

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 19th September 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Andrew Stacey (Chair), Alan Bryant, Justine Davies, Ben Milsom, Steve Reade, Nathan Reed, Aled Rees and Gloria Smith.

106. Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor James Hackett and Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer – approved.

107. Declarations of Interests under the Code of Conduct adopted May 2024

Councillor Stacey – Clerks Salary min reference 112

Councillor Smith – Director of Warmley Community Centre

109. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 15th August 2024

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

110. Public Participation

Three residents presented to the council in relation to planning application reference P24/02077/RC. They were concerned that the council had noted a no objection to the planning application.

Resident one noted: They received notification only on the 17th September 2024. Amendments requested are within the conservation area. There has been a longstanding issue parking and timings of parking, which is not spread out throughout an hour, but mostly between 8.30 and 8.45am, with only one child departing each car. He estimated that there are one thousand cars per week caused by this business onto the private driveway. Two new wooden buildings have been erected on site, which he has referred to planning enforcement. He described the rubber matting that has been installed and the eroded verges that border the driveway. He noted his inability to access a taxi, where it was required, due to the traffic build up on the drive at a peak time.

Resident two noted: The planned expansion of the business into a local church hall had been objected to by residents of Siston Village, concerned about the issues in their current location on Siston Court. He is concerned about the traffic onto a private driveway. Further he commented on the noise and visual pollution. He highlighted also that part of the planned car park on the plans, is near the fire hydrant, where the fire brigade undertake training. He commented on the erosion of the driveway and asked councillors to pay particular attention to the report on the South Glos. planning website from the conservation officer. He noted there are ten households in Siston Court that need to be represented.

Resident three noted: More staff will equal more cars, and more children will equal more cars. She also highlighted that cars arriving are not evenly spread over an hour period, it causes issues with use of Siston Lane and the build-up of traffic and she felt there was a potential for an accident blackspot in the location where the drive meets Siston Lane. She noted the positive that the children would experience a great location whilst at nursery; however, was concerned how the children would be accommodated in wet weather.

Councillor Stacey noted during the discussion, that he had not objected, as he felt the need for local nursery placements and in addition, there were benefits from an employment aspect, which was accepted by the residents.

Councillor Davies, asked the residents if they had spoken with the nursery, which they confirmed they had not. She then explained to those present, the new government funded nursery places, coming over future months/years for children as young as nine months old, which South Gloucestershire Council must accommodate.

Councillor Reade noted he would expect to see a transport plan/financial viability statement / a report from the fire brigade / land ownership documents. He advised the council that he had recommended the residents speak to Ward Councillor Ben Stokes.

At 7.50pm the residents departed.

The council agreed that Councillor Davies would arrange a visit to the nursery to hear more from their perspective and once she reports back to the planning committee, they would review their comments but are not looking to amend them at the present time.

Resolved: All Agreed

111. Ward Councillor Update

None Present

112. Finance Committee Update

The clerk read through the minutes of the meeting that was held on the 17th September 2024 and circulated on the 18th September 2024. The council approved the minutes as a correct record.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors agreed with the recommendation to continue to move the bank accounts to NatWest.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors agreed to progress the bus shelter with the work given to G W Shelter at the cost of £1100 before VAT, with a note on the workmanship. In addition, the project to add the names of the fallen to the memorial will also be progressed.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors agreed to the grants and projects recommended by the committee and instructed the clerk to now proceed with calculating the budget.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors agreed to move the clerk's salary to spine point 33 to recognise her becoming a qualified officer of the council.

Resolved: All Agreed

114. VJ Celebrations

It was confirmed the 80th Anniversary of VE Day would be celebrated in May, (not VJ Day) in line with government protocol.

Councillor Ben Milsom will commence preparations, along with resident Ian Adams. It was agreed travel expenses could be paid to the resident.

Resolved: All Agreed

115. Skate Park Insurance Renewal

Councillors agreed to the renewal of the insurance and the payment of the premium, which is on a three-year undertaking, with Clear Councils.

Resolved: All Agreed

116. Allotment Sharing Shelves

Councillors agreed to the payment of £40 to Men in Sheds for the sharing shelves for the allotment site.

Resolved: All Agreed

117. Finance

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

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

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

Resolved - All agreed.

118. Accounts for Payment

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

1. S Thomas – Salary - £887.01
2. HMRC - £277.71
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £86.31
4. Warmley Community Centre August Room Hire - £30.40
5. Clear Councils – Joint Council – Skate Park Insurance Renewal - £682.99
6. South Glos. Council Localism Charge (July to September 2024) - £572.40
7. Oldland Parish Council skate park sign – shared cost - £1.92
8. Creative Youth Network – Skate Jam youth project - £3979.08
9. Warmley Community Centre – Sept Room Hire - £53.20
10. Alan Bryant Expenses – Reimbursement for tools to pay in lieu for community payback team - £30
11. D&M Electrical – Bus Shelter Clean - £180

Resolved – All Agreed

119. Clerks Update and Correspondence

Update

- Councillor Hackett has identified some issues on Public Rights of Way, which has been reported to SGC by the clerk: PSN 27 to its junction with PSN 26 (Warmley Forest park to Goose Green at Brook Farm) - two unsafe stiles and a ditch crossing that is not safe. Also, the end of the bridle path at Brook farm is blocked due to vegetation and an overflowing spring. PSN 20 (Goose Green to Overscourt Wood) where the start is not accessible- again 5 stiles need replacing and the surface needs improving in two areas. The path from Mill Farm is clear but the approach to the bridge to Webbs Heath needs surface improvement.

Councillors Agreed that Councillor Hackett can represent the parish council at the South Glos. Council, Public Rights of Way meetings.

Resolved: All Agreed

- The defibrillator door would not open, and the clerk sought a solution from the manufacturer. Batteries need to be replaced annually. This is now diarised.
- Positive Feedback received regarding the Chairman managing difficult discussion points in meetings.
- The clerk has passed the CiLCA and is now a qualified officer of the council.
- The query regarding the number of benches and the lighting that has been erected outside the White Harte Pub, on common land has still not progressed. South Glos Council Property Services have not advised the commons officer if a licence was ever approved on that land by the pub owner. A response is still pending.
- An annual check of the owl boxes in Warmley Forest Park was completed on the 16th September 2024. Thanks to Ros of Friends of Siston Commons for attending whilst the inspection took place.
- The skate jam took place on the 7th September 2024 – 50/60 young people took part, with 15 children competing. Thanks was sent to Creative Youth Network.

Correspondence

- Two emails were received about the vegetation growing in the Warmley Brook on Anchor Road. The resident was unhappy with the lack of management of this. The clerk has reported this to Matthew Lipton at South Glos. Council and the work has now been planned.
- Email received from a resident asking for their planning application to be supported by the parish council – 61 Siston Common. The clerk replied to the resident and advised the application had already been received and the parish council had stated no objection.
- Email received from a resident – via Councillor Stacey – asking for assistance from the parish council, as he is having issues with South Glos. Council, approving a dropped kerb outside his property.

- A resident reported a fuel leak into the brook at Hinton Drive. This was reported to the Environment Agency who completed an on-site inspection. They were able to see the oily surface and used pads to clear the oil. They are looking for the source in a local industrial site, having checked but not found anything on the first inspection, however plan to return. They have also suggested that the land on which the industrial site, was an historic landfill site. Councillor Reade has offered further advice for the Environment Agency.
- A resident emailed and highlighted broken stiles on the public right of way between Webbs Heath and the Blue House ref LWA 8/1. The clerk has emailed the South Glos PROW Team to have them mended on safety grounds.

120. Friends of Siston Commons

Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

121. Planning

a) Planning Applications – all noted, nothing to add

b) Planning Decisions – all noted, nothing to add

Resolved – All Agreed

122. Other Business

- Councillor Reade noted that his update regarding the local climate and nature action plan had been circulated by the clerk during the month
- Councillor Stacey noted that when posing questions for next month’s meeting to the Police and Crime Commissioner then councillors might consider wider questions, as she might not know the local area. Councillor Reade agreed and asked for attention still to be brought to local issues as well.
- Councillor Bryant noted the distance in the allotment site between the large items area and where the skip is usually located, which will need to be considered.
- Councillor Bryant advised the tenant at plot 8, may vacate her plot. There is large shed on site. He advised he thought it would be good to use this shed as a community area for all the tenants and the council should consider not reletting it.
- Councillor Bryant reminded everyone that the police had requested funds for an electric bike, and it was confirmed they had not submitted a grant request yet.
- Councillor Smith advised three wooden bollards were missing on the lower common, which will allow vehicle access.
- Councillor Smith noted there is a trolley in the brook by Bridge Road.
- Councillor Smith noted thanks to those assisting with the Remembrance Service.

Date of next meeting: 17th October 2024

Meeting closed at – 20:29

Confirmed and signed.

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

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