



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Southam Village Hall.

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

Also Present: County Councillor David Gray, Borough Councillor Nigel Adcock, Clerk/RFO, 12 members of the public

152. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Welsh

153. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or requests

154. To receive and agree the minutes of the 12 December 2023

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

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155. To meet Southam PCSO and discuss Southam concerns

PCSO Farah Devji-Large attended to address any concerns. Crime stats for previous months were circulated. Farah commented that the level of crime was not unusual.

Crime in previous months:

It was noted that between 1/06/23 and 6/09/23 there were 12 violent crimes, 1 burglary, 6 thefts, 5 criminal damage and between 01/11/23 and 01/12/23 there was 1 assault, 2 burglaries, 1 theft, 2 other incidents

Residents expressed concern about cars obstructing the pavement in Southam Lane, and Old Road

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

Written questions were sent to Cllr Gray as follows:

MVAS - having been assured that GCC are keen to control speeds on our roads there appears to be some back tracking on the provision of these signs with the setting of new criteria. We have explained to the officer involved that we already have 4 posts in place and therefore we would like an answer on whether we qualify for a new sign.

Horse Sign - New Road - this was agreed by the Area Manager but has not transpired - and so the post stands there empty for at least 5 years. It seems that GCC are reluctant to replace pre-existing signs and are allowing 30mph road signs and road markings to fade and become obsolete. This is not acceptable and we expect better service and

better attention to safety - can this be articulated to those in power and a response to the next meeting?

Deer Signs - we are told GCC dont provide these and yet accidents and damage to cars are caused by drivers being unaware of deer in certain areas

Southam sign - Southam Lane - has been taken away but not replaced?

Gravel Walk - a problem with access by emergency vehicles has been reported twice but no response from GCC

Grasscutting - we pay £390 per cut with at least 5 cuts per year. GCC refund £540. The verges belong to GCC therefore we feel they should at least contribute to 2 cuts at £780 otherwise we may be unable to undertake this maintenance.

Hedgerow overhanging the highway - GCC do not seem to deal with this problem - one example is the hedge overhanging the corner of Noverton Lane where it meets the B4632 which obscures sight of the corner.

Flooding on the highway - could be resolved in some places if GCC did some ditching along their verges. Why dont they do this?

Cllr Gray reported that the county council budget was out for consultation/ Javelin Park is generating healthy energy profits and by products were in use for construction. The Council will receive more funding for road resurfacing. Bishops Cleeve leg of the cycleway will be prioritised due to the road needing strengthening.

Cllr Adcock reported that Bishops Cleeve features in crime stats quite a lot. He has attended Ubico Business Planning seminar and Garden Town meetings. Is working on a project with the Ellenborough Park to plant 720 whips to create new hedgerow.

Q. Can trees now be planted at Noverton? A. will send details of scheme

Q. Parish Council still waiting since 1st November for answers to questions raised to Chris Ashman

Q. Could Kayte Lane traveller site fortnightly updates be reinstated?

157. Receive reports from Parish Councillors

- Village Hall – no committee meeting took place, the trees in the grounds due for felling
- Footpaths – A fencing panel blocking the stile at Kayte Lane has been reported, also investigated complaint about the footpath by Pigeon House
- Cheltenham Racecourse Councillor Event – 20th Jan
- Cllr Prince/Lennon had met with a resident who was willing to assist with an Neighbourhood Development Plan

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158. Planning Applications to be considered:

23/00999/TPO T.2 within group - reduce crown by 2.5-3m and shape Land To The Rear Of Shandon Noverton Avenue – **No Objection**

23/00957/FUL Erection of two semi-detached dwellings and construction of new access.
Church Gate Southam Lane – **Objection due to over density and unsafe access, loss of trees and detriment to historic buildings**

Tewkesbury, Cheltenham & Gloucester Strategic and Local Plan consultation – councillors to make their own responses

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159. 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)

Residents expressed concerns about traffic speeds through the village and lack of care by the County Council. Plenty of data available to back up their views.

The kissing gate by the church is difficult for wheelchair users – can it be changed?

Passage on the footpath to the church hindered by a collapsing fence

Why was there so much water on Southam Lane – is it due to blocked drains?

Re: application Church Gate – there are a wide variety of tree species which are valuable habitat and the housing presented as encouraging young families to the village would not necessarily be affordable

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160. Finance & Governance

1. Agree the budget analysis to end of December and bank reconciliation
Expenditure to date £12479 Income £14660 noted Bank balance agreed at £4299.06
2. Agree any interim or outstanding payments

| Payments Due January | Total | Net | Vat |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Office Expenses - december | 43.6 | 43.6 | 0 |
| Office Expenses - January | 43.6 | 43.6 | 0 |
| Meeting Expenses - December | 7.49 | 7.49 | 0 |
| PATA Payroll fees to Dec 24 | 134.2 | 134.2 | 0 |
| Administration | 595.86 | 595.86 | 0 |
| HMRC PAYE | 95.2 | 95.2 | 0 |
| | <u>919.95</u> | <u>919.95</u> | <u>0</u> |

3. Agree changes to the Action Plan – The Action Plan as amended was agreed for adoption by Cllr Sissons, seconded by Cllr Prince, all in favour
4. Consider any amendments to the draft budget for 24-25, receive the tax base rate and resolve the Precept – **The Council agreed cutting some items from the budget and to also use the CIL receipt against current maintenance costs therefore the precept requirement was reduced as far as possible to £13810 which meant a £2.37 increase per annum on a band D property – RESOLVED by unanimous vote**

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

23/00962/TPO T.1 - Sycamore. G.2 - Sycamore Land To The Rear Of Shandon Noverton Avenue - consent

162. Matters of Information

1. Cheltenham Borough Council proposing to sell Idsall Close carpark
2. Tewkesbury Borough Council will be taking over maintenance of the public areas at Noverton View

All other updates are available on our website www.southamtoday.org.uk

163. Date of the Next Meeting

13th February 2024