



Southam Parish Council

M I N U T E S (SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING) of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrienne Wood (Chairman), Cllr Carli Burke, Cllr Steve Lennon, Cllr Karen Licence, Cllr John Workman, from Agenda item 2 Cllr Rebecca Prince.

Also Present: County Councillor David Gray and Borough Cllr Keja Berliner
6 members of the public

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Mike Dean

2. Co-option to fill Councillor Vacancy.

An application had been received from Rebecca Prince and, having been proposed by Cllr Workman and seconded by Cllr Lennon, all councillors **agreed unanimously** that she be co-opted to fill the vacancy. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Register of Members' Interests Form will be completed within the statutory timescale.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Lennon declared an interest regarding application 21/00982FUL – agenda item 8.2.

Cllrs Burke and Licence declared an interest regarding application 21/00005/FUL – agenda item 8.1 and had not contributed to the comments submitted under the Scheme of Delegation.

4. To agree the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th August 2021.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2021 were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.

5. To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors.

Cllr Berliner agreed to investigate further the issue of the large vehicle which had been parked in the lay by above Haymes Drive for several weeks.

Cllr Gray reported on the GCC Full Council meeting held on 8th September:
Planning White Paper - GCC called for local government to be given greater powers in the planning process and for a more strategic approach when deciding where to locate new housing.

Climate Change – the Local Government Association had been invited to participate at COP26 summit and GCC supports its involvement.

GCC has entered into a partnership with Woodland Trust which will result in 300,000 trees being planted across Gloucestershire. Discussions are also being held with the National Forestry Commission.

6. To receive reports from Parish Councillors and Clerk.

Cllr Workman raised the issue of the broken catch on the gate at the start of the footpath behind the Ellenborough Park Hotel and the poor state of the stile on the footpath leading up to the bluebell wood.

Cllr Lennon had passed on details to the Clerk of a possible supplier for the new noticeboard and this would be considered further under agenda item 10.

Cllr Burke raised the issue of a growing drugs problem on the Noverton estate and suggested that some police presence would be welcomed.

Cllr Licence advised that the bollards at the end of Wayward Lad Drive which had been removed when Noverton Lane were to be reinstated once the Highways Department had sourced new padlocks.

Cllr Wood reported that hire of the Village Hall was gradually increasing again following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Cllr Licence read out the Clerk's report – see Appendix 1.

7. Public adjournment.

A resident reported that he had spoken to the owner of the vehicle parked in the lay by and had been advised that he had nowhere to park it at present. The resident advised that this was not maintained as a lay by, but was a private area owned by Gloucestershire County Council. There was already a problem with fly tipping and there was concern that the current situation, if not resolved, may set a precedent for the parking of other vehicles on this area. Cllrs Gray and Berliner were asked to follow this up.

John Donovan of the Community Speedwatch team reported that 4 police officers had attended a speed check on Southam Lane close to the Ratcliff Lawns junction on 7th September as a result of which a number of drivers received fixed penalty notices. The team also carried out a survey in the Noverton / Mill Lane area. Unfortunately the speed camera van team considered that it was too dangerous to set up a van along the B4632 in that area. It was noted that a considerable number of vehicles exceed the speed limit on this route in both directions.

John Donovan has been in touch with Charlton Kings Parish Council and is waiting to hear about arrangements to collect the VAS equipment that they are donating to Southam and this will allow 4 speed signs to be operational in the village. The Clerk will be asked to chase this up on her return.

The planning agent for Application 21/00982/FUL introduced herself and offered to answer questions on the application to be considered under agenda item 8.2.

8. Planning.

- 8.1 21/00005/FUL – Land to the west of Wayward Lad Close and Desert Orchid Road, Prestbury – Erection of 3 dwellings and associated works. (AMENDMENT – REDUCTION FROM 5 HOUSES TO 3 HOUSES).** Councillors ratified the response issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. **The reduced scale of the development is welcomed and partially addresses the Council's concerns raised in its response of 26th May 2021 regarding insufficient off-road parking. However, the provision of 3 parking spaces includes garage space and it is considered that this may be insufficient for a 4/5 bedroomed house and may still lead to on-road parking in an area which is already congested with parked vehicles. The Council therefore has no objection in principle but would ask that further off-road parking is provided.**

- 8.2** To consider the following planning applications:
- 21/00584/FUL – Sunnyside, Spring Lane, Cleeve Hill - Retention of garage and boundary walls as built. Addition of entrance porch and dormer window to storeroom at 1st floor level. (AMENDMENT TO DESCRIPTION AND ADDITIONAL PLAN). **Further clarity sought as to the visual impact of the proposed alterations to the garage.** **Currently the boundary wall that is to be retained has a length of 3-4 m in a different form of construction and this does not look in keeping with the remaining 80% of the wall. Council would prefer to see the whole wall constructed in the same format.**
- 21/00879/FUL – Greystarth, Cleeve Hill, Southam – Erection of a car port and storage room. **No objection.**
- 21/00982/FUL – Manor Farm, Southam Lane, Southam – Retrospective change of use of portal framed agricultural building and land adjacent to West and South for storage of caravans and motorhomes together with the siting of 6 no. storage containers. **No objection.**
- 21/00430/FUL – Wickfield Stud, Cleeve Hill – Demolition of existing and erection of replacement equestrian building. (REVISED PLANS, ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED TREE REMOVAL AND PROTECTION PLAN) **Request that further information be provided regarding the removal of trees and the impact that this may have on the ecology of the site.** (There was also discussion regarding the materials to be used for the equestrian building and the fact that this did not appear to have been addressed. Subsequent to the meeting the Planning Officer had advised that new drawings confirming the use of Yorkshire boarding had not been uploaded to the planning portal before the meeting. Following sight of these drawings the Council has now confirmed that it withdraws its previous objection regarding the materials).

8.3 Other planning matters:

There were no other matters to report.

9. Tree Planting in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Wood and the Clerk had walked around the village to look at possible locations for two oak trees offered by the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and had identified areas by the planter at the top of Southam Lane and outside the Village Hall. Some queries were raised about the full grown height of the trees and councillors were asked to contact the Clerk before the closing date of 30th September with their views or alternative ideas.

10. Village Noticeboard.

The Clerk had circulated quotations for varying sizes of noticeboard and **it was agreed** that the best size would be a 3 bay noticeboard to hold 4 x A4 sheets in each bay. The preferred colour is brown to match the noticeboard outside the Village Hall. The Clerk will obtain competitive quotes from alternative suppliers.

11. Finance.

- 11.1** The accounts and bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2021 (previously circulated) **were approved** by the Council.
- 11.2** Payments for September **were approved**: newsletter printing £140.00, CPRE subscription £36.00, payroll services £23.85, Clerk's salary £264.76, PAYE £66.20.
- 11.3 It was agreed** that the annual subscription to the Information Commissioner's Office for £35.00 would be paid by direct debit in future and the mandate was signed accordingly.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7.30pm at Southam Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm