

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 21st December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, Justine Davies, Stephen Reade and Nathan Reed. Prospective Councillors Ben Milsom and Gloria Smith. Project co-ordinator (80th Anniversary D-Day) – Ian Adams (left 20:01).

180. Apologies for Absence: Councillors James Hackett and Aled Rees and Ward Councillors Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes

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

None

182. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 16th November 2023.

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

183. Public Participation

Two members of the public were present. Both departed at 20:01.

One resident addressed the Council to request a public meeting to discuss the South Glos. Council, Local Plan – phase 3 – Preferred emerging strategy. Councillor Stacey advised the Parish Council Plans to hold a public meeting on the 8th January 2023. A drop-in interactive session will be held at 5.30pm to 7pm on the 8th January 2023, followed by an extraordinary meeting of the council at 7.30pm, where residents will be able to address the Councillors.

Dudley Summerfield addressed the Council advising he was the Chair of the newly reformed Save our Green Spaces group. It has a 270 following on social media, having been set up only a week prior to the parish meeting, to actively campaign to save the green spaces, following the issue of the consultation on the local plan -phase 3. A committee has been established and once a bank account has been set up, it will be fully formed. Councillors James Hackett and Steve Reade are members. Mr Summerfield advised the activities being undertaken and what funding was required.

The Clerk was asked to provide the grant application to Mr Summerfield and to add an agenda item for the extraordinary meeting for this application to be considered.

A discussion took place regarding the acceptance of some housing if the need arose and there was consensus that this would need active management, but prevention of the loss of green space was the priority presently.

Resolved: All Agreed

184. Local Plan – Phase 3 Consultation

Details of the public meeting and extra-ordinary meeting were reconfirmed for the benefit of the clerk.

The clerk was asked to make a poster to publicise the public meeting. Councillor Stacey agreed to placing the posters at locations across the parish, due to the Clerk's annual leave and timing of the meeting.

The clerk was asked to send information to Dudley Summerfield to promote the public meeting on the Save our Green Spaces Facebook page. It was also agreed that they clerk should send the information to Friends of Siston Commons Group and the Week In for publication.

The clerk and Councillor Reade advised details of a meeting being planned at Siston Village Hall with Ward Councillors Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes, which had been requested by residents, on either the 3rd or 5th January 2023, with exact date and time to be advised for a further discussion on this subject.

The clerk reminded everyone of the South Glos. Council public consultation meetings online and in person on the 15th January 2023.

Resolved: All Agreed

185. Ward Councillor Update

None present.

186. 80th Anniversary of D Day Beacon Lighting

Ian Adams gave a presentation to the Council on the project progress.

There is an issue with a charge being applied by South Glos. Council to mow the grass around the beacon and taking the clippings away, that is yet to be resolved by the clerk and Ward Councillor Bromiley.

It was agreed a choir who could sing 1940's songs should be sought by Mr Adams.

Resolved: All Agreed

187. Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

Councillor Reade advised that plans for sending out an opinion card to residents has been delayed due to the Local Plan consultation. All other investigation/evidence work is being completed in the meantime.

The application for the grant to Locality will be delayed, due to the timings of the expenditure on the opinion cards and envelopes being clarified.

188. Local Climate and Nature Action Plan (LCNAP)

Councillor Reade confirmed this is the new name for the Local Nature Action Plan.

A meeting was recently held with Daisy Finniear who is the newly appointed Local Climate and Nature Action Plan Officer for South Glos. Council. Councillors Reade and Hackett were present. Daisy has subsequently produced a draft LCNAP, which will next be reviewed and edited by the Neighbourhood Planning Group. Once completed it will be presented to the Parish Council to approve. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had no financial obligation within the plan to fund the actions required to maintain the local commons and green spaces. Once approved by the Parish Council, it will be sent to the Commons and Biodiversity Officer of South Glos Council. It will also be added to the Neighbourhood Plan.

189. South Glos. Council Localism Contract – 3-year undertaking

Councillors agreed to the contract, costs and the 3-year undertaking.

Resolved: All Agreed

190. Bus Shelter Repair – Anchor Road

Councillors agreed to the repair with an 8mm reinforced panel, at the cost of £276 inc. VAT in the new year.

Resolved: All Agreed

191. Allotments

Councillors agreed to the skip hire cost of £210 (no VAT).

Resolved: All Agreed

192. Cadbury Heath Library

Councillor Stacey and the clerk advised attendance at a meeting at Cadbury Heath Library. Ward Councillor Sam Bromiley had proposed a joint venture between Siston, Bitton and Oldland Common Parish Councils to fund £17,000 over three years to prevent the closure of the library on a Friday and over lunchtimes. Siston Parish would be asked to fund 15% of the total. Also confirmed: it is understood that this library was selected for closure based on the number of books taken out, but not noted by the South Glos. Council was the footfall. Further confirmed were the wellbeing aspects of the library remaining open.

Councillors agreed they would like Ward Councillor Bromiley to present to them all at a forthcoming meeting before any further consideration would be given. This includes financial commitments in the future and whether a different business model, like the Marshfield community library had been considered. It was noted this could be an ongoing obligation if commenced.

Resolved: All Agreed

193. Finance

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

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

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

Resolved - All agreed.

194. Accounts for Payment

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

1. S Thomas – Salary - £1231.48 (including a payrise and back pay to 1st April 2023, as agreed)
2. HMRC - £514.36
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £77.50
4. A Stacey – Chairs Allowance - £50
5. South Glos. Council – Internal Auditors Fee - £719.40 – Paid 4/1/2024
6. Winfield Services – Winter bench clean - £315
7. Warmley Community Centre – Room Hire – November and Neighbourhood Steering Group Meeting - £58.00

195. Clerks Update and Correspondence

Clerks Update December 2023

To Note

- A new category has been added to the Siston Parish Council website under documents – Biodiversity. This contains the present South Glos. Council Siston Parish Biodiversity Action Plan to 2026.
- The Precept request has been presented to South Glos. Council for 2024.25
- South Glos. Council have advised the band D figure for 2024.25 will be £1724 – which is £10 more per household than in the previous year. They have also advised indicative figures as they are required to do so - £1758 (2025.26) - £1794 (2026.27) - £1829 (2027.28) - £1853 (2028.29).

Update

- A survey of bench numbers and missing plaques was completed this month, with benches 17, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37 and 38 having no plaques. Councillors agreed to fix the plaques themselves with the items being brought to the next meeting.
Resolved: All Agreed
- Allotments IBC – The gentleman who was setting up the IBC can no longer do it. It was agreed that the clerk would seek a person to undertake the work and present costs to the Council.
Resolved: All Agreed
- The Council now has a Public Sector Geospatial Agreement, which will allow use of Ordnance Survey maps. This will be used for the maps on the interpretation boards.
- The Commons and Biodiversity Team from South Glos Council will be attending the February 2024 meeting, to brief the Council, about work on the commons.
- The Clerk has organised a skip for the January allotment clean. It will be in place on the weekend of the 6th and 7th January 2024 – delivery on the 5th and collection on the 8th.
- The allotment invoices and tenancy agreements were posted on the w/c 27th November 2023.
- Councillor Stacey has been chasing a response from MP Chris Skidmore about the sluice gates, following a meeting in October 2023. No progress has been made to date.
- Councillor Reade has represented Siston Parish Council at a joint meeting with Oldland and Bitton Parish Council's to look at improving local public transport, with use of the WestLocal grants. A questionnaire for the public is planned, but is currently on hold due to the Local Plan taking priority.
- South Glos. Council with their partner NextLinkPlus+ are running a winter domestic abuse campaign – targeting those age 61 and above. Including: physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic and financial abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse. physical or sexual abuse. Anyone concerned or in the need of assistance can refer to this link to obtain details of places that can help: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/domestic-abuse/>
- On 22nd November 2023 four people from the Environment Agency completed a site visit at Warmley Brook. They tested the water for ammonia at several points and conducted other surveys. More action is planned to rectify some points and further investigations are planned at two premises on the route.
- The Residents Group for Traffic Calming on Webbs Heath and Siston Hill have now completed their survey of residents and used the data to complete a further application for the South Glos. Council Assess and Decide Team. A copy of the application was sent to the Assess and Decide Team by the Clerk and all information will be considered, and the application has also been noted on the Local

Transport Priority List. Ben Stokes has asked the group if they would engage in a petition to South Glos. Council to expediate the progress.

- Confirmation has been received that the new sign at Siston Village will be installed in February 2024.
- Councillor Reade reported a blocked drain outside a Evabert on Siston Lane, reference - SGC-196849-P6D6

Correspondence

- An email has been received from South Glos. Council to advise that 20th March 2024 will be Ageism Action Day. Microgrants are available from them, for residents wishing to mark the occasion with an event.
- An email was received asking why South Glos. Council have not issued a planning decision for the Bridgegate Engineering planning application. They have advised they are waiting for the legal wording to be completed. Councillor Stacey advised the complaint from the residents group has now been referred to the Ombudsman.
- An email has been received – which has been copied into all Parish and Ward Councillors and some residents – to ask what action the Parish Council are undertaking regarding the Local Plan – phase 3. The Clerk has invited the sender and others copied into the email to the Parish meeting on the 21st December 2023, where this will be discussed. Also addressed in the email from the resident, was the traffic calming action on Webbs Heath and Siston Hill. The Clerk has advised that the South Glos. Council are considering appropriate traffic calming independently and further advised was the work on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- An email was received from a resident advising the re-opening of the Save Our Green Spaces group to assist with defending the green spaces from housing, if the Local Plan – phase 3 preferred strategy proceeds as noted in minute reference 183 above.

196. Friends of Siston Commons

No report was provided this month.

197. Planning

A report was sent in advance of the meeting.

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

198. Co-options

Gloria Smith was elected a parish councillor for the Common Ward
Ben Milsom was elected as a parish councillor for the Warmley Ward
Their declarations of acceptance were duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

199. AOB

- Councillor Bryant advised that in 2024 the Kingswood Heritage Museum would be displaying information about Warmley, Siston, Bridgegate and Webbs Heath.
- Councillor Stacey advised attendance at the Warmley Wheelers Christmas gathering and reported they had purchased a new rickshaw bike.
- Councillor Stacey advised those present the clerk had passed unit one of her CiLCA qualification,
- The clerk was presented with a gift from the Council to thank her for her work.
- Councillor Reade noted his attendance at the Elms Houses Trustee meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th January 2024 Community Centre

Meeting closed at – 21:01

Confirmed and signed

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

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