



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF SOUTHAM held on 11th April 2023 at 7pm

Present: Parish Council Chair Adrienne Wood, Cllrs. Lennon, Burke, Licence, County Councillor David Gray, Clerk/RFO, 11 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Parish Council Chairman

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023. The Parish Council is at the end of a 4 year stint of representing the Parish in all Southam related matters. During the year we have considered a number of planning applications and have tried to defend Southam landscape and environment from unacceptable harm. We are relieved that the Tewkesbury Borough Council Local Plan has finally been adopted and can now hold some weight whilst the Joint Core Strategy is being reviewed.

Whilst both Prestbury and Bishops Cleeve have expanded in built form at an alarming rate we are mindful of the detrimental effects of increased traffic. We were encouraged by the Gloucestershire County Council proposed blanket 20mph speed limit but this does not appear to be gathering any momentum despite the Parish Council conducting its own survey on the subject and feeding back some positive views. A new cycle path is proposed linking Bishops Cleeve to Cheltenham but depends on landowner co-operation.

We have continued to press Gloucestershire County Council highways for improvements to potholes, a sink hole in Noverton Lane, and assistance with Winter preparedness. We are grateful to our Flood Warden Paul Holliday for his efforts in ensuring that Kayte Lane is kept flood free. We are also grateful to our Footpath Warden Anita Wilcox for keeping a watch on the condition of our footpaths. Just recently we have been fortunate to make an improvement to the access off Ratcliff Lawns with a new kissing gate. If you are taking a walk along the back of the Ellenborough Hotel you will notice 30 cherry trees have been planted for the Queens Canopy with the help of a grant from Gloucestershire County Council and we look forward to enjoying the blossom in years to come. We also installed a new multi-purpose litter bin in Noverton. We are hoping to plant a further tree to celebrate the Queens Jubilee when we find space.

We would like to thank Edna Smith for tirelessly putting together an informative newsletter to reach out to all households in the parish. We would also like to thank our Community Speedwatch team Bill Motion and John Donovan for assisting in keeping our speed cameras operational.

During the year Councillor John Workman and Clerk Liz Dowie resigned and we would like to thank them both for their input. We have welcomed back our previous Clerk Gill Jennings who has also stepped in to take over management of the website. We are grateful to David Jones for carrying this responsibility for so many years on a voluntary basis.

As we reach the end of our term in office we are aware that volunteers for village activities are becoming more scarce and we need new people to come forward and keep our village vibrant. Being a councillor is enjoyable and informative and I am grateful for the input from my fellow councillors, for their knowledge and selflessness. Our aim is always to try and make improvements for Southam residents and preserve our green space for the future.

Due to the lack of candidates standing for election this year the Council will be inquorate and unable to operate from the 8th May 2023.

2. County Councillor's Annual Report

The last meeting of the full council paid tribute to 3 council members who had passed away including Phil Awford who also represented Highnam parish and long serving Ray Theodolou.

GCC not planning on making blanket 20mph limit but will listen to parishes who want them. Roads are a big issue with the severe Winter and twice as much salt being used. Reservoirs were 100% full without the recent rainfall. Budget increased for resurfacing and improvements to the roads. It helps if public report potholes. Aware that bus services now reduced, GCC are trialling On Demand service in the Forest of Dean. GCC have a £567 million budget. Re: climate change – 100,000 trees were planted this year and E chargers are being installed. Childrens Services are now out of special measures. Glos Police and Fire Service are reviewing behaviours of personnel following reports.

Following a question about parking on the pavement – Cllr Gray will investigate legal position with police.

Following a question about progress of MVAS for Southam Cllr Gray will chase.

3. Borough Councillors' Annual Report

No report available – Councillor Berliner gave her apologies.

4. Community Organisation Reports

Karen Lennon gave a report. The village hall committee tries to keep the hall at the centre of village life. We endeavour to achieve an open to all programme of varied events. Regular monthly Friday pub nights which in the summer are opened earlier for families. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 5th June, with a Bring and Share Lunch. Live Jazz music performance on 24 June. Friday night Films Big screen presentations with using our multi film licence. Quiz Night with a Fish and Chip Supper in November. Local arts and craft items were available at our Christmas Fayre. Christmas Light Switch with the help of Father Christmas. Children Christmas Party.

The committee offer their gratitude to everyone who joined in helping with the catering, car parking and visiting the Gold Cup Café.

A free Book Exchange to find new owners for good books has been set up in a recycled Rabbit Hutch placed under the porch.

Our future plans to update the hall kitchen and revise the storage areas are underway. Drawings have been made, which are now with a Quantity Surveyor to give us a good estimate of costs. We will be looking for support in the application for available Grants .

Join us at our AGM on Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The AGM is a great time to offer your opinions on the hall's direction and volunteer your help moving forwards.

5. Meet a Guide Dog for the Blind and find out more about puppy fostering/sponsoring

Paul Lennon attended with Guide Dog Barney to give an interesting talk. Puppies are fostered from about 8 weeks, and introduced to normal family life and a variety of environments to ensure socialisation. They are regularly health checked and assessed for their ability to be trained. At 14 months they are ready to be trained in the training centre which they attend on daily visits. Volunteers are very important to the success of the scheme with a current 2 year wait for a trained dog, a recent campaign has seen more people come forward. The average working life of a dog is 8/9 years, retrievers and labradors being the most popular breeds. All dogs are valued and if they don't make the grade they will be rehomed. A trainer can be responsible for up to 4 dogs at a time.

The Parish were thanked for their recent contribution to the association. There is information about sponsorship on the website.

6. Parishioners' suggestions & questions – Health & Wellbeing Grant

Parishioners were invited to make suggestions for projects for funding from the grant.

The meeting was followed by refreshments before the start of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 8.00 pm



MINUTES of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th April 2023 at 8pm in Southam Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllr Adrienne Wood (Chair), Cllr Karen Licence (Vice Chair), Cllr Carli Burke, Cllr Steve Lennon

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 10 members of the public

71. To receive Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Prince

72. To receive Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest

73. To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2023.

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman

74. Planning.

Consultations

None

TBC Decision Notices

23/00097/FUL Rear single storey extension. 4 Kayte Cottages **Permit**

75. Finance and Governance

1. To receive the draft year end accounts as at 31 March 2023 – **The draft accounts were approved for the AGAR**

2. To confirm that the RFO will complete the AGAR forms as an exempt authority (Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption are able to declare themselves exempt)

The Council agreed that a Certificate of Exemption was appropriate and the Certificate was signed by the Chair and RFO

3. To adopt a revised Code of Conduct as recommended by the Monitoring Officer

The Council agreed to adopt the revised Code of Conduct

4. Consider applying for funding from the Health & Wellbeing Grant

Residents encouraged to think of projects.

5. Agree payments for April and consider any funding applications for Coronation event

Payments were agreed as follows:

Payments List - April	Total	Net	VAT
EES	150	150	0
Administration	326.02	326.02	0
HMRC	97.2	97.2	0
Office Expenses	43.6	43.6	0
Zurich Insurance	470.13	470.13	0
	<u>1086.95</u>	<u>1086.95</u>	<u>0</u>

The Council also agreed to fund the Coronation Bring and Share Lunch event up to £200 against receipts.

76. Date of Next Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting 26th April at 6pm to discuss outstanding council business and future.