



## Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in Southam Village Hall.

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

Also Present: Clerk/RF0, Borough Councillor Adcock, 15 members of the public

### 118. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lennon (holiday)

### 119. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

### 120. To receive and agree the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Proposer for agreement Cllr. Torrington/seconded Cllr Welsh, all in favour

### 121. To co-opt new members to the Council as agreed at the last meeting

Applicant - Joyce Calam having been proposed by Cllr Sissons/seconded by Cllr Torrington was appointed by unanimous vote

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

Cllr Gray was not present, Borough Councillor Agg was at another parish meeting. Questions were put to Cllr Adcock

- Local Plan – discuss Tewkesbury Borough’s continued involvement in the Joint Core Strategy which has now been renamed and is late in being reviewed.

Why is TBC continuing their involvement in the joint strategy when it has failed Tewkesbury Borough residents with inappropriate housing built to satisfy external needs?

Stroud & Cotswold District Councils wisely kept out of it. More expansion of Cleeve will cause negative equity and deprivation for some in current housing climate also due to the wide disparity in housing values in Cleeve versus rest of Gloucestershire people cannot move out. More housing equals more traffic congestion in Woodmancote/Southam. Have TBC considered this?

- Development at Desert Orchid Rd – follow up on complaint about mud on the road – will future development be better monitored?

How can this be better controlled when the next 2 houses are built?

- Kayte Lane – outstanding legal action and discuss TBC resources

There were 216 representations against the planning application, including those by neighbouring parishes, CPRE/GWSR and MP yet TBC have not tabled this item for discussion in October. Will it definitely go to the November meeting?

What is the Court Order for? Will Cllr Richard Stanley answer the questions put forward to him? Can Notice be served on the travellers lawyers?

If successful in getting the application refused will TBC be forward thinking in the ownership of the land by compulsory purchase to put in to community use?

Even if the application is refused the applicant will appeal and may even pass the land onto other traveller ownership to do the same. Do TBC understand how local people feel besieged? Have they been active in looking for suitable traveller sites?

Regarding TBC resources:

Is there a link between the lack of 5 year land supply and the change in personnel in TBC?

Are the new staff up to speed on the Kayte Lane site and would One Legal be willing to have a meeting with a representative of the Parish Council to discuss legal strategy? TBC have not engaged with parish councils so far.

Councillor Adcock commented that new councillors undertaking training and have been very involved in Tewkesbury Garden Town development. New Planning staff are bringing in new ideas. The JCS should be finalised in 2026 and he believed the new planning strategy was to avoid the costly appeals. He would find answers to the questions raised.

He reported that TBC have put forward a motion to support people with fostering as there is a lack of foster care in the Borough.

#### 123. Receive reports from Parish Councillors, Speed Watch Team, Neighbourhood Watch

- Traffic data April, May, June – a member of the Speed Watch Team reported that there were approximately 600 speeding incidents on each road during the quarter. In Gloucestershire there was a high incidence of fatal accidents which is increasing therefore the statements made by GCC in item 128 are questionable. Suggests PC proceeds with its own Traffic Regulation Order which the County Council are unwilling to do.
- Crime Statistics – Cllr Prince reported that the Council are monitoring the crime statistics which show an increase in anti-social behaviour and the Clerk has notified the parish of an increase in burglaries. A member of Neighbourhood Watch advised residents to be 100% vigilant and gave some tips on keeping safe.
- Councillor Advocacy Scheme – representative invited to attend – **Cllr Welsh volunteered to represent the parish**
- Cleeve Common Conservation Trust – Cllr Harris reported that she had attended a walkabout on the common with the rangers in very inclement weather and was given an overview of the landscape and history of the common, visited the new memorial wall and did a head count of the saddleback cattle.
- Footpaths Warden – Cllr. Sissons reported the fallen tree on the footpath from Ellenborough which is awaiting tree surgery.

#### 124. Newlands Sports Club presentation of future plans

The Chairman of Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club gave an overview of the Club's Key Developments and Strategic Plan for 2024-29, their funding and charity work. The venue is

extremely popular and provides a wide variety of sporting activities not just rugby. They have concerns about the lack of parking on site and are affected by the traveller site. They were not responsible for the recent planning application for car storage on the site and believe this application will be withdrawn.

The Chairman heard the parish concerns about the noise levels at events.

125. Planning Applications to be considered:

Interim Decisions to be ratified:

**The following decisions were ratified by unanimous vote**

23/00686/FUL Retention of garden outbuilding Charlotte Villa , Cleeve Hill, Southam – **No Objection**

Application for Street Trading Licence – Kebab Van on layby outside Ellenborough –

**OBJECTION**

23/00765/TPO All Trees within G.2 of TPO/249, Trees grouped within G.2, from G.1- G.3  
G.1 - single sycamore on right hand side - reduce crown by 2.5-3m and shape. G.2 - 2x sycamore overhanging garden summer house - reduce crown by 2.5-3m and shape. G.3 - 1x sycamore overhanging garden side - reduce crown by 2.5m and shape. To include 1 x fire damaged sycamore - to be removed to ground level. Land To The Rear Of Shandon, Noverton Avenue **No Objection**

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The Council considered the following applications:

23/00669/FUL Demolition of existing modern extensions and erection of double and single storey side and rear extensions as approved under appeal decision ref.

APP/G1630/D/21/3277456 (application ref 19/00883/FUL), and addition of lower ground floor extension Sunset, Sunset Lane, Southam – **No Objection**

23/00804/CLE – Larkrise, Southam Lane –  
application for unrestricted use - No Objection

**126. 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](mailto:clerk@southamtoday.org.uk))**

A resident queried what constituted a gypsy or traveller as in his opinion the occupants of the traveller site were business people.

A resident reported an obstruction in School Road during construction works in Gravel Walk – the Clerk had ascertained there was no temporary road closure and had informed complainants to report to the police if this happens again. A resident of Gravel Walk reported that lorries could not turn into Gravel Walk due to changes at the junction (road sign/wall)

127. Finance & Governance

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

Expenditure £9572.87 Income £13402.61 **agreed The bank statements for August & September were checked by Cllr Welsh, the reconciliation being £5948.01**

2. Agree any interim or outstanding payments

One Interim payment for paper was agreed at £6.75

The following payments were agreed to be made:

Administration	326.02	326.02	0
PAYE	81.4	81.4	0
Office Expenses	43.6	43.6	0
Washington Printing (newsletter)	150	150	0

3. Agree any requests for Councillor Training Courses

It was agreed that Cllr Prince would attend the GRCC Planning Training Course

It was agreed that Cllrs Calam, Harris, Torrington would check their availability and attend the GAPTC Good Councillor training

4. Agree increase in Clerk's hours to 7 per week and any accrued overtime – It was agreed to back date the increase to 1<sup>st</sup> June by unanimous vote

5. Consider obtaining quotes for specialist planning advice – agreed to obtain votes

6. Review of the Action Plan 2023-24 for 2024-25 – suggestions to come to next meeting

7. Council Facebook needs setting up again and a councillor might like to take on this task  
**Cllr Welsh volunteered to set this up**

128. Update on Actions from Previous Meeting

20MPH Speed Limits - GCC state in response - In the first instance any speeding or inappropriate driving is a matter for the Police to resolve and the Parish should formally raise this with the Police. (SPC have done this but the police say they cannot monitor at this location)

A great deal of research at national level shows that a lower speed limit does not necessarily bring a safer environment. Indeed this research is the basis behind the document that Local Authorities use for evaluating speed limits: Department for Transport guidelines (Dft Circular 01/2013 - Setting Local Speed Limits). Where these guidelines aim to align local speed limits to the measured mean speeds, or in layman's terms speed limits, they are set at a level which the average motorist will adhere to and that they feel comfortable at, given the infrastructure and environment through which he/she is travelling.

Evidence supports that setting speed limits too low can lead to a higher level of non-compliance and thus be counterproductive to safety. With regards to your request for the speed limit to be reviewed, the formal mechanism for introducing speed limits or the amendment of an existing one is by the progression of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). As you can appreciate, with over 3000 miles of highway network, this Authority receives many requests for traffic regulations order. Consequently, we have to prioritise and target our resources carefully to ensure that those sites selected provide good value for money, achieve the stated objectives and have a reasonable prospect of being successful.

Our road safety team take a lead on instigating speed changes. They collate traffic collision data among other factors for the country and provide a hotspot list annually. I can confirm that having looked out our hotspot list which is provided to us by our specialist road safety team, there are no plans to reduce the speed limits at this time. A change in speed limit also requires the support from the police. At this stage, the police haven't requested such change.

Of course, if the parish wish to push for a lower speed limit then I am happy to forward to you how this process works. To make you aware, if you do wish to pursue this route then the parish is required to fund the TRO which would cost a minimum of £12,000.

NOTE: Previously the Clerk asked for the police to monitor the speeds on Southam roads and was told there was no suitable place for them to park up to do this.

A resident reported that the police had attended on Southam Lane recently. Further to discussion on the response of GCC the parish council agreed to look at sourcing 20 is Plenty stickers.

129. Receive a note of Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council:

Enforcement Notice - Outside storage of caravans in Green Belt land at: Cuckoo Farm Southam Lane Southam Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL52 3PE

23/00504/MAS The installation of 3 no. replacement antenna and ancillary equipment at existing lattice mast, installation of 1 no. GPS Module and upgrades to equipment cabinets within compound and ancillary development thereto. Radio Mast Site Cleeve Hill - **Granted**

23/00576/FUL Replacement of Existing Garage Byways Gravel Walk Southam– **Refused**

130. Date of the Next Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023