

# SISTON

## PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present** – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Mandy Dixon, Jon Gadsden, James Hackett, Ros Mahoney, Nathan Reed and Aled Rees. Ward Councillor Stephen Reade.

**195. Apologies for Absence** Parish Councillors Alan Bryant and Lisa Mannion. Ward Councillor Ben Stokes.

**196. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2022**

Councillor James Hackett – Chair of Friends of Siston Common  
Councillor Ros Mahoney – Secretary of Friends of Siston Commons  
Councillor Aled Rees – Abbot Skip Hire Min Ref 209

**197. Minutes Approved**

Full Council Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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

**198. Public Participation**

1 member of the public was present.

**199. Ward Councillor Update**

Ward Councillor Reade updated those present:

- He had attended the public consultation for the introduction of cattle on Siston Common. He reported a mostly positive response. The public has sought clarification on how the cattle would be managed and there were a few members of the public objecting to the proposal.
- He advised a new “call for sites” map was now on the South Glos. Council website from the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. He advised areas on Siston Parish were mostly the same. He highlighted these were not necessarily future development sites. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the new maps.

**200. Kings Coronation Planning**

Councillors agreed they would like to look into the cost of the provision of coins to local schools including, Warmley Park School, St Barnabas School – as the Clerk has sought confirmation that Bitton Parish Council are happy for them to do so – Kings Oak Primary and Kings Forest School.

Noted were concerns that the sum set aside for the Coronation would be exceeded.

This would then be compared to the cost of providing packets of wild flower seeds to the pupils of the schools.

Councillor Mahoney has already sought a provider and indicative costs for packets of wild flower seeds.

It was agreed that wildflower seeds would no longer be sent to every resident in the Parish.

The Clerk confirmed the Warmley Community Centre were celebrating the Coronation with a large TV screen, with drinks and nibbles and have already created a poster to display. Councillors would now like to understand if they can sponsor this event in any way. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Community Centre.

It was confirmed an extraordinary meeting may need to be held to consider the costs of medals/seeds and the Warmley Community Centre donation, to ensure purchases could be made in time for the celebrations on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

**201. Community Pollinator Fund Grant**

Councillor Mahoney requested this agenda item be moved to the next agenda, which was approved by those present.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **202. Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire**

The Clerk advised the next steps were to create a steering group, with a view to designating a Neighbourhood area.

The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting with Danny Dixon of South Glos Council, to advise him that the Parish Council had conducted a survey with residents and to clarify the next steps.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **203. SLCC Renewal**

Councillors agreed the renewal and payment of the fee of £249 for the ongoing affiliation with the SLCC.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **204. Youth Activity 2024.25**

Councillors agreed in principle to the consideration of a Youth Activity project for 2024.25. This will need to be submitted when projects are proposed in the budgeting and precept discussions later in the year (September 2023).

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **205. Warmley Forest Park sluice gate repair**

The Clerk advised that she had written to the Environment Agency to ask why the repair had been cancelled and where the agreed funds had been re-directed and is still waiting for a response.

The Clerk was asked to make contact with Bristol Avon Catchment, to see if they can offer support.

The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the emails to the Environment Agency to Ward Cllr Reade.

**Resolved – All Agreed**

### **206. Dog Poop Bins St Barnabas Church**

Councillor Rees advised some costs of dog poop bins from a source outside of South Glos. Council.

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Hackett has received confirmation that the bins were required outside of the church on the public footpath.

By majority vote, it was decided that the Council would not pay for the provision of the two dog bins requested.

The Clerk is to advise the Church contact accordingly.

**Resolved by vote – 1 in support / 1 abstained / 5 in opposition**

### **207. Station Master pole and pub sign**

Councillor Stacey confirmed that he had met with the site owner and they would be undertaking the work to restore the pole and pub sign. Councillor Stacey had sought a copy of the original pub sign from Councillor Bryant at the Kingswood Heritage Museum and passed it onto the site owner.

### **208. Signs for Siston Village (relating to a project agreed Min Ref 84 October 2021)**

The Clerk advised since this project was last considered, there has been a change, the cost would now need to be paid by Siston Parish Council, as the traffic calming project, in which the cost was originally to be absorbed, was now closed. South Glos. Council have confirmed the approximate cost would be £2395.40. The Clerk confirmed this amount was not in the planned budget for 2023.24.

The decision was made by majority vote for this project to proceed and the Clerk will now pay the initial fee for the work to commence.

**Resolved: 4 in support / 3 in opposition**

### **209. Skip Hire Costs**

The Clerk explained that following a complaint from a resident about some rubbish on an allotment plot and the perimeter area of the allotment site, Councillors Stacey and Rees have both visited the site and agree that a skip would be required.

Compost and items that can be recycled will be offered to allotment holders.

The Clerk advised the cost of hiring a 6-yard skip from three Skip Hire Companies. Councillors selected Abbot Skip Hire from those advised to provide the skip and approved the expenditure.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **210. Annual Parish Meeting Preparation**

Councillor Stacey agreed to prepare the Chairs report.

Councillor Reed agreed to prepare the Finance report.

Councillor Gadsden agreed to prepare a report for the Planning Committee.

Councillor Bryant will be asked to write the report for the Allotment Committee.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **211. Finance**

a) Members received statement of accounts (receipts and payments inc. v budget) to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

b) Members received and approved the bank statements to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

c) Members received the Bank Reconciliation to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**Resolved - All agreed.**

### **212. Accounts for Payment**

The on-line payment of the following items for February 2023 were approved:

1. S Thomas – Salary - £795.70
2. HMRC - £231.44
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £67.48
4. Warmley Community Centre Room Hire (Inc. Warm Space) - £191.40
5. SLCC Affiliation Fee 2023.24 - £249.00
6. TDP Ltd (3 benches for the wildflower meadow from CIL funds) - £1189.20
7. ALCA – Training CiLCA support package - £300
8. ALCA – Training Introduction to CiLCA - £40

**Resolved – All Agreed**

### **213. Clerks Update and Correspondence**

#### **Update**

- Cllr Rees was advised of some gates that have been stolen from back lane at Station Road. He was advised to report this to SGC and the police during the Clerk's annual leave.
- Warmley Community Centre CIO – The vesting declaration has still not been received by Siston Parish Council. The Clerk has chased and it was advised that Warmley Comm. Centre have signed it and returned it to their Solicitor and it is being held up there at the moment.
- Cllr Stacey reported to Matthew Lipton, South Glos. Council Commons Officer that the posts that he had installed on Bridgegate Common had been knocked over on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023. Matthew reported he was getting the posts reinstated.
- Following the presentation by a resident in the Parish Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 regarding planning application P22/04252/HH a written statement was sent to South Glos. Planning to support the residents' concerns for consideration by the Planning Committee, which was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Council Chamber, Kingswood and the application was approved with conditions.
- Cllr Mahoney attended a pop-up meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls, by South Glos. Council. There is a website which residents can use to report areas where they feel unsafe. StreetSafe-Police.uk
- Cllr Stacey attended a Councillor Forum by Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commission Mark Shelford, covering plans to tackle crime.
- David Tibbiatts of South Glos. Council advised the pathway and installation of benches at the new wild flower meadow will now be proceeding. The Clerk ordered the three agreed benches, which will be funded as agreed from the community infrastructure levy which were delivered to the contractor on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 ready for installation. South Glos Council have agreed to pay the installation fees.
- The Care Forum Dialogue Team as looking for residents over the age of 55 to meet and give their view on services. Any person who wishes to engage in the project should contact them on 0117 965 4444, to make an appointment.
- Notice has been received from South Glos. Council that there will be cleansing of Siston Lane on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and on a different date, not yet planned on Webbs Heath.
- Some fly tipping of pipes was identified on Webbs Heath and reported to South Glos Council for clearing up on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 23.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> April – The local PCSO will be operating a Bike Marking session at 1000-1300 at Warmley Tea Rooms, Bristol to Bath Cycle Track
- Westlink is a new bus service – led by user demand and has no formal bus route. You can access the service via the app, online or via the telephone to travel between over 1800 stops in three zones.

<https://travelwest.info/westlink/>

- A consultation on grazing being reintroduced on Siston Common is currently open and closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. [https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/Siston\\_grazing/consultationHome](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/Siston_grazing/consultationHome)
- If there is an area, which you feel may be unsafe to walk or use, particularly for women and girls, you can now report it to the police on the following website. [www.police.uk/streetsafe](http://www.police.uk/streetsafe)
- Report received from Cllr Gadsden – extracts as follows:  
*“there has been no further damage to the trees in the War Memorial garden. Although one tree is lost to us, the other tree that was being attacked is no longer having its bark pulled off.”*

*“the green space at the bottom of Mitchell Walk is looking excellent. South Glos council have reinstated the pond, laid the hedge and replanted the pond banks. This will provide excellent habitat for wildlife and be a proud asset for our community”*

#### Correspondence

- Email received from a resident. He gave feedback on the Parish Council meeting he attended on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and suggested resolutions to a planning application and a note made by Councillor Stacey on the Warmley Forest Sluice gate. The resident email was acknowledged and the Council processes explained.
- Email received from a concerned resident who resides at Siston Common. She has highlighted that there is a problem with the Dramway, adjacent to Siston Common being used by youths to ride electric scooters/scooters, which is putting people, especially children at risk. The resident has also highlighted the scooters being burnt out and hot-wired. In addition, the resident mentions theft from her premises and also threats to her children by older youths. She has reported all incidents to the police. The resident has asked for the Council to consider youth activity in the location of Siston Common, in addition to the youth work that is already in place. The Clerk noted for the March 2023 agenda and made contact with police to make sure the concerns were noted. UPDATE – A response was received from our police contact to say they had not received any reports regarding issues on the Dramway, so they asked for the resident to get in touch with them. The Clerk has provided the email to the resident, who then advised she wished the police to contact her and authorised a release of her details to the police, so they can contact her, which the Clerk passed on.
- Email received from South Glos Council Internal Audit advising of increased costs after the End of Year Audit for 2023.24 by 9% to £299.75 plus VAT per day.
- Email received from a resident advising that South Glos Council have not yet emptied a bin on Bridgegate Common or removed parts of an old bench. The Clerk reminded South Glos. Council, who removed both items.
- Email received from South Glos Council Legal, Governance and Democratic Services with an update on the footpath - Goldney Avenue to London Road - to advise the new public right of way will be considered at 11am on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Council Chamber.
- Email received from the Environment Agency to advise they are no longer proceeding with the sluice repair at Warmley Forest Park, after being chased by Councillor Stacey. The Clerk has written back on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2023 to advise that the Council remain very concerned about the danger to life it presents. She has asked for justification on the change of mind from the Environment Agency and asked how they funding agreed for the repair has been redirected. In addition, she has asked for the formal escalation procedure. Cllr Stacey has written to MP Chris Skidmore, who advised that he will be getting in touch with the Environment Agency. UPDATE 24/2/23 – Email received back to advise the email sent to Andrew may have been incorrect and a further update will be sent shortly. The further response is yet to be received to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- Email received from an Allotment Holder advising of rubbish on his allotment plot and asking if the Parish Council would contribute to the removal costs of carpet, tarpaulin and blue water butts. Cllr Rees attended the allotment and confirmed the items were rubbish, not suitable for recycling and should be prevented from getting into the soil. Further emails were received from the allotment holder, who advised there is further rubbish around the perimeter of the allotment, which in his opinion may not have been put there by allotment holders. This item has been carried forward to the March agenda, to agree a further skip for further disposal of rubbish on site.
- An email was received by a parish resident requested to be added to the Allotment waiting list.
- An email was received from Creative Youth Network, asking about the Councillors interest In Youth Services. I have advised this will be on a forthcoming agenda and we will get back in touch with them, once the Councillors have been able to discuss the issue.

#### **213 Friends of Siston Commons**

Reports sent ahead of meeting.

It was noted by Councillor Stacey that £400 was still unspent of the £2000 grant awarded.

**214. Planning**

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

**Resolved – All Agreed**

**215. Any Other Business**

- a) Councillor Hackett advised he attended the Warmley Community Centre Trustee Meeting and was pleased that they are in a better financial position.
- b) Councillor Rees asked for clarity of the amount being paid by the allotment holder, who has moved out from the area.
- c) Councillor Reed asked for an agenda item at the April meeting to discuss and agree the Clerk’s salary.

**Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Warmley Community Centre**

**Meeting closed at – 21.08**

**Confirmed and signed**

**Chairman..... Date .....**

*Sara Thomas*

**Clerk for Siston Parish Council**

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