

SISTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Siston Parish Council Meeting held at Warmley Community Centre, on Thursday 17th October 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

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

123. Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor Gloria Smith and Ward Councillor Marilyn Palmer – approved.

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

Councillor Alan Bryant – Men in Sheds

James Hackett – Trustee of Warmley Community Centre

Aled Rees – Planning Application Ref P24/02055/F

125. Minutes Approved

Full Council Meeting – 17th of September 2024

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

126. Public Participation

None present

127. Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset – Clare Moody

Clare Moody was accompanied by Barney Mabett – Neighbourhood Inspector, Andrew McMillan – Neighbourhood Sergeant, both from Staple Hill and New Cheltenham Team and Inspector Stuart King – Staff of Police, advisory to Clare Moody on policing and legal matters.

Clare introduced herself and outlined the role of Police and Crime Commissioner:

1. Setting the budget for Avon and Somerset Police
2. Management of the medium term five year rolling budget
3. Management of the budget in accordance with political direction
4. Scrutiny of the actions of the Chief Constable
5. Day to day governance
6. Linking the community to the police force
7. Management of services i.e. Victim Services and the Violent Reduction Partnership
8. Her role is akin to the Chairman of a Board in a private company

She confirmed in a response to a question from Councillor Stacey that she was able to accept enquiries from the parish council but does not have an operation role.

Clare advised she has drafted her five priorities, which she is required to do by the April of the year following the year she was elected. The draft is currently out for public consultation (online via the website) and closes on the 23rd of October. The five priorities are:

1. Neighbourhood Policing
2. Reducing Violent Crime – in particular knife crime
3. Crime prevention
4. Supporting victims
5. Standards in Policing

In response to a question posed by Councillor Hackett, Ms Moody advised that he is working alongside Metro Mayor Dan Norris on the following subjects:

1. Anti-theft measures in small shops
2. Rolling out the Women's Commission

3. Funding for skills for young people to give them options, instead of following a path into crime relating to drugs.

In response to questions sent to Clare prior to the meeting – the responses were as follows:

Question 1

The presence of the Police often acts as a deterrent to criminals and criminal activity, can we expect to see more of the presence of the Police on patrol, as this often assures the public of more security and deters petty crime like shop lifting etc. Are the number of Police Officers in the public domain to be increased significantly any time soon?

Answer

Neighbourhood Policing is the priority, and it is recognised that presence in the community is effective. Sargeant McMillan explained after the initial response to an incident the Neighbourhood Policing Team will follow up with families and individuals in the longer term.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Reade it was confirmed that 42% of funding for the police comes from precept. Clare confirmed she will be pushing central government for as much funding as possible.

Question 2

How will the Avon and Somerset Police Force manage the anti-social and dangerous use of e bikes and e scooters and stolen motorbikes. We have a specific issue in the parish, particularly on our common lands, and wondered if there are plans to provide suitable off-road bikes to our local teams?

Answer

Clare confirmed this is a national issue.

Inspector Mabbett advised that they have a duty of care to everyone, whether they are the perpetrator or the victim. This means that they can only stop people when it is safe to do, even if an illegal act is taking place. They have found chasing people, makes them go faster and puts them at risk. They prefer to use intelligent led policing techniques, which means reports by neighbours, where they can apprehend people at their own residence.

It was also advised they police have had some success securing good outcomes with the use of drones. All residents are encouraged to report using Crimestoppers, which gives the police force the intelligence they need.

Question 3

What plans are there to manage vehicle owners who park illegally or cause obstructions, which impacts on causing damage to the infrastructure, with no money in councils to repair this causes long term issues. We have issues in Chapel Lane and the High Street, which we have not managed to resolve. Can you help promote this issue locally?

Answer

Inspector Mabbett went through the list of vehicle and parking issues the police can deal with. He confirmed the police have no jurisdiction over parking on the pavement. It was advised the best approach to block parking on pavements is for the parish council to have put in place large concrete planters.

Question 4

Parts of Warmley in our parish suffer from impacts of noise from the A4174 Ring Road. Cameras were installed as part of the government trial, with a positive impact. Will this be rolled out further in the future and how can the public be assured those recordings will not be abused/targeted, linking to building people's confidence in the police.

Answer

Clare will be having a summit focused on strategies for managing highways.

Outside of the trial, Sargeant McMillan advised they have specially trained police officers, with special equipment to look at individual cars.

It was confirmed that the reports from the trial have still not been completed, but it was confirmed by Clare, that these reports would be chased.

Question 5

What are your priorities and how can the parish council engage with them?

Answer

Ms Moody advised everyone to refer to her answer to question one, as these are her priorities.

Further questions were posed:

Councillor Davies asked if there would be funding for specialists on Domestic Violence in police call centres. Clare confirmed she was involved in Operation Sateria, which is looking into this. The focus is on serial offenders. In addition, there may be video support for victims calling in.

Councillor Davies asked if the parish council could join in with multi-agency training? Clare confirmed she would look into this. She invited Councillor Davies to contact her, if she had a specific interest.

Councillor Bryant asked what lessons had been learned from the riots, following the Southport riot. Clare confirmed that positive aspects were: The communication; community liaison; the drone to get accurate information; the speed of the arrest and charge; number of police available and also the horses and dog teams deployed. She highlighted the rise being seen in right wing terrorist activity.

Councillor Bryant asked what is being done in relation to IT related crime and are the police force keeping up with the speed the criminals are developing? Clare confirmed the scale is huge and it is true that the national facilities need more work and the potential impact from IT related crime is high. It was noted by the officers present that people should be reporting incitement as this is a criminal offence and phishing.

Sargeant McMillan advised that everyone should use ActionFraud. It protects the consumer and makes financial institutions act. He gave some examples. He also outlined that Neighbourhood Teams are proactive with victims of fraud and give person attention to assist.

Councillor Reade asked Clare to watch the recording of the South Glos. Council full council meeting on the 16th October 2024, as there is a lady giving a harrowing account of domestic violence.

Councillor Reade asked if Clare felt she has the empowerment to support rural areas? Clare advised she has to focus attention on the where crimes are being undertaken and where the population are but does take into account land mass. She reminded the Youth Bus – Doris – is focused in rural areas. She confirmed that some funding was provided to purchase the bus.

Chairman Andrew Stacey thanked Clare and colleagues for their attendance, and they then departed the meeting at 20:35.

128. Ward Councillor Update

None Present

129. Identity Cards

Councillors agreed that all members should have an identity card, with photo and name, with a few spares with no name or photo. The costs of purchase were also authorised.

Resolved: All Agreed

130. Remembrance Day

Councillors agreed to printing of the service sheet and payment to the printer for £58.

Resolved: All Agreed

The clerk was asked to provide a timetable for the day, so councillors know what actions they are undertaking.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillor Rees advised he can provide the van for movement of the chairs and matting on the day, but may not be able to drive the van, but he will confirm in due course.

131. V E Day Celebrations Update

Councillor Milsom provided an update.

He confirmed Rev. Rosemary will be holding the service and the mowing has now been agreed by South Glos. Council.

He asked for feedback on the previous beacon lighting. Councillors requested music to continue until people depart the event, to keep the atmosphere going. It was noted that the quartet was really enjoyed, and councillors would like to see them return.

Resolved: All Agreed

132. Allotment Costs

Councillors agreed to the contractor and payment of £175 for plugs to be purchased and installed to kill of the remaining trunk of the ash tree.

Councillors agreed to purchase six gravel boards to repair the bridges in the allotment for the cost of £30 per gravel board.

Resolved: All Agreed

133. Budget and Precept 2025.26

Councillors approved the budget and the precept, circulated in advance of the meeting. The documents were duly signed by the Chairman – Councillor Stacey

Resolved: All Agreed

134. Grant Application – Warmley Community Centre

Councillors confirmed they would make a grant of £500 towards the costs of purchasing 50 chairs and tables.

Resolved: All Agreed

135. Finance

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

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

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

Resolved - All agreed.

136. Accounts for Payment

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

1. S Thomas – Salary – increase to spine point 33 - £1091.53
2. HMRC - £396.44
3. S Thomas – Expenses - £61.32
4. Woodstock Tree Services – annual review of owl boxes - £390.00
5. AED Locator - new pads for defib – emergency spend - £181.15
6. Men in Sheds – Sharing Shelves - £40
7. Warmley Community Centre October Room Hire - £30.40
8. Warmley Community Centre – Grant - £500.00

Resolved – All Agreed

The councillors asked the clerk to amend the Financial Regulations to allow the clerk to pay for replacement parts for lifesaving equipment without first seeking the permission of the council.

Resolved – All Agreed

137. Clerks Update and Correspondence

To Note

- The mid-year internal audit took place on the 14th to the 16th of October 2024.
- The defibrillator fund is open – grants can be obtained from London Hearts (match funding of £750 is required from the parish council) – in addition due to a life being saved by the parish defibrillator, the person, if they are prepared to download and share their data for research purposes, can receive a free defib, for their own community.

Councillors asked the clerk to complete a grant request for a new defibrillator and agreed to pay the match funding if the application is successful.

Resolved: All Agreed

Update

- The bus shelter outside 98 London Road, will be refurbished in mid-November.
- Councillor Smith asked for the clerk to progress contact with the architect for 114 Tower Road North, to see if we can start discussions regarding a second site, as part of the land cannot be used for

housing and will therefore be landlocked. Initial contact made with the architect on the 30th Sept 2024.

- Councillor Davies noted a person residing in a blue tent on Webbs Heath. This was reported to Streetlink for a welfare check on the 30th Sept 2024.
- Councillor Hackett is speaking with South Glos. Council Public Right of Way Team about improving the pathway at Brook Farm.
- Councillor Reade is working with South Glos. Council on a bulb planting project. Bulbs will be planted in an area near Hinton Drive.
- The South Glos. Council Enviro Crime Team are looking at the recent spate of fly tipping and will be working on putting into place preventative measures.
- The clerk noticed the toilet block on the railway path by Warmley Waiting Room needed repair, particularly the doors. South Glos. Council have advised it is in a programme to be refurbished.
- Councillor Hackett has highlighted that residents are not happy with the lack of mowing of Webbs Heath common and a perceived decrease in the commons management. He has suggested that SGC provide a management plan to the parish council, showing how the parish council can support this. The clerk has made an initial enquiry to SGC.

Correspondence

- A complaint was received about work completed by South Glos. Council, which the clerk sent onto them. It related to the verges next to the brook at Anchor Road.
- Having received an invoice for the bus shelter clean, the second since June, the clerk checked back the records and noted the agreed clean was bi-annually and not quarterly, as noted by the contractor. She advised the contractor to revert to bi-annually, as agreed in the financial year 2021-22.
- Email received from Planning Enforcement to advise the fence at The Shoebox, Siston Lane, has been to appeal and the Planning Inspectorate has quashed the request to remove the fence.
- An email was received asking about a new gate, which is padlocked from near to Brunel Close between the dramway and the railway path. This is a new gate installed by the Commons Connection Project and is accessible.
- An email was received raising concerns about the spate of fly tipping. Assurance sent that South Glos. Council are looking into preventative measures.

138. Friends of Siston Commons

No report received this month.

139. Planning

a) Planning Applications – Noted was the planning application for land at Shortwood.

b) Planning Decisions – all noted, nothing to add

Resolved – All Agreed

140. Other Business

- Councillor Bryant noted the poor state of the wood on the bench at Station Road. He will obtain quotes from Men in Sheds to restore it.
- Councillor Bryant noted a talk – Warmley Part 2 – at Kingswood Heritage Museum.
- Councillor Reade advised he would put the tank back in place in the allotment site. Councillor Stacey will provide the paving slabs.
- Councillor Stacey asked for a bus timetable for the new service 532 to be placed in the bus shelters on the London Road, by the Griffin Pub.
- Councillor Stacey asked Councillor Rees to put the Siston Parish Council signs back in the shelters on Station Road and Anchor Road. The clerk was asked to provide the bus stop numbers.

Date of next meeting: 21st November 2024

**Meeting closed at – 21:18
Confirmed and signed.**

Chairman..... Date

Sara Thomas

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