

SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2022

- Present:** Cllr Guest Cllr Jones Cllr P Brickley Cllr Giles
- In attendance** Vanessa Lawrence (Parish Clerk), 6 MOP's
- 109 21/22 Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr C Brickley, District Cllr Theodoulou and County Cllr Dom Morris.
- 110 21/22 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**
None
- 111 21/22 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th January 2022**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th January 2022. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.
- 112 21/22 To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation, if members of the public are present - there is a 10 minute time limit**
It was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting. All in favour.
No questions were put to the Council
- 113 21/22 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.**
It was **RESOLVED** to reconvene the meeting. All in favour.
- 114 21/22 Clerks Report**
The Clerk reported that all bills had been paid and the bunting ordered for the Jubilee celebrations had arrived.
- 115 21/22 Chairman's announcements**
None
- 116 21/22 To receive report from District/County Councillor**
In the absence of the District Cllr – no report available
County Cllr Morris has submitted the following report
- 1. Covid-19 Response**
The GCC website is regularly updated inline with Government restrictions and advice for Gloucestershire residents:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/>
 - 2. Council approves £521 million 2022/23 budget**
The budget is an increase of more than £38 million on 2021/22 levels and was approved by Council at a meeting on Wednesday, 16 February. Funding has been agreed for 26-miles of cycle track from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve, investment into our market towns and high streets, and ongoing support and protection of the most vulnerable in our communities. As well as this, the budget also includes:
 - £100 million for our roads
 - £150 million investment into school buildings in Gloucestershire

- £14 million investment into Children and Young People's Services
- £1 million per year to tackle climate change
- £20 million invested into cycle routes across the county
- £9 million extra to support vulnerable adults and those living with a disability
- More investment into Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Despite the extra investment, the council is still expected to have one of the lowest council tax levels of any county council.

The budget will raise around £10.2 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 1.99%. We will also apply the national social care precept at 1% to raise an additional £3.7 million to support the thousands of vulnerable adults we work with each year. Based on a band D property, this equates to a £3.50 monthly increase.

Amendments to the budget which were approved by Council include:

- An additional £250,000 to Community Speedwatch, making a total of £550,000
- £33,000 to prevent increases to the costs of parking permits
- £45,000 to pay for a biodiversity management officer to identify opportunities on Council land
- £120,000 to establish a recycling shop pilot at one of the county's household recycling centres
- £100,000 to reserve for traffic regulation orders (TRO)

3. **Council to launch new project to support young families**

Steps Ahead will provide enhanced support across the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Gloucestershire. By targeting areas that experience greater levels of deprivation, the project aims to reduce longer-term consequences of the pandemic, particularly those that lead to health inequalities of parents and children.

Children and Families Centres will offer focused programmes, tailored group and individual support for families who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The county council will work in partnership with Aspire Foundation, Barnardo's and the Health Visiting Team within Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust to launch 'Steps Ahead', which will be funded with £919,509 from the government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

Support for families in Gloucester, Stroud and the Forest of Dean will be provided by Barnardo's, while support for families in Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and the Cotswolds will be provided by Aspire Foundation. Both services will also offer a targeted outreach programme for families in need of support who do not have easy access to an existing Children and Families Centre.

The Health Visiting Team will deliver bespoke health related advice and support county-wide. This will include tailored packages of care and group work to support child development, providing nutritional, sleep and behaviour advice, as well as supporting child/family relationships and infant mental health.

4. Proposed route of 26-mile 'cycle spine' revealed

Extending from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve, the map shows how the route would pass through Gloucester and Cheltenham, creating a substantial cycling and walking network through the county.

Funding has already been committed to link Gloucester city centre to Cheltenham, with a route along the B4063.

This will be extended to the north with a route through Cheltenham, and on to Bishop's Cleeve. While, to the south the route will extend as far as Stroud, with work underway to identify the most appropriate route.

Sections of the route to the south of Gloucester city centre and to the north of Cheltenham are yet to be confirmed. However, proposals are in the process of being developed and funding has been committed to undertake further design. Residents will be consulted on the proposals once the plans are at a more advanced stage.

The county council is committed to tackling climate change and creating a Greener Gloucestershire.

Investing in cycling and walking infrastructure will help us work towards a Greener Gloucestershire by improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions from transport. Cycling and walking also improves the health and wellbeing of our residents.

View the map here:

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2113204/gcc_3467-gloucestershire-cycle-spine-map.pdf

FINANCE

117 21/22

To approve retrospective payments made and current, payments (if applicable)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, retrospective and current payments, total amount amended to include payments to be made which were not accounted for when the Agenda was prepared. The total amount is £1449.81.

Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to pay current invoices.

118 21/22

To consider and agree cashbook figures and reconciliation to 28th February 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to agree cashbook figures and reconciliation to 28th February 2022. Proposed Cllr Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

119 21/22

To consider and agree renewal of GAPTC subscription (£67.20)

It was **RESOLVED** to agree renewal of GAPTC subscription. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Giles – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to submit payment

120 21/22

To consider and agree to trial f.o.c, Easypc accounts software (£60 p.a)after trial.

The Clerk reported that she had attended a virtual demonstration of the software package. As the offer was a 3 month free trial, she recommended that the Council agree to take this package to ascertain its usefulness.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the free 3 month trial.

Proposed Cllr Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour

ACTION: Clerk to contact Easypc.

PLANNING

121 21/22 To receive Decision notices:-

21/04232/FUL: Change of the existing front garden to a gravel driveway including granite crossovers, gate and associated works at 2 New Cottages Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PJ – **PERMITTED.**

122 21/22 New Planning Applications

22/00606/FUL: Conversion of residential storage building to single dwelling (retrospective) at Bradborough Farmhouse, Southrop : Validated 18/2/2022| Awaiting decision – **NO OBJECTION**

22/00419/LBC – 22/00418/FUL: Validated 18/2/2022| Change of use from an office to 4no. apartments. Includes erection of single storey extension, insertion of windows and rooflights, replacement doors and windows at Fraser House, Wadham Close, Southrop – Awaiting decision – **NO OBJECTION**

22/00007/LBC – 22/00006/FUL: Validated: 1/2/2022| Replace no9 existing wooden single glazed windows with wooden slimline double glazed windows at Laurel Cottage, Southrop GL7 3NU – Awaiting decision – **NO OBJECTION**

22/00581/FUL: Validated: 3/3/2022| Erection of a low retaining wall to the front drive with additional gravelled area and associated works at 6 Stonesfield Close, Southrop GL7 3QF – Awaiting decision – **NO OBJECTION**

22/00055/FUL: Validated: 4/2/22| Part change of use to residential curtilage and formation of swimming pool and plant room at Southrop Farm, Southrop GL7 3PH – Awaiting decision- Cllrs agreed to a neutral comment is made to be submitted to CDC.

ACTION: Clerk to submit comment.

22/00231/FUL | Widen barn doorway and replace single barn door with double barn doors | Tubbs Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PF – **NO OBJECTION**

Cllr P Brickley reported on a meeting attended by Cllr C Brickley at CDC and chaired by Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown. This meeting was to discuss concerns relating planning procedures at CDC. Notes on the meeting were circulated prior to this meeting and is as follows:-

Headline takeaways

Legal. Planning decisions are made according to the local development plan contained within the Planning Act. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives guidance but is not binding. They were very quick to point this out as most of the quotes cited by Ben Rambaut in support of our argument were taken from the NPPF.

Legal. Consultees such as Highways and Environment are given far more weight than PCs as it is illegal for the CDC to go against them and carries cost sanctions.

In answer to our concern that Ward Councillors are being cut out of the process, we were assured that Ward Councillors can - and should - refer applications to the Review Panel if there are any objections (which are material considerations). This is a panel of three and the Chair (Lib Dem) has the casting vote. **Sir Geoffrey C-B suggested that it would help if the Ward Councillors are required to feed back to the PC what was discussed at the panel meeting and, if the decision is *not* to go to committee, explain the reasons for that.**

Mike Napper (CDC) said they've been working on making the Decision Reports more useful to the recipients. **Geoffrey C-B said these reports should be placed on the planning portal.**

Phil Shaw urged PCs to make better use of the Planning Officers who can help get the most out of the process but he also acknowledged how difficult it has been to communicate with them. He blamed the pandemic and consequent home-working but **Rob Weaver said that officers do need to be more available and he took this as an action.**

Rob Weaver picked up on how often we refer to the 'erosion of democracy'. He said "Planning is a quasi judicial process, not a democratic process." Interesting.

IN SUMMARY, THE CURRENT SCHEME OF DELEGATION WILL NOT BE ALTERED. THE REVIEW PANEL WILL NOT BE REMOVED.

What the meeting *did* achieve. It was agreed that an improvement in communication between 1) Planning Officers and PCs and 2) Ward Councillors and PCs would help PCs to feel acknowledged and better informed. To that end, it was agreed that the above improvements will be planned and our team re-consulted about their implementation. Rob Weaver to follow up with Ben Rambaut.

OTHER MATTERS

123 21/22 To consider and agree possible plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations June 2nd – June 5th

Margaret Davey is co-ordinating parts of the village . A schedule has been broadly agreed:-

Friday 3rd - Model railway in the Village Hall

Thursday 2nd – Archived photos

Saturday 4th – BBQ

Sunday – 5th – Church service; Photo and Picnic, Sports, Swan open?

Glos. Highways

- Meeting with Glos. Highways – Agreement for a grant towards cost of grasscutting in the village (see 126 below)
- Red plastic fencing has been removed and replaced with wooden fence
- Road re-surfacing is scheduled for the next financial year.
- Safety check of bridge is to be carried out
- Crossroads – Quenington-Lechlade-Fairford-Southrop – Report of flooding at this junction which has proved dangerous. Better signage has been requested and Glos. Highways has agreed to look at this.
- Culvert adjoining No 2 The Forge - to be repaired

Speedwatch – There is still a speedwatch group in the town. The Council is looking at an automated system where speeding cars are picked up automatically and information relayed directly to the police. The Council is hopeful that this will be available soon. More signage is required and Cllr P Brickley said that he would be contacting the Police for another speed check.

124 21/22 To consider and agree Litter pick arrangements in relation to recent information from CDC.

A litterpick has been organised which is being run by the Council. It will take place on the 2nd/3rd April. Litter pickers, high viz tops , bags will be available.

125 21/22 Update on re-opening of The Swan Pub

The Swan Pub – The New Manager from Thyme Harry Shepherd was in attendance and briefed the Council and residents present on work currently underway at the Swan:-

The swan is in poor repair, with work required to the roof, exterior walls, windows and in the kitchen. Currently looking at plans to improve and a new kitchen has been ordered. An announcement will be made in April regarding the re-opening, but it is hoped that the pub will re-open on the 18th May, this to be confirmed. They are struggling to recruit personnel and are looking for a Sous Chef, and bar staff. The area to the rear of the pub, formerly the skittle alley, is being considered to house 'Swan Store' selling coffees, tea, bread, milk etc. This is in the early stage of development and is being discussed at the next Board meeting next Tuesday.

Food to be served in the pub would be on a more traditional basis with foods such as burgers, pies, fish & chips, steaks etc.

- 126 21/22 To consider and agree response to Glos. Highways regarding areas of grass cutting and grant offered.**
It was **RESOLVED** to agree to accept a grant from Glos. Highways towards the cost of grass cutting for approx. 975metres of grass verge in the village. Proposed Cllr Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour

ACTION: Clerk to contact Glos. Highways.

- 127 21/22 To consider and agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting**
It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the 5th May. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Brickley - all in favour.

- 128 21/22 Anything the Chair considers urgent.**
None

- 129 21/22 Date of next meeting May 2022 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)**
Council agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 5th May at 5.30pm prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, which will commence at 6.30pm.

IN CAMERA MATTERS

- 130 21/22 To consider and agree amendments to Terms & Conditions of employment**
Councillors had already discussed changes to the T & C of employment and have agreed to increase the hourly rate to be in line with salary updates from NALC. They further agreed to incorporate any backpay as a result of pay increases not having been applied for some time, which is part of the contract of employment. Further payments which have never been claimed for working from home were also agreed. Contract of employment has also been approved with a few minor amendments and to incorporate clause relating to working from home.

ACTION: Clerk to amend Contract accordingly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45pm

.....Chairman

5th May 2022