

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 19th October 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, James Hackett, Stephen Reade and Nathan Reed. Ward Councillors Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes (left 20:10). Neighbourhood Police Constable Neal Scarborough (arrived 19:35 - left 20:10) and Neighbourhood Police Special Constable Anais Taylor (arrived 19:35 - left 20:10)

134. Apologies for Absence: Councillors Justine Davies and Aled Rees. Ward Councillor Sandie Davies.

135. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2023

Councillor James Hackett – Chair of Friends of Siston Common, Trustee of Warmley Community Centre and Chairman of East Bristol Cycling Group.

Councillor Alan Bryant – Men in Sheds.

136. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 21st September 2023.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – 20th September 2023.

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

137. Public Participation

None present.

138. Ward Councillor Update

- Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer reminded everyone present to complete the recently circulated South Glos. Council consultations.
- Councillor Stacey asked for clarification of the Polling Station Consultation. Marilyn confirmed that Siston Parish will not be affected by the proposed new polling stations. No action is required unless Parish Councillors wish to have new stations or amend what is being suggested. It was confirmed that the Rural Ward will be moving to the Thornbury and Yate Ward and post meeting Marilyn confirmed existing polling stations can be utilised still. There is no need to travel to within the boundary of the new Ward to vote.
- Ward Councillor Ben Stokes advised that the Woodland Trust are offering free trees for schools and communities. He advised he would share the information with the Clerk. He explained to those present that he had engaged with the landowner of some of the commons and he aspires to plant some woodland around the area near the Webbs Heath mine which is currently being renovated.

139. Police

Councillor Andrew Stacey invited P.C. Neal Scarborough and P.C.S.O Anais Taylor to speak, so they could go back to regular duties. PC Scarborough gave an update on the Staple Hill and New Cheltenham Ward:

- The team have recently been successful in arresting 5/6 individuals involved in illegal use of motorbikes, electric bikes, and scooters. He clarified that individuals using the commons and other areas of the parish for anti-social use of these vehicles are not often residents and use the cycle track to pass from Bristol to Bath to cause a nuisance or undertake criminal activity. Intelligence led policing is helping to solve or prevent crimes of this nature.
- Any person identifying an HGV using a road with a weight limit should notify the police team of the registration number. This is currently a problem on Anchor Road. The police will in the first instance call the employer.
- There has been a recent issue with vandalism of the Siston Parish bus shelters in Anchor Road. P.C. Scarborough has advised that he is looking into a recently reported 999 calls.
- P.C.S.O Anais Taylor gave positive news that there has been success in reducing the number of drug

related crimes near Turners Farm and the small car park on Siston Common. Repeated visits by the police have taken place.

- Following speeding reports on Anchor Road. P.C.S.O Taylor explained how neighbours can volunteer to do a speed watch scheme.

Councillors thanked the P.C Scarborough and P.C.S.O Taylor for their work and comprehensive update. Councillor Reade asked for the relevant policing team to be thanked for the resolution of an arrest for a burglary on the High Street.

144. Budget and Precept 2024.25

Councillors approved the budget and precept for 2024.25. Councillor Stacey signed and dated both documents.

Resolved: All Agreed

The Clerk advised that she had received a grant application that afternoon in which it was requested it was considered at that meeting with the budget. Councillors agreed to defer the application to the November meeting.

Resolved: All Agreed

145. Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

Councillor Steve Reade confirmed the next meeting will be via Microsoft Teams on 31st October 2023 at 6.30pm. The Clerk was asked to circulate the meeting invite to the steering group members, with a copy of the Parish Plan. It was noted that Stuart Todd, Chartered Town Planner, representing South Glos. Council would be attending.

146. Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023

This was covered under minute reference 138.

147. Remembrance Service

- The Clerk confirmed the service will take place on the 12th November 2023. Councillor Stacey advised everyone needs to meet at Warmley Community Centre at 10.30am, to travel with the parade to the Warmley Memorial Garden.
- Councillor Bryant confirmed he would be providing and delivering the PA system. He will need assistance. He also confirmed he had spoken with John Sibley to add the names of the missing fallen to the list of those being remembered.
- It was confirmed the road closure had been organised by Ward Councillor Bromiley.
- The Clerk was asked to make sure the police had been informed.
- The Clerk advised she would confirm with Councillor Aled Rees that he would be able to organise a vehicle to collect and deliver the matting and chairs between Warmley Comm. Centre and the memorial garden. Councillor Reade advised he would assist.

Resolved: All Agreed

148. Green Christmas Tree for St Barnabas Christmas Fayre

Councillor Hackett proposed working collaboratively with Friends of Siston Commons to create the tree. It was confirmed the Clerk would get in touch with Ros Mahoney (Secretary) to organise.

Resolved: All Agreed

149. Recruitment of New Parish Councillors

Councillor Stacey advised there are two vacancies and drew attention of the need to attract a variety of individuals to the Council.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the costs of producing an A5 promotional leaflet to circulate at Siston Hill estate and Bridgegate in particular.

Resolved: All Agreed

150. Bench Numbering

The Clerk agreed to organise a review of the existing bench numbers compared to the asset register.

Once the list is organised, the brass plaques will be attached to benches where they are missing.

Councillor Reade agreed to attach the ones in the memorial garden and the signal box.

Resolved: All Agreed

151. Allotment Committee – Water Tank

Councillors approved the costs of £200 in total for the purchase and installation of a water tank.

Resolved: All Agreed

It was noted by the Clerk that £500 was set aside in the budget with £270 remaining. The amount remaining after the tank purchase would be £70.

Councillors wished to note thanks to allotment tenant Hugh Evans who will undertake the installation at nominal cost and is considering giving his fee to charity.

Councillor Bryant presented to the Councillors a wooden and slate numbered plaque, which was previously agreed to purchase. He advised the cost of the slate numbers was £1 each. The wooden post was thought to be too short. Councillor Stacey agreed to get some costs from a local company for some lengths of wood.

Councillors agreed to production of the number posts, which were estimated to cost around £90.

Resolved: All Agreed

152. Speed Survey and Monitoring on Anchor Road

This was discussed in minute reference 139.

Councillors agreed the Clerk should contact the resident who reported the speed issue to ask if they wished to volunteer or knew others who wished to create a Speed Monitoring group.

Resolved: All Agreed

153. Finance

a) Members received statement of accounts (receipts and payments inc. v budget) to the 29th September 2023

b) Members received and approved the bank statements to 29th September 2023.

c) Members received the Bank Reconciliation to 29th September 2023.

Resolved - All agreed.

Councillor Reade noted a special expenses report had just been received from South Glos. Council and the Clerk was asked to clarify with South Glos. Council why Siston Parish Councils increase was above the average of South Glos of 5.1%. Siston Parish Councils is near a 6% increase.

Resolved – All Agreed

154. Accounts for Payment

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

1. S Thomas – Salary - £840.11
2. HMRC - £250.44 (0.20 deducted as overpaid September 2023)
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £60.48
4. Clear Council (Formally BHIB) – Skate Park Insurance – £581.82 **
5. A Stacey – Expenses – Defib. Gauze - £3.70
6. ALCA – New Councillor Training for Justine Davies - £40
- 7.

** The Clerk advised those present that payment number 4 was made on the 2nd October 2023, as the policy had formally lapsed in October 2021 and a replacement was urgently required. Councillors Stacey, Reed and Bryant approved the payment.

Resolved – All Agreed

156. Clerks Update and Correspondence

Update

- The Clerk has submitted the Active Travel grant application to South Glos. Council for 6 cycle racks, 3 to be located at Warmley Comm. Centre and 3 at the Signal Box. The sum requested is £802, which is £502 for the racks and £300 for installation.
- As requested by the Parish Council the Clerk has responded to a resident who raised concerns about parking on Chapel Lane and Chapel Close and the overspill of a business operation, with the South Glos. Council Park Legally Team contact details. She has also advised of the action taken by the Parish Councillors.
- The three benches on the wildflower meadow funded by Siston Parish Council were installed this month. One has since been removed for repair due to vandalism.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area designation has been approved by South Glos. Council. The map will be published shortly.

- The mid-year internal financial audit is on the 8th November 2023, which information required to be presented by the 2nd November 2023 to the auditor.
- A letter was sent to Bridgegate Engineering to ask for natural screening to be put in place before the building work commences, as agreed in the September meeting, with no response to date.
- Letters were sent to the properties bordering the allotment site to ask them prevent fly tipping and personal use of the land owned by Siston Parish Council on the weekend of the 30th September 2023.
- Councillor Stacey visited parishioners on Goldney Avenue, to ask if they would like to consider a replacement Oak Tree, with the majority confirming they do not wish it to be replaced. This was a planned project for the 2023.24 project.
- The Waste Less, Recycle more consultation was received and circulated for response by individual Councillors.
- A notice of works for desilting of the Felicity Park Pond received. It commenced on the 16th October 2023. The park will be closed for two weeks whilst the work takes place.
- Councillor Stacey met with MP Chris Skidmore and a resident at the Warmley Park sluice gate to discuss the repair and funding. The delays are thought to be due to resources and not funding.
- Clerk has booked new Councillor Justine Davies onto the new Councillor Training on the 6th December 2023. The cost is £40.

Resolved: All Agreed

- The Clerk attended a meeting on the 16th October 2023, with Clerks from Hanham Abbots, Oldland and Bitton Parishes to speak with Mark Pullin to discuss the relationship between Parish Clerks and South Glos Council employees. It was mutually agreed that there needs to be a better relationship between South Glos. Council and Parish Clerks, so that matters can be expedited. A regular Clerks meeting is to be established and Mark Pullin will act as a contact point to get matters moving when they get stuck within South Glos. Council with no progress.
- The Clerk received and returned the annual Community Infrastructure Levy statement to South Glos Council on the 19th October 2023.

Correspondence

- Email received from a resident to advise that youths had attempted to vandalise the bus shelter at Anchor Road again. He has reported to police on 101. Following this the resident sent a follow up email to advise concerns about the lack of adequate policing in that area. The Clerk sent a summary of the feedback to the Police Neighbourhood Team and Ward Councillors Sandie Davies and Matt Palmer.
- Email received from a second resident highlighting the issues with anti-social behaviour to the west of the A4174, having received a copy of my response to the first resident. He also highlighted issues with the pollution on Warmley Brook and Felicity Park Pond. I have advised the resident that notification has already been sent to the police. In addition, I have advised the resident of the latest updates on Warmley Brook and Felicity Park and advised that the minutes can be viewed on the website, with the latest updates. The parishioner is concerned by the lack of face-to-face contact with the Parish Council at his door, which was notified to the Council.
- Two emails received over the weekend of the 30th September 2023/1st October 2023 reporting more anti-social behaviour, attempting vandalism of one of the Anchor Road Bus Shelters. The police were called and attended. I have responded to both emails, noting the issue and offering to arrange for a PCSO to visit one resident, who is concerned about the ongoing crime, which the resident declined.
- An email was received from a resident who resides near Anchor Road to advise a panel from one of the shelters on Anchor Road is missing. He advised that he felt unsafe in his home, due to the shelter being kicked, vehicles over the weight limit using Anchor Road, multiple people on electric scooters. The road being used as a racetrack and excessively loud exhausts being used.
- Copy email received from a local contact considering a fundraiser from restoring and selling old bikes in 2024.
- An email was received from a resident advising of a pollution incident at Warmley Brook on the 18th September at 2pm, with a photograph attached, showing it to be a washing type residue of bubbles. I have reported it to the contact at the Environment Agency and asked for an update. The resident is also concerned at the lack of maintenance around his home by South Glos. I have ccd the Commons

and Biodiversity Manager into my email to the Environment Agency and also sent a note to Mark Pullin, South Glos. Council, Community Director, re residents' concerns about the lack of attention by South Glos.

157. Friends of Siston Commons

Report circulated advance of the meeting.

158. Other Business

- Councillor Hackett advised that there should be a presence from Siston Parish Council on Friends for Siston Group.
- Councillor Stacey gave an update on his meeting with MP Chris Skidmore on the Warmley Forest Sluice Gate.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th November 2023 Community Centre

Meeting closed at – 21:08

Confirmed and signed

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

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