

# SISTON

## PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present** – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair) (AS), Alan Bryant,(AB) Justine Davies (JD), Ben Milsom (BM), Stephen Read (SR), Aled Rees (AR), Nathan Reed (NR) and Gloria Smith (GS). Ward Councillor Sam Bromiley.

#### **200. Commencement of the meeting**

The council resolved to commence the meeting at 7.20pm, due to it following an open public session from 5.30pm to 7pm. Five members of the public were present, including a parish councillor from Wick and Abson Parish Council. She advised there was an interest in the two parishes working together regarding the South Glos. Council Local Plan – Phase 3 emerging strategy.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

#### **201. Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Hackett

#### **202. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2023**

Councillor Reade – Save our Green Spaces Grant Application – Min Ref 204

#### **203. Public Participation**

A further four members of the public arrived at 7.35pm. Councillor Stacey addressed the new attendees and gave apologies for the meeting starting earlier than planned and provided a summary of the meeting to that point. The residents advised they had wanted to learn more about the local plan and therefore Councillor Stacey offered the opportunity to address the Council, which was declined. Councillor Reade offered to speak with them after the meeting to present information about the consultation. One member of the public took up this opportunity.

Ward Councillor Sam Bromiley provided an update:

- The Conservative party are committed to opposing the Local Plan Phase 3 Emerging Strategy. Key points noted were - one third of the proposed new homes would be in the east fringe and residents were choosing to live in a countryside environment and may wish to travel to work. In addition, he felt that many residents of Warmley were not aware of the consultation.
- A by-election would be taking place in February 2024
- Cadbury Heath library is to lose some of its hours on a Friday and over lunchtimes. He had previously proposed that Siston, Oldland and Bitton parishes form a joint venture to cover the costs of keeping it open. He advised this will now be required in the 2025.26 financial year.
- He is looking at ways to improve the land between Francis Way, Bridgegate and the cycle track and improve its biodiversity.

#### **204. Grant Application – Save our Green Spaces**

The Grant application was approved. It was agreed the payment would be made, as soon as the bank details were provided.

**Resolved: All Agreed (with Councillor Reade unable to vote on this application)**

#### **205. Local Plan Strategy**

A member of the public commented that the timing of the consultation by South Glos. Council was very poor. Due to the time of year, some members of the community are not able to get out. The Clerk explained the accessibility options provided by South Glos Council including a hearing loop, a person who can engage using British sign language and accessibility to the room when they hold their meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. She also reminded that letters would be accepted by Siston Parish Council, or emails.

A second member of the public advised those present that an accountant had reviewed the statistics on the consultation and had found an error in the stated number of homes required. It was agreed a copy of this

information would be shared with the Clerk.

Councillor Stacey invited Councillors to reflect on the open public session, which preceded this meeting:

- Well attended – which indicated the prior communication was good (JD)
- A person who was registered as blind had been able to participate (JD)
- It would have been helpful to have had more detailed maps and information to hand (JD)
- Members of the public had highlighted the wellbeing and mental health aspects of losing the green space (JD)
- The employment map was poor – it should have been more detailed (AB)
- There was a good turn out – but it was appreciated that many residents were still unaware of the consultation (SR)
- Not all the local employers are noted and land not noted as protected employment – which leaves it vulnerable to residential building. (SR)
- Thanks was noted to the clerk for the work to set up the public session (JD/AS)

It was agreed that the Clerk would now summarise all the post-it notes and feedback from the public in the public session and share it with Councillors. A draft response would then be shared to be agreed at the next meeting.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th January 2024 Community Centre**

**Meeting closed at – 20.15**

**Confirmed and signed**

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

*Sara Thomas*

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