



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.30pm in Southam Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Steve Lennon, Rebecca Prince (Joint Chairs) Pam Sissons, Marilyn Harris, Rob Torrington

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, County Councillor David Gray, Cllr. Richard Stanley (Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council, 15 members of the public

164. To receive apologies

Apologies for absence received from Joyce Calam.

165. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

166. To receive and agree the minutes of the 9th January 2024

The Minutes were proposed for agreement by Cllr Torrington, seconded by Cllr Prince, all in favour

.....
167. To receive & request reports from Borough/County Councillors on matters relevant to Southam

Following questions raised to Cllr Gray:

MVAS – Clerk has followed up with Community Speedwatch who have implied that if agreed by Area Manager we can collect a new sign

Horse Sign - New Road – location provided to Area Manager who will see whether there is funding in the budget

Deer Signs – GCC need data of how many accidents/deer killed and location

Southam Sign – GCC will try to install in the new financial year

Gravel Walk – safety inspection to be carried out

Grasscutting – Gloucestershire County Councils grass cutting policy is to provide one full cut per year and one additional cut to areas such as bends/junctions. With this in mind, Gloucestershire County Council would not pay for two full cuts per year.

Hedgerow overhanging the corner of Noverton Lane – assessed and not considered to be a problem

Flooding on the highway - could be resolved in some places if GCC did some ditching along their verges. – GCC say this is the responsibility of the adjoining landowner

Cllr. Gray reported that the budget was now with the full Council for a decision and there were likely to be political changes. The budget suggests a 600million revenue budget.

Re: the cycleway information events are taking place. Hedging and trees removed along the Cheltenham Road will be replaced. There will be some traffic disruption but no full closures intended. The work necessary due to road slippage. Funding was from the Department of Transport "Active Travel".

Re: Traveller sites – these were the responsibility of the Borough Councils and should be dealt with through the Strategic Plan. He is urging the County Council to work with the Boroughs to find sites.

Q Is the destroyed verge opposite access to Byways the occupier's responsibility or GCC?

Q Can GCC review of Gravel Walk be escalated due to concern re access for emergency vehicles.

Cllr Richard Stanley explained that traveller sites were under-identified historically. This will be looked at by the Strategic Plan which comes into force in 2026.

Q. Why isn't there allocation alongside housing development sites and why wasn't a traveller site considered as part of the land given to Bromford for housing on the Old Gloucester Rd?

A. There is a reluctance on the part of the developer to allow this land use

Q. Shouldn't this be a requirement of the Strategic plan, and shouldn't the need for sites be a current process

A. The need for sites is a current process and the Borough has called for sites to be made available

On the subject of Kayte Lane – breach of existing injunction and cessation of residential use, the High Court has ruled that a decision will be made following the Planning Appeal process with a full hearing on the 3rd May or first date thereafter.

Enforcement action in parallel with the Appeal.

The facts presented were disputed by members of the public who queried how the two sites were being dealt with together when they are separate Appeals.

If enforcement action was timely why wasn't the unauthorised access closed off as in another recent enforcement case?

The Appeal notification was issued with the wrong reference number and dated 2022.

Cllr Stanley to request a written report.

168. Receive reports from Parish Councillors

- Village Hall – various events planned for March including the Gold Cup Cafe
- Footpaths (problems from last meeting reported to GCC -waiting for advice) – no progress since last meeting. Clerk asked to chase up Ellenborough Park re: trees fallen over the footpath
- Cheltenham Racecourse Councillor Event – 20th Jan – Cllrs. Prince and Sissons attended. Request made for parking restrictions in Ratcliff Lawns but these were unlikely to be granted. Most anti-social behaviour and traffic problems are suffered by Prestbury and Cheltenham but an Action Line has been established to deal with reports. The racecourse will be celebrating 100 years of the Gold Cup with a community funding pot of £100,000.
- Strategic Local Plan Event – 31st Jan – discuss Council response – Cllr Lennon suggested a meeting on the evening of the 22nd Feb to draw up a response

169. Adjournment for Public Participation (Members of the Public are invited to speak to any item on the agenda. If the matter is on another topic they should write to clerk@southamtoday.org.uk)

A resident queried the date the SLP consultation ended – this was confirmed as 12th March.

A resident stated that the SLP consultation was like a referendum over the 3 boroughs with no shared goals. The documentation was inaccessible to some and very difficult to understand.

It was explained that comments could be sent in via email or exchanged at public consultation events or there was a form which could be downloaded for completion.

A resident also volunteered a litter clear up of Southam Lane but was advised that the public cannot undertake work on the highway.

.....

170. Finance & Governance

1. To agree the payments for February – Payments were agreed as follows:

Office Expenses February	53.79	53.79	0
Namesco (email accounts)	158.27	131.89	26.38
Washington Printing (newsletter)	150	150	0
HMRC (PAYE)	148.8	148.8	0
Administration	404.46	404.46	0
	<u>915.32</u>	<u>888.94</u>	<u>26.38</u>

Interim payment of the MVAS maintenance contract in the sum of £677.40 was also agreed.

2. Agree the budget analysis to end of January and bank reconciliation

Expenditure to end of Jan £14069.28 and Income £14673.54 was within budget. The bank reconciled at £2722.53 as at 31 Jan.

3. Review charges for newsletter and distribution – Charges were not discussed. Noverton residents would be asked to confirm whether they wanted to continue to receive newsletters. Arrangements for a drop off point at the Rising Sun had been made for Cleeve Hill residents otherwise they would be asked to pay for postage.

4. Participation in Councillor training courses – there was no interest in current courses

5. Review risk management schedule and receive condition report of council property – there were no changes to the risk management schedule. The clerk had inspected the bus shelter and war memorial and recommended that quotes are obtained in 24-25 for renewal of the war memorial lettering.

6. Appoint an independent internal auditor – **GAPTC were appointed as auditors for the 23-24 accounts by unanimous vote.**

171. Planning Applications to be considered:

23/01187/FUL Proposed extensions and detached garage. Cockbury Lodge, Cockbury Court – **application not very detailed, objections noted from the public, concern that the proposed garage, on higher land, would be more evident and therefore should reflect the Cotswold stone and roofing of the materials of the current buildings that are in keeping with the setting, rather than the painted render used on a previous less visible addition.**

23/01179/FUL Retention of boundary fencing (retrospective), proposed first floor rear extension, removal of conservatory and erection of rear single storey lean-to extension and erection of front porch. Pear Tree Cottage Spring Lane – **concern that gable end close to neighbouring listed property**

24/00054/HEG: Removal of Hedgerow H9, H11 and H14 as part of site clearance to facilitate new cycleway and footway. Replant with native species rich hedgerow on new highway

boundary line. Land Off Cheltenham Road, Cheltenham Road, Bishops Cleeve – **concern about the whole scheme**

Appeal 23/00049/DECISI Green Orchard to be by “Informal Hearing”.

Appeal 24/00003/DECISI larger Traveller site to be by “Public Enquiry”.

Discuss Council response and method of response – **further quotes to be obtained for legal representation**

172. Receive a note of Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council & Inspectorate:

Appeal Ref: APP/G1630/W/23/3322288 Mountross, Cleeve Hill, Southam, Cheltenham GL52 3QE – Self build property - Dismissed

23/00521/FUL Proposed front and rear extensions and alterations. 1 Queenwood Grove Prestbury Cheltenham - Permit

173. Matters of Information

SLP consultation is open for comment until 12th March

174. Date of the Next Meeting

12th March 2024