



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm in Southam Village Hall.

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

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

131. To receive apologies

Apologies accepted from Joyce Calam, apologies were also received from Cllr Gray and Cllr Agg, Bill Motion of the Speedwatch Team

132. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

133. To receive and agree the minutes of the 10th October 2023

The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Prince, seconded by Cllr. Welsh, all in favour

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

- Questions to TBC from previous meetings – not answered in full but some progress made
- Borough Councillors report – November 2023 Southam

This month has been mainly taken up with casework on behalf of residents across the three parishes. This has been interesting. All three parishes have similarities as well as differences and offer different challenges. Obviously I cannot go into details here.

Woodmancote – As requested a copy of the hydrosolutions report was sent to TBC Planners.

Gotherington- We objected to the Moat farm planning application. We are following up a serious fall reported to us by a resident.

Southam – Following the last meeting Nigel emailed a list of questions to the planning department. Officers copied in included the Chief Exec, Director of Democratic services and the Directors of Planning and Place. Relevant Councillors were also copied in.

The email was acknowledged quickly. A meeting resulted between Officers, members SPC and residents.

Other activities

Nigel attended a whole day Cotswolds National Landscape Board meeting. Apart from the normal business of the board there was a very interesting presentation given by “Big Chalk” a plan to enhance the role of our calcareous grasslands as receivers of migrating species (both

Fauna and flora) in the face of Climate Change. The afternoon session was to dig deep into Climate Change. In particular aspects as they will affect the Cotswolds AONB. We attended the Climate Change and Ecology working group (TBC)

Other Matters

TBC will be undertaking a "Housing condition Survey" between October and December 2023. This will assess the condition of all types of housing.

5 Year Land supply. A briefing to members was hosted by officers.

Commitment was made to meaningful engagement with the Garden Town refresh. The team have been working with Cratus.

Following the motion in May to extend the declaration of Climate Emergency to the whole Borough. The leader of the Council along with the Vice Leader wrote an open letter to Laurence Robertson MP. A favourable reply has been received.

The "in cab" reporting system for UBICO waste trucks is to go live. This will improve efficiency and benefit residents with an improvement in the way missed collections are logged and handled.

An update on Junction 10 changes and West Cheltenham.

North west Cheltenham – an outline application has been submitted. Officers continue to work with the developers on transport and community infrastructure. Additional transport modelling is being undertaken additional work has been necessary to make sure the proposals align with the junction

- 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

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

- Traffic data July, August, September – police have been monitoring traffic at the bottom of Ratcliff Lawns
- Crime Statistics – received on the evening of the meeting and made interesting reading, a PCSO to be invited to attend the next PC meeting
- Councillor Advocacy Scheme

A report was given by Cllr Welsh " I, as well as around 12 other parish and town councillors from various parishes in attended the first Councillor Advocacy Meeting in the Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices. The meeting was held by the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commission). Chris Nelson, the commissioner was present as well as Annie White a volunteer and engagement officer from the OPCC, and Police Inspector Grant White from the neighbourhood policing team. These meetings will occur every 3 months.

Chris White PCC, elected in May 2021, explained how the councillor advocacy scheme is a new initiative set up to improve communication between local councils, the police and the OPCC, whilst acting as a point of contact. Chris told us about his role as the PCC being to listen to the concerns of the public, interpret these concerns and then figure out the chief constables' priorities, create a budget and hold him/her to account. Chris was also keen to let us know how he has recruited over 400 more police officers, PCSOs and police staff since his appointment. The government are planning to give Gloucestershire's OPCC £1 million in 2024, which Chris is intending to use to combat anti-social behaviours. Chris also wants to use this money to recruit 30 PCSO's, which is a 30% increase.

Chris said that he wants to use his position as PCC to tackle crime at its root, “nip it in the bud” was his choice of words. He wants to achieve this by having more PCSO’s engaging with the public, rather than ‘blue light’ response officers, which may cause confrontation. He also wants a human live chat function on Gloucestershire police’s website to aid people using the website.

Chris seems to have a keen focus on preventing crime from occurring through engagement with youth. He has set up a mini police cadets program for children from primary school age to learn life skills and develop good relationships with the police. He believes this will reduce anti-social behaviour in youths. He has also started education program for secondary schools, pushed by the incident at Tewkesbury secondary school, to educate teenagers about mental health.

Police Inspector Grant White who heads up Tewkesbury borough’s neighbourhood policing team spoke, explaining how he was planning on tackling long term problems with prolific anti-social behaviour and shoplifting offenders and has achieved a number of convictions and prison sentences. He claims to be highly proactive, working on intelligence from PCSO’s and partnership with social services. Insp. Grant says he is not where he wants to be and hopes his recruitment of new PCSO’s will help with this.

The main take away from this meeting is to try and get our local constable or PCSO to attend a parish council meeting, to talk about what they are doing in our community. Chris Nelson said that it would be his ‘gold standard’ for this to happen”.

- Cleeve Common Conservation Trust - meeting later this month
- Village Hall Committee – busy with bookings and many activities over Christmas
- Footpaths – Cllr Sissons reported another fallen tree. GCC PROW are working with landowners to make improvements to stiles on the Noverton paths and permission to install a new gate from Queenswood

136. Planning Applications to be considered:

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, Southam – **an Objection had been submitted and this was ratified by full Council at this meeting**

23/00879/FUL Demolition of existing buildings, removal of the existing menage, and erection of 1 detached dwelling with associated operational works. Southam Riding School , Southam Road, Prestbury – **No objection. Comment: This is change of use of an equestrian facility and whilst the proposed design looks sympathetic with its setting we would hope that this is the final design and not modified further following permission as seen in other applications in the parish. We would ask that the position of the photovoltaic panels is given further thought to prevent them being too evident. We also wonder whether permitted development rights might be removed to prevent future enlargement of the footprint without planning being applied for. Further landscaping should be included as extensive hedgerow has been removed over the years and there is a need to increase biodiversity here with swallows and other species in decline**

23/00807/FUL Proposed construction of a new detached single storey 2- bedroom dwelling and construction of a detached single garage with access driveway and vehicular parking on land to rear of 118 Cheltenham Road, Bishops Cleeve **No Objection**

23/00962/TPO T.1 - Sycamore - tree showing signs of dieback, low vigour and multiple dead branches. Reduce in height back to main stem and retain at 8-10m. G.2 - Sycamore - Prune lower epicormic growth up to a height of 2m to achieve a clear stem to allow light into lower canopy floor. Land To The Rear Of Shandon, Noverton Avenue **No Objection**

137. 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 thanked the Council for the reports.

A resident queried the non-attendance of the County Councillor

138. Finance & Governance

1. Agree the budget analysis to end of October and bank reconciliation

Proposer for agreement Cllr Torrington/Seconder Cllr Welsh/all in favour

2. Agree any interim or outstanding payments

Proposer for agreement Cllr Sissons/Seconder Cllr Torrington/all in favour

3. Receive notification of a CIL payment

The CIL payment of £617 due next month was noted

4. Receive quotes for specialist planning advice

Quotes were circulated, Council decided to interview before appointment

5. Review of the Action Plan 2023-24 for 2024-25 and discuss the Biodiversity Duty and agree to draw up a Policy [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

A Biodiversity Policy circulated for adoption at the next meeting – councillors may submit changes to the clerk, Regarding the Action Plan this needed more work with the addition of Emergency response (Flood/Snow etc) and other changes suggested by Cllr Sissons

6. Receive the draft budget for consideration – **Noted B/F**

7. Receive information on Community Right to Bid and decide whether there is suitable property to register and method of consultation – **Information was circulated to Council**

8. Review Savings Account and decide on future investment – **The Council agreed a 32 day notice account 2.60% variable with no minimum instead of the current deposit account at 1.90%**

9. Receive quote for repairs to bins by the pylons – **not yet received**

139. Update on Actions from Previous Meeting

- Noise Complaint to Cheltenham Environmental Health – They responded to say they attended recent events and do not consider the noise from the racecourse to be a problem and state that the stage/speakers are faced away from Southam towards the racecourse. TBC Environmental Health have not responded. **Cllr. Adcock would ask if they might attend a future meeting of the parish council to hear from residents and in the meantime would pass on the emergency contact number to be added to the website**

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

Appeal Ref: APP/G1630/W/23/3319158 Manor Farm, Southam Lane, Southam, Cheltenham “retrospective application for a farm diversification proposal involving the retention of 5 no. containers which are occupied by local businesses.” Dismissed

23/00669/FUL Demolition of existing modern extensions and erection of double and single storey side and rear extensions as approved under appeal decision APP/G1630/D/21/3277456 (application ref 19/00883/FUL), and addition of lower ground floor extension Sunset Lane Permit

Appeal A Ref: APP/G1630/H/22/3299606 Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club, Newlands Park Sports and Social Venue, Southam Lane, Southam, Cheltenham GL52 3PE 'Two free standing digital advertising and information screen signs (internal LED lighting) for Cheltenham Rugby Club each measuring 6m X 3m for the display of static poster advertisements to replace the existing signage and generate revenue for the rugby club and sports and social venue'. Dismissed

Appeal B Ref: APP/G1630/H/22/3307139 Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club, Newlands Park Sports and Social Venue, Southam Lane, Southam, Cheltenham GL52 3PE 'Freestanding digital advertising and information screen sign (internal LED lighting) for Cheltenham Rugby Club measuring 6m X 3m to replace the existing signage'. Dismissed

141. Date of the Next Meeting

12th December 2023