

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 16th November 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, James Hackett, Stephen Reade, Aled Rees and Nathan Reed. Ward Councillors Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes. Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure Chris Wilmore. Ellie Crick from Suez (departed at 20:00).

159. Apologies for Absence: Councillor Justine Davies and Ward Councillor Sandie Davies.

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

Councillor James Hackett – Chair and Treasurer of Friends of Siston Common (Min Ref 168)

161. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 19th October 2023.

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

162. Public Participation

Three members of the public were present and one South Glos. Council representative.

163. Presentation by Suez Communications Team – Ellie Crick – regarding the relocation of vehicles from Cowhorn Hill to the Mangotsfield Depot

Ellie Crick introduced herself as a Planner for Suez.

She explained that the current lease for one third of their current site on Cowhorn Hill, Warmley, expires in 2025. The remaining area is owned by South Glos. Council. This has required them to investigate new facilities. Suez will be proposing to South Glos. Planning an application for a section of land that they own, located next to the newly renovated amenities site in Mangotsfield, to become their new parking facility. This will be for 38 curb side refuse trucks, plus employee parking and a small office, with four members of staff. There will be a shift system operating to ensure enough onsite parking, so will no longer need to park in surrounding roads, as currently happens at Cowhorn Hill. Ellie advised that the location of the new facility would mean that vehicles would travel less in the local area, due to not having to complete 2.5-mile journeys between where they park and where they tip off the loads.

It was confirmed that the area is currently greenbelt, and they will be applying under “special circumstances” for developing this land.

Following questions posed by Councillors, Ellie confirmed that they will be proposing 4 electric vehicle charging points with ducts in the ground to allow for further; they are not required to complete an air quality report and they agreed to understand better the issues with Suez trucks using Webbs Heath and Siston Hill as a cut through, when it has a weight limit. It was also advised that a high percentage of current employees plan to cycle to work, if the planning is agreed and only small maintenance tasks will be undertaken, such as lightbulb changes.

It was noted that the Suez contract with South Glos. Council for refuse collection expires in 2025. Ellie confirmed that they are applying as the business with the current contract to their own specifications. If later the contract is given to an alternative provider, then they may modify what is planned.

Ellie advised that the landowners were yet to advise what they may do with the site at Cowhorn Hill.

Councillor Rees highlighted a problem with the current collection of refuse on Cowhorn Hill. He advised a section is regularly missed. Ellie advised she would gain further details from Councillor Rees and then speak with the Suez Operations Team.

The Clerk was asked to exchange contact details for Ellie Crick (Suez) and Councillor Reade, so further clarification could be sought on the prevention of use of Webbs Heath and Siston Hill due to its weight limit.

Resolved: All Agreed

164. Ward Councillor Update

Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure Chris Wilmore was present and asked to speak with the Council about the Local Plan – phase 3, which will be presented for consultation on the 4th December 2023. She informed those present of the steps taken to decide where the proposed housing is being located in Siston Parish and advised that the “inner edge of the green belt is the least worst option”. She acknowledged that there would be a big impact in Siston Parish, which may lose its community feel, if the plans proceed and advised that South Glos. Council were still very open minded.

Confirmation was provided that Warmley Community Centre would be a good location for South Glos. Council to hold a public meeting in the consultation period with dates to be agreed.

She asked those present to think about/offer answers to the following questions when providing feedback to the consultation:

1. What is a better name for the places identified for development. What do local people call them? An example given was Warmley, North.
2. She asked people to look at the end-to-end process in the documentation.
3. Are there any brown field sites that have not been considered?

Councillor Hackett advised Councillor Chris Wilmore that there should be a very wide green corridor, and this needs significant investment, in addition to Pucklechurch Wood.

Ward Councillors Ben Stokes provided an update:

- There is currently a review being undertaken of the priority list for Local Transport.
- He would like the appropriate people to apply for Pension Credit as there is £4 million funding unclaimed. There is currently a promotional campaign and he agreed to send further information to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors.
- He reminded everyone to respond to the budget consultation.
- Household Support Grants are currently available – He advised he would send a poster to the Clerk for display.
- He advised there is a Memory Café running in Doynton, which runs monthly for people with Dementia.
- In addition, there is Boyd Valley art group.

Councillor Reade advised there are plans to host a memory café at Wick Village Hall.

Councillor Reade also addressed Councillor Chris Wilmore to clarify how Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans work together. She advised that the Local Plan would take precedence for a strategic plan (large developments). Neighbourhood Plans would take precedence for a smaller development.

Councillor Reade also raised the issue of road infrastructure and air quality. Chris advised that there were plans to get this right at the start, however it was thought that the A4174 would be utilised and comments regarding it already being gridlocked at times were noted.

Councillor Reade addressed Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer to ask if she agreed to the Local Plan – phase 3. She advised she agreed to the strategy.

165. Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

Councillor Reade updated those present on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, advising parishioners will shortly receive an opinion card through their door, as part of further public engagement. The Clerk was asked to send information about the last public consultation (Feb 2023) to Councillor Reade, along with any background information on the Parish Plan that was completed previously.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors confirmed they were happy for Councillor Reade to apply for a Locality Grant, which may require assistance from the Clerk.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillor Stacey thanked Councillor Reade for his work and progress made.

166. South Glos. Council Consultations

Councillors agreed to complete individual responses as Parish Councillors and as residents for the Council Budget, Library Savings and the changes to Street lighting consultations, as the survey did not allow for a collective view.

Resolved: All Agreed

167. Amendment to the 2023.24 budget - Grants

Councillors agreed an additional £1000 to be allocated to grants for the remainder of the current year 2023.24.

Resolved: All Agreed

168. Grant Request – Friends of Siston Commons

Councillors declined the grant request for Friends of Siston Common.

Resolved: All Agreed

169. Ordnance Survey Maps – Membership of Public Sector Geospatial Agreement

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to apply for free membership of the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement.

Councillors agreed the maps could be used for the creation of the planned Interpretation Board.

Resolved: All Agreed

170. Siston Village Signs

Councillors agreed to the revised cost of the signs - £2048.41, which will be a sign marking the village and a second sign thanking people for travelling carefully.

Resolved: All Agreed

171. Memorial Bench Request

Councillors declined the request for a memorial bench at Siston Common, as there are two already in this location.

Resolved by majority vote: 4 against, 1 for and 1 abstained.

172. New Councillor Promotional Leaflet

Councillors postponed the creation of the leaflet, as there is one application for a new Councillor to be considered at the December meeting and one considering an application.

Resolved: All Agreed

173. Finance

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

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

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

Resolved - All agreed.

174. Accounts for Payment

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

1. S Thomas – Salary - £839.91
2. HMRC - £250.84
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £90.72
4. Warmley Community Centre – Room Hire – November - £72.50
5. Royal British Legion – Wreath - £20
6. Warmley Community Centre – Room Hire – October - £29.00

The Clerk sought permission from the Council to pay the cost of the Silver Croft Band Hire for the Remembrance Service, as the invoice had not been received yet. The cost was anticipated to be £100. Councillors agreed to payment if received before the next meeting.

Resolved: All Agreed

175. Clerks Update and Correspondence

Internal Mid-Year Audit

- Councillors to note the mid-year Internal Audit of Finances was complete and noted to be “High”

- Councillors to note the advice that the term Mid-Year Internal Audit is to be used.

Resolved: All Agreed (noted)

Update

- Councillor Stacey has noted deep tyre tracks on Bridgegate Common coming from the local business. A site visit by Matthew Lipton, South Glos. Council's Commons and Biodiversity Manager was due to take place on the 14th November 2023.
- The Clerk wrote to South Glos Council to gain clarity on the increase of Special Expenses for 2024/25. It was advised the increase for Siston PC is largely due to on expenses attributed to public conveniences (mechanical and electrical maintenance). A breakdown of the charges for open and green spaces was also circulated in the month.
- Active Travel Grant – South Glos. Council declined payment of the grant.
- The Clerk and several Councillors attended Pop-Up meetings with South Glos. Council to hear about the revised Community Pay Back launch. Following trials of projects with individuals engaging in the programme, Parish Councils will be able to request projects to be completed in the future once trials have taken place.
- Notification has been received from South Glos. Council Public Rights of Way Officer that the requested Public Right of Way from Goldney Avenue to the dramway is now with the Secretary of State and written submissions only will now be accepted, until 13th February 2024.
- The Clerk has reviewed the interest rates on the Parish bank accounts, as agreed at the Finance Committee meeting and sent the information for consideration by Committee members.
- The Clerk has been working with Ros Mahoney from Friends of Siston Commons regarding the Green Christmas Tree event and the tree will be delivered for display in late November at St Barnabas Church.
- The Clerk has been in touch with the Police Constable Busvine from the Staple Hill Team, who has confirmed that they police can no longer attend Warmley Memorial Remembrance Day service to assist with the roadblocks, as they have no powers to assist with this. This will be for the foreseeable future.
- The Clerk has organised for the bench numbering to be checked, as part of the bi-annual clean in late November, with a view to correctly numbering the benches with the brass plaques.
- The Clerk wrote to the resident who had concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Anchor Road to offer the opportunity to form a Speed Watch scheme, that was declined by the resident.
- The Environment Agency visited Warmley Brook on the 8th November and noted no pollution on that date. They will be returning to investigate some outlets. A report made in October was investigated by Wessex Water and the source located.
- Ward Councillor Ben Stokes provided a link from the Woodland Trust for access to free trees for Communities and Schools, which was circulated to Councillors, Friends of Siston Commons and other community groups and Warmley Park School.
- A social media comment on Friends of Siston Commons group advised of an issue with the new wood installed in Felicity Park pond. The Clerk contacted the Partnerships and Delivery Officer of South Glos. Council who co-ordinated the project. He went to site and confirmed the wood had been put back in place. There have been many positive comments about its improvement from parishioners.
- South Glos Council have asked the Parish to participate in a Rough Sleepers survey for one night from the 16th November to 17th November 2023 and it was noted that there was one rough sleeper to report.
- South Glos Council are wishing to encourage more people to claim Pension Credit, as it has additional benefits for claimants such as payments from the Government for up to £900 from National Cost of Living Payments, free TV licences, help with heating costs and reduced utility bills. People wanting help to claim can contact South Glos Council's One Stop Shop or going on line to check eligibility.
- The Independent Advisory Group who work in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police, to enhance relationships between the community and the police are looking for new members. They have no representation in Siston Parish. Interested parties should contact Primrose Granville via email on missprim956@hotmail.com

- A large tractor was used to cut the hedges of the Memorial Garden, leaving debris in the road (London Road and Stanley Road) and the hedges looking unsightly. The Clerk contacted South Glos. Council on the 6th November and a clean up was completed. Also noted, a site visit to the Remembrance Garden to organise a pre-service tidy up has been organised at the Memorial Garden.

Correspondence

- Email received from a resident, thanking the Clerk for the efforts made to engage the Environment Agency to assist with the pollution at Warmley Brook, but highlighting the need for South Glos. Council to take some action and to maintain Siston Common next to the brook at the rear of Anchor Road. Email contents passed to Mark Pullin of South Glos. Council and images sent to the Environment Agency by the Clerk. A response was received from the Commons and Biodiversity Officer to advise that the Council shares in the frustration with the polluted brook and points out that rivers in general are poorly maintained and intends to keep in touch with the Environment Agency and noted the concern from the resident regarding a section of Siston Common. He encourages the use of the Report It function on the South Glos. Website for residents with concerns to note where work is required.

176. Friends of Siston Commons

No report was provided this month.

Councillor Hackett advised the Council that the significance of the commons and greenbelt need to be recognised and promoted by Siston Parish Council. He reminded that Webbs Heath pond was originally dug by Siston Parish. He advised of a forthcoming survey of great crested newts that would be conducted.

The Clerk suggested contact with the Commons and Biodiversity Manager of South Glos. Council to attend a future meeting to brief the Council on activities.

Resolved: All Agreed

177. Planning

A report was sent in advance of the meeting.

Two members of the public who reside in Wick commented on the application for Bramley Barn and the Olive Tree.

Closed Session – Councillor Stacey asked for the public to leave for the Closed Session.

178. Clerks Remuneration

Councillors agreed to the in-grade rise of the Clerk's salary, backdated to 1st April 2023.

Councillor Hackett thanked the Clerk for her work, which was then advised by all Councillors.

Resolved: All Agreed

179. Other Business

- Councillor Hackett advised that Friends of Siston Commons are helping Warmley Park College students to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. He also advised of planned works to commons heather beds.
- Councillor Hackett also advised that the wellbeing walks from Made for Ever on a Thursday afternoon are going well.
- Councillor Bryant asked for an update from the Clerk on the application to the South Glos. Council, Assess and Decide Team, for a speed reduction analysis on Webbs Heath. The Clerk advised we are still waiting for further progress and the matter had been escalated to Mark Pullin of South Glos. Council, due to the slow progress.
- Councillor Rees advised he had not yet purchased the IBC for the new water supply at the allotment but would do so shortly.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st December 2023 Community Centre

Meeting closed at – 21:18

Confirmed and signed

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

Thomas

Clerk for Siston Parish Council Email:- sistonpc@gmail.com **Tel:- 07946 858048**