have since been installed by Councillor James Hackett, which is appreciated by the group.
- A brass plaque commemorating the late Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee which was paid for by the Parish Council funds has now been fixed to the Beacon on Siston Hill.

Correspondence

- Email and letters received from a Senior Legal Officer at SGC asking for SPC to advertise the new public right of way between Goldney Avenue and London Road, which was put up on the notice boards as is required. It will come into force on the 11th November 2022, unless objections submitted.
- Email received from Oldland Parish Council with the suggestion of a joint venture between Oldland, Bitton and Siston Parish Councils with regard to Metro Mayor Dan Norris's Bus review in WECA.
- Notification received from Community Spaces for Respite Explorers to use the Warmley Park Pavilion and car park for four hours on a Saturday, twice a month.
- Cllr Bryant received an email from a resident enquiring about the auction of land at the end of Winfield Road. It was clarified a planning application had not yet been received for this land.
- Email received from a resident giving feedback on his bad experiences using the bus services. This has been sent onto Metro Mayor Dan Norris.
- Email received from a resident on Siston Hill/Webbs Heath chasing required road signs for this road. A report has already been made to the Assess and Decide Team for this stretch of road. This is the same team who will decide on road signs and so no further progress can be made, until a full assessment of the road has been undertaken. The resident has been advised.
- Email received from Matthew Lipton Biodiversity and Commons Manager advising that there will be a repair to the broken manhole cover on Siston Common North by Wessex Water.
- Email received from Matthew Lipton Biodiversity and Commons Manager advising that work is being carried out to repair an area of mine which has collapsed, by Turners Farm, Siston Common, by the Coal Board.
- South Glos.Council have placed a TPO on the trees on the south end of Winfield Road. This is a six-month interim order, whilst a full order is approved by the Council. It commenced on 10th October 2022.
- Email received and resident added to the waiting list for an allotment. Total residents on the waiting list is now 16. Several other enquiries have been made this month, but they lived outside of the parish.
- A replacement bilge pump was ordered after a report from an allotment holder, that the one in place has broken.

116. Friends of Siston Commons

Report sent ahead of meeting.

117. Planning

- a) Planning Applications – no objections.
- b) Planning Decisions – all noted nothing to add.

Resolved – All Agreed

118. Any Other Business

- Councillor Bryant asked for assistance for the work to replace the bridge in the allotment, as previously approved by full Council. Councillor Aled Rees agreed to complete the work, with guidance from Councillor Bryant.
- The Allotment Committee will decide on whether to introduce an inscribed cup for winners of allotment awards in 2023.24
- Councillor Bryant is to provide a copy of the book he co-wrote in 1994 about Siston Parish for new Councillors to read on joining.
- Councillor Bryant had advised he scanned all the documents sent to archive and he will provide a list to the Clerk for future reference. Of particular note was the parish used to contain three allotment sites.

- Councillor Bryant confirmed he will be writing a note on the Allotments for the Newsletter. Due to the waiting list, this needs to be balanced, in case of disappointing new enquires.

The Clerk reminded those present that the meeting had now reached two hours, which was the maximum length of a Full Council Meeting. Those present wished to continue for the closed section.

The meeting was then adjourned for public and press to leave for a closed section of the meeting.

The meeting was re-opened and a closed discussed was completed.

Date of next meeting: 17th November 2022 at Warmley Community Centre (subject to change if covid restrictions which may be introduced by the Government.)

Meeting closed at – 21.48

Confirmed and signed

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

Clerk for Siston Parish Council

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