

# SISTON

## PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present** – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, Justine Davies, James Hackett, Ben Milsom, Steve Reade and Gloria Smith. Ward Councillors Marilyn Palmer (left 20:25) and Ben Stokes. Councillor Chris Willmore – Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Regeneration (left 20:25).

**83. Apologies for Absence:** Parish Councillors Nathan Reed – Approved. Aled Rees also absent.

#### **84. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2024**

Councillor James Hackett – Chair of Friends of Siston Common

Councillor James Hackett – Trustee of Warmley Community Centre

#### **85. Minutes Approved**

Full Council Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

#### **86. Public Participation**

None Present

#### **87. Local Plan – Update from Chris Willmore Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Regeneration.**

Chris provided a summary of the latest position regarding phase 3 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan. Key notes were:

1. There are two sites still on the table within the Siston Parish Council boundary. One at Webbs Heath EPS-BV14 and one on the old golf course EPS-BV9. In total this is 2100 homes.
2. The Bendry's Bros. Site on the Bath Road has been removed as a potential site.
3. A new site at Jarrets on the Bath Road (within the Bitton Parish Council boundary) has been added.
4. South Glos. Council have not had a formal request from Bristol for their unmet housing needs. South Glos. Council as shown in the published topic paper have concluded that they are not able to accommodate Bristol's unmet need.
5. The new Labour Government has introduced a new method of calculating homes in the National Planning Framework. This means South Glos. Council need to accommodate 6000 more homes than previously advised. Bath and North East Somerset also have an increase in the number of homes. They may ask South Glos. Council to assist with their unmet needs.
6. The purpose of building more homes is to have more available, which will drive down the average cost of homes.
7. Since the last consultation 17 further sites have been put forward on the call for sites. 84% are brownfield. This includes Jarrets, Bath Road. Councillor Stacey pointed out that this will affect local employment. Councillor Willmore advised that if Jarrets plan to close, the employment will be lost anyway.
8. Councillor provided a handout on the site showing the site at Webbs Heath – showing a piece of work she has been doing with Councillor Palmer and Matthew Lipton (Biodiversity and Commons Manager for South Glos. Council), to create further green space and commons connected access on the planned site at Webbs Heath, if it goes ahead. The Friends of Commons have been shown this site.
9. Councillor Reade asked for clarification that the map currently on the website was correct as at the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – which Councillor Willmore confirmed it was.
10. Councillor Reade asked Councillor Chris Willmore about investigating about public ownership of Overscourt Wood.
11. The Highways Agency are able to impose blocks and they have done this on the junction 15. The council are not able to do this.

### **88. Local Plan Consultation Response**

It was agreed that Councillor Stacey and the clerk would write a response and circulate it to the Councillors for agreement.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **89. Ward Councillor Update**

Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer updated those present that she received a complaint about the long grass on Bridgegate Common and has reported this to Matthew Lipton.

Ward Councillor Ben Stokes updated those present that he has spoken with the local farmer, and they can cut the grass verges.

### **90. Save Our Green Spaces – Room Booking Costs**

The clerk noted this booking is no longer required.

### **91. V J Day Celebrations**

It was agreed the council would organise an event for V E Day in May 2025. They would like to make additional monies available in the next budget.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **92. Youth Activity – Skate Park Jam Summer 2024**

The posters have been circulated by the clerk via email. The councillors advised they would like them placed at Warmley Community Centre and Warmley Waiting Room. Creative Youth Network will be displaying them at local skate parks. The Clerk will be placing them in the notice boards also, including Siston Hill Estate.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **93. Grass Verge Cutting Costs – Webbs Heath and Siston Hill**

The clerk confirmed the Farmer – Reg Hardy – can cut a section of verge agreed by Matthew Lipton for £40 per hour. It will take 4 hours. (£160).

South Glos. Council have advised they will charge £1500, which will include road management costs.

The clerk confirmed that South Glos. Council had in fact cut the problematic area anyway, since the last meeting, which can now be walked on. They did this as they had some spare hours to use of a contractor's time, who had been working on the ring road – A4174. No road management had been used to do this.

The council agreed they will pay the farmer £140, when the verge requires it. Legally the verges can be cut between 1<sup>st</sup> September and the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **94. Transport Consultation A420 Consultation**

Councillors advised they would like the clerk to confirm agreement to the plans.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **95. Cadbury Heath Library Service Fees – 3 year contract**

Councillors agreed to the payment of £1170.31 plus inflation and pay rises, for a three year term.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **97. Cyber Insurance Renewal**

Councillors agreed to renew the insurance for a premium of £405.24

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **98. Movement of Bank Accounts to NatWest**

The clerk advised new information that for the authorisation of payments to mirror the financial regulations of two to sign cheques and bacs, plus the clerk, NatWest would need to operate bankline, which is £20 per month.

The clerk recommended taking out the 95 day infinity account to NatWest, with Councillors Stacey and Reed as signatories and herself, as they would get full online banking access. To move the NS&I accounts to HSBC savings and leave that account and their current account with HSBC.

The council decided they would like the Finance Committee to make this decision, as they may wish to pay for bankline.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **99. External Financial Audit 2023.24**

Councillors noted the external auditors report and certificate – no actions required.

Councillors noted the publication of the conclusion of audit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 on the website and the notice boards.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

### **100. Finance**

a) Members received statement of accounts (receipts and payments inc. v budget) to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024

b) Members received and approved the bank statements to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

c) Members received the Bank Reconciliation to the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**Resolved - All agreed.**

### **101. Accounts for Payment**

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

1. S Thomas – Salary - £886.81
2. HMRC - £277.91
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £144.29
4. A Bryant – Expenses – Reimbursement for allotment prize money - £50
5. Cyber Insurance Renewal - £405.25

**Resolved – All Agreed**

### **102. Clerks Update and Correspondence**

#### **To Note**

- The fees for the internal audit with South Glos. Council are increasing from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to £340 per day.
- The South Glos. Council Cleansing Team will be in the parish in Sept/Oct for one week. Councillors agreed vegetation should be removed around the bench at Chesley Hill and a tidy up of Siston Hill Estate. A lot of litter is in the green space.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

- The next internal audit will be taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 for one day.
- The cost of removing the loose layers of stones from the allotment wall will be £180 plus VAT. The total cost for the fence and wall will be £1220. The cost of a full wall rebuild has been quoted as £4000-£5000. The alternative is an insurance claim.

Councillors agreed to proceed with Chris Belcher erecting a fence and removing the loose wall bricks. The bricks are to be gathered in front of the fence and will be taken away by Councillor Reade for use at Webbs Heath Mine restoration.

**Resolved: All Agreed**

Update

- The interpretation board at Siston Park North has been vandalised with some graffiti. A clean of the graffiti was requested from SGC and this was also reported to the police team – as it appears someone is vandalising all in the area.
- Emails and letters were sent to all allotment holders to notify them of the increased fee of £30 from Jan 2026.
- Councillor Stacey had purchased a lock for the noticeboard at Siston Park and repaired it.
- The clerk has purchased the small noticeboard for the allotment gate.
- Matthew Lipton is investigating the licence held for the land in front of the White Harte Pub. He has established a licence was requested but is waiting to hear the details of the licence and whether South Glos. Council enforced it.

Correspondence

- An email was received from resident complaining part of the grass verge on Webbs Heath was not cut. The email was passed onto South Glos. Council.
- An email was received from a resident asking if the parish council have been approached by South Glos. Council and asked to take a proportion of the housing required. The clerk has confirmed that other than consultations, the parish council has not had a formal or informal request to take a proportion of the required housing. The link to the parish council’s response to the consultation was also sent.
- A complaint was received from an allotment tenant – challenging the rise in fee to £30 from January 2026, asking for details of repairs and maintenance to be advised. The clerk sent a response within 24 hours to the tenant.
- Positive feedback received from a resident re the cuts of the verge at Webbs Heath.

**103. Friends of Siston Commons**

Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

**104. Planning**

a) Planning Applications – all noted, nothing to add

b) Planning Decisions – all noted, nothing to add

**Resolved – All Agreed**

**105. Other Business**

- Councillor Reade advised a new bus route has been established through a combined project with Oldland and Bitton Parishes. The route will go from Yate to Keynsham, passing through the parish. He will issue a timetable via the clerk when available.
- Councillor Davies asked for a map of the parish and was given details of the Ordnance Survey Map, which can be filtered by parish.
- Councillor Bryant asked there is talk at Kingswood Heritage Museum regarding mining on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm, doors opening at 6.45pm.
- Councillor Bryant advised that Avon Industrial Buildings Trust is interested in the Gin House.
- Councillor Hackett advised that looks of work is needed on pathways on the commons and green spaces in the parish. He has reported this to the public rights of way team and commons team at South Glos. Council.

**Date of next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Meeting closed at – 21:13**

**Confirmed and signed.**

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

*Sara Thomas*

**Clerk for Siston Parish Council Email:- [sistonpc@gmail.com](mailto:sistonpc@gmail.com) Tel:- 07946 858048**