



Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 15th February 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, Justine Davies, James Hackett, Ben Milsom and Gloria Smith. Ward Councillor Ben Stokes (arrived 19:35) and Matthew Lipton – Commons and Biodiversity Manager – South Gloucestershire Council.

221. Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor Aled Rees, Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer and Project Manager Ian Adams offered advanced apologies – approved. Also, absent Parish Councillor Nathan Reed.

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

Councillor Hackett – Friends of Siston Commons

Councillor Alan Bryant – Men in Sheds

223. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 18th January 2024.

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

224. Public Participation

None present.

225. Ward Councillor Update

Ben Stokes updated those present:

- He advised that South Gloucestershire Council are proposing in the budget to operate parking charges in all its car parks. Ben will be campaigning against it.
- The community payback – spring clean will be operating from the 15th to 31st March 2024. Ben encouraged the parish council to acquire time for any projects. He agreed to send the clerk further information post the meeting.
- He advised there are some delays with South Gloucestershire Council Highways services – such as potholes, blocked gullies and drains and he advised he will escalate any issues on behalf of the parish.

226. Engagement with South Glos. Council Commons and Biodiversity Management

Matthew Lipton – Commons and Biodiversity Manager of South Glos. Council presented an update to the parish council:

- Warmley Nature Action Zone: The area around William Champion's Garden will be in the parish. The engagement with residents has been outsourced to Avon Wildlife Trust. Residents will be invited to engage in enhancing their gardens for wildlife – which will form a community nature zone. Matthew advised he will circulate via the clerk a clearer map of the area to be included.
- Warmley Brook Pollution: Matthew is commencing work to gather information to outline a project for two years' time to enhance and protect the blue areas of the parish. It will include restoration of the brooks and other water ways – including weirs. The project will include looking at light pollution, where weirs were formally situated, litter hot-spots, transport severance (linked to otters and other mammals travelling). Matthew is applying to the West of England Combined Authority for a grant for £20,000 and other funding from large organisations and the Environment Agency to support this project. It is also hoped that there will be engagement from Bristol Zoo and students may engage in projects with wildlife tracking cameras. Councillors Bryant and Reade provided information to Matthew regarding St Anne's Pool – which was a trout breeding area and where there were thought to be 41 weirs or withy beds. Matthew asked the Councillors to pinpoint that area on a map – as this historical knowledge will be helpful to the future project. Councillor Smith provided an insight into the wildlife seen at Bridge Road Industrial Estate.
- Commons Connection Project – The area stretches from the M4 to Willsbridge Mill. A wildflower

meadow has been installed in Siston Common North, a footpath and three new benches funded by Siston Parish Council. Warmley Park School and College have engaged with project work, with some pleasing results. Felicity Park pond has been repaired (although there were some comments about the flow of water) and there is currently a strand of the project underway creating an orchard at St Barnabas School, Warmley. Matthew also noted that ten new oak trees had been planted at Warmley Forest Park to create a new avenue of trees, with trees also planted at Kings Meadow and Fisher Road. It was confirmed a robust watering system was in place. Going forward into the autumn of 2024 – there may be strip sowing of wildflowers at Bridgegate Common and Webbs Heath.

227. 80th Anniversary of D Day

Ian Adam's had given his apologies – so this item was postponed to the March meeting.

Resolved: All Agreed

228. Local Climate and Nature Action Plan

Subject to the addition of a note being added to advise that Siston Parish Council are not committed to funding the outcomes of the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan, the plan was approved. The clerk was asked to provide the appropriate wording to Councillor Reade for inclusion.

Resolved: All Agreed

229. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

No progress had been reported due to prioritising the Local Plan – phase 3 this month. This item is to be noted on the agenda for March 2024.

Resolved: All Agreed

230. Email and meeting from Siston Village Hall meeting

Noted by the clerk was a visit that had taken place by South Glos. Council's Conservation Team, which Councillor Chris Willmore has confirmed with inform the Local Plan consultation.

No action to be taken by the parish council.

Resolved: All Agreed

231. New Bin Request – location ///blank.looked.twig

Due to the absence of Councillor Rees, this item was postponed to the March meeting.

Resolved: All Agreed

232. New Bench request – location ///strict.tests.luxury

Councillors declined to adopt and maintain a bench – if one was agreed and installed by the resident.

The clerk was asked to inform the resident and advise them the land was owned by Forestry England who may have other memorial options (new trees).

Resolved: By Majority

233. Interpretation Board

Councillors agreed a QR code could be present on the interpretation board, which would direct residents to information held on the parish council website.

Councillors agreed the amount allocated to the board would remain at £1000, which has already been allocated in the budgets for 2023.24 and 2024.25, in case the work is not completed by 31st March 2024.

Resolved: All Agreed

234. Grant Application – Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors approved a grant for £500.

Resolved: By Majority

235. Warmley Community Centre – CIO

Councillors agreed the revised vesting declaration should go via the parish council solicitor as it is a legal document. The costs will need to be met by Warmley Community Centre as advised to them in December 2022.

Resolved: All Agreed

236. Warmley Community Centre – March Meeting Date

Due to a performance at the Warmley Community Centre, the meeting of the parish council in March will now be on the 28th March 2024, 7.30pm, in the Penny/Vowles Room.

Resolved: All Agreed

235. Newsletter

Articles are to be with the clerk by the w/c 1st April 2024.

Articles agreed:

- Steve Reade – Neighbourhood Plan
- James Hackett – Friends of Siston Commons and the Drift Mine Project
- Ben Milsom – 80th Anniversary of D Day Beacon Lighting
- Gloria Smith – Warmley Community Centre (already received)
- Alan Bryant – Kingswood Heritage Museum

Resolved: All Agreed

236. Finance

a) Members received statement of accounts (receipts and payments inc. v budget) to the 29th January 2024.

b) Members received and approved the bank statements to 29th January 2024.

c) Members received the Bank Reconciliation to 29th January 2024.

Resolved - All agreed.

237. Accounts for Payment

The on-line payment of the following items for February 2024 were approved:

1. S Thomas – Salary - £885.66
2. HMRC - £279.06
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £90.92
4. South Glos. Council Localism Charge – 1st Jan 2024 to 31st March 2024 - £457.81
5. Warmley Community Centre Meeting Room Hire – Full meeting and extraordinary meeting Jan 2024 - £72.50
6. SLCC Membership Fee - £183.00
7. ALCA Training – Planning in Plain English – Councillor Davies - £40

Resolved: All Agreed

238. Clerks Update and Correspondence

Update

- Cllr Stacey noted customers of the garage and the barbers shop on Chapel Lane were using the path to park. The clerk reported the issue to South Glos Council – Park Legally service on the 19th Jan 2024. South Glos. Council Park Legally Team visited the site and reported that they have issued a fine to a vehicle owner and will continue to monitor the area.
- An issue arose in January with the traffic queuing back to the A4174 ring road from the Mangotsfield amenities site. Suez have advised they have employed a person to be onsite between 9am and 4pm to ensure the flow of traffic from their own recycling lorries and customers is managed.
- Staple Hill and New Cheltenham Neighbourhood Police Team provided the first of 28-day reports. They cover some of the parish (Turners Farm, the Horsehoe Pub and Siston Common/Hill). Highlights of the report include: they have a new PCSO Amy Newman – so now have 3 PCSOs and 2 PC's in the team; They have recovered 5 stolen motorbikes; There was a bike safe event on the 25th Jan 2024; They joined the Salvation Army on the 10th and 11th Feb for a march celebrating their 140 year anniversary; There were 137 crimes committed – the highest being assault on a person and lowest Possession of Weapons (only 1).
- The clerk received formal notification from South Glos. Council that the grass around the beacon can be mowed prior to the 80th anniversary of D Day beacon lighting, at no cost to the parish council, as the schedule will be altered to accommodate the need to mow it.
- The road calming assessment of Webbs Heath and Siston Hill are now on the projects list to be considered by South Glos. Council's Assess and Decide Team – but noted as a low priority for funding. Councillor Ben Stokes offered to escalate this within South Glos. Council to heighten its profile. The clerk agreed to send a copy of the correspondence.

Resolved: All Agreed

- The clerk has chased South Glos. Council for the Siston Village sign to be in place this month – as was previously agreed. Response received to advise the signpost is still being created by the manufacturer and once received will take a few weeks to install. This may mean the payment being later than the 31st March 2024 – in current planned budget and so may be carried over for payment to 2024.25

Resolved: All Agreed

- Update on the Warmley Brook pollution with the Environment Agency: A blockage at Wessex Water Pipe NGR - ST6614475050 due to a failing pump has now been resolved. A blocked-up surface water outlet - NGR - ST6612675101 – was due to debris that has since been unblocked and resolved the issue. A further suspected pollution site also Wessex Water surface water discharge - NGR - ST6632574363 was retested, and no ammonia or sewage found. There are plans to investigate two adjacent businesses and one other site where animals are soon to check for further pollution sources.
- Councillors Davies and Stacey have reviewed the benches on the asset list – including their numbers. Councillor Stacey fixed some brass plaques to benches which have not contained them Thanks to Andrew and Justine. A plaque needs to be produced – number 17, one bench cannot be located and the asset registered will now need to be update by the clerk.
- West of England Combined Authority (WECA) are offering grants of between £7500 - £20,000 to encourage volunteering, bringing communities back to the high streets and hubs and new community development or regeneration. The closing date is the 19th April and there is criteria laid out for selection.
- King Charles III Charitable Fund are offering grants to heritage and conservation projects. It as a short application period ending on the 19th February 2024. This was circulated to local groups.
- South Glos. Council have circulated a leaflet for parents to assist conversations with knife crime. The clerk issued to local school contacts and was advised by Kings Oak Academy that they will be sending the link to all parents in years 7 through to 11.
- Councillor Reade reported flooding on Norman Road to South Glos. Council on behalf of a resident – reference - SGC-202319-M9L1
- South Glos. Council have advised of the launch of the Small Community Events Fund Grant from the West of England Combined Authority – for sums of between £7k to £20k – which closes on the 7th April 2024.m

Correspondence

- South Glos Council Community Engagement have advised of a group who are seeking permission for wellbeing walks in Warmley Forest Park – including fires lit in baskets for young people – in groups of 10-12, organised by Cadbury Heath medical centre. Cllr Reade has highlighted the group should look to avoid nesting birds and bird boxes in the locations where they set up camp.
- Four letters of objection to the South Gloucestershire Local Plan phase 3 have been received and passed onto the council. The letters have also noted criticism of the engagement event held by South Glos. Council's engagement event and asking for an extension. South Glos. Council have also copied in the parish council to the responses they have made to some residents. In summary they have explained their event and have confirmed there will be no extension to the consultation deadline.
- An inspector will visit the proposed public right of way - (Footpath between Goldney Avenue and public footpath PSN 52 (The Dramway) at Warmley) DMMO 2020 on the 12th March 2024.
- An email was received from Emersons Green Voice asking for a copy of Siston Parish Councils response to the Local Plan – which was passed to them as a public document.

239. Friends of Siston Commons

Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillors had no questions for Councillor Hackett, and all confirmed the report had been read.

240. Planning

A report was sent in advance of the meeting.

241. AOB

- Councillors Ben Milsom and Alan Bryant confirmed that the numbers signposts had been installed in the allotment site by Councillor Milsom and his daughter. Thanks was noted for their work. Councillor Bryant agreed to circulate the photographs.

- Councillor Bryant noted a tree was growing outside the boundary wall for the allotment by plot 12, that will need attention by the Environment Agency.
- Councillor Reade (as a member of the public) – he would like to cut down a damson tree next to his allotment.
- Councillor Smith asked for an agenda item for the next meeting to approve costs to create a new wooden box in the Memorial Garden. A quotation was passed to the clerk.
- Councillor Hackett noted vandalism and anti-social behaviour on Siston Hill Estate.
- Councillor Hackett confirmed that plans to buy a second allotment site was still being proposed. It was confirmed a sum of £7000 was set aside in the budget for 2024.25 and noted was that South Glos. Councillor Chris Willmore was aware of Siston Parish’s Council’s interest in the site near 114 Tower Road.
- Councillor Stacey asked for an agenda item for the March meeting to look at potential youth work – due to the recent increase in knife crime – engaging young people. Options noted were to look at and enhance existing provision within local parishes and Madeforever centre.

Date of next meeting: 28th March 2024 at Warmley Community Centre

Meeting closed at – 21:29

Confirmed and signed

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

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