



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm in Southam Village Hall.

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

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 9 members of the public

142. To receive apologies

Apologies had been received from Borough and County Councillors. All Parish Councillors present.

143. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

144. To receive and agree the minutes of the 14th November 2023

The Minutes were proposed for agreement by Cllr Lennon/seconded Cllr Walsh, all in favour

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

- Actions outstanding from GCC – replacement Horse Sign New Rd, repair to Southam Sign Southam Lane, restricted access to Gravel Walk, MVAS application – written request sent to Cllr Gray to speed up action
- A Borough Councillor report was available via Facebook

146. Receive reports from Parish Councillors, Speed Watch Team, Neighbourhood Watch

- Traffic data October to December – Bill Motion reported that Southam Lane saw 2500 cars per day, approx. 700 of these over 36mph, 1 at 75mph and 1800 cars per day, approx. 500 over 36mph on New Road. Police also attended with radar in Southam Lane.
- Crime Statistics – October to December – stats were provided to councillors and will be copied to the public at the January meeting.
- Councillor Advocacy Scheme – Cllr Welsh reported the PCSO came to the village with the police vehicle and spoke to a number of residents and will attend the January meeting.
- Village Hall – very busy with events so keep a close eye on the noticeboard/website
- Cleeve Common Trust – Cllrs Torrington and Harris attended a meeting which largely addressed the budget and investments. A new Head Warden and Ranger have been appointed. There was discussion regarding a commemoration of the bomber crash with an event planned for the 26th August.
- Footpaths – Cllr Sissons reported that Mushroom Farm footpaths not accessible due to work carried out on the site. Ley Lane stile has been upgraded.

- Joint Parishes meeting – Cllr Sissons attended this meeting which focused on sustainable transport and safer communities

147. Planning Applications to be considered:

APP/G1630/W/23/3323753 Application ref: 22/00692/FUL Cuckoo Farm, Southam Lane

Councillors to submit any additional comments to the clerk.

23/01025/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to a dog walking area (sui generis)
Haymes Farm, New Road, Southam

No objection but comment on the management of the public footpaths, query demolition of existing buildings and ongoing site activity

Planning Enforcement Notice - Alleged erection of unauthorised fencing Pear Tree Cottage
Spring Lane Cleeve Hill - Noted

148. 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)

Re: Kayte Lane - Residents expressed concern about the delay in Court Action by Tewkesbury Borough Council. – Cllr Sissons following up on questions raised

Re: Budget - Suggestions were made about reducing the number of newsletters. Distributors needed for Noverton. Some residents felt social media and website information not accessible. Suggestions were made about reducing grasscutting to lower costs and increase biodiversity. Some residents felt that the village was already untidy.

149. Finance & Governance

1. Agree the budget analysis to end of November and bank reconciliation
Expenditure £11225 Income £14120 and Bank Reconciliation at £5013.02 proposed for agreement Cllr Lennon, seconded Cllr Torrington, all in favour

2. Agree any interim or outstanding payments

The following payments were proposed Cllr Welsh, seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed:

HMRC PAYE	170.84
Washington Printing (Newsletter)	168
Southam Village Hall	75
Chelt. Rugby Club (Donation to heating system)	250
Administration	380.12
Gotherington Gdn Serv - Grasscutting Sep-Nov	210
Office Expenses	43.6
	<u>1297.56</u>

3. Consider a quotation for repair to 2 bins Cleeve Common Rd - £275 – **Proposed for agreement Cllr. Lennon, seconded Cllr Torrington, all in favour**

4. Agree changes to the Action Plan - deferred to next meeting

5. Council to adopt the National Pay agreement in the Sector which means an increase to the Clerk's salary of £1925 pro rata backdated to 1st April 23 (£1 per hour) – **Proposed for adoption Cllr Harris/seconded Cllr Welsh all in favour**

6. Consider any amendments to the draft budget for 24-25, receive the tax base rate and fix the Precept – **The Council to look into cutting costs where possible before the next meeting**

7. Adopt the drafted Biodiversity Policy – **Proposed for adoption Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr. Sissons, all in favour**

8. Update on Savings Account – having looked into the terms and conditions the RFO advised that the 32 day notice account was not suitable for the Council. This was noted.

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

23/00757/FUL Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for an extended gypsy/traveller family with two caravans, including up to 2 static caravans/mobile homes, together with retention of existing hardstanding and dayroom. Green Orchard Kayte Lane Refused

23/00561/FUL Change of use from a car park to a car sales. Newlands Park Southam Lane Refused

151. Date of the Next Meeting

9th January 2024