

SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Cllr Guest Cllr P Brickley Cllr C Brickley
Cllr Jones Cllr Giles

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence (Clerk), District Cllr Fowles 4 members of the public

052 23/24 Apologies for absence
None received. All present

053 23/24 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
None received

054 23/24 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th July 2023
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th July as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour

055 23/24 Clerk's Report
None

056 23/24 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 for public participation - Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Jones - all in favour,

Q: Margaret Davey pointed out that parking near the school was proving a problem and asked if this could be looked into as it would appear that some of the vehicle belong to employees at Thyme.

A: Thyme would be asked to ensure that staff should park off road.

ACTION: Cllrs/Clerk to contact Thyme

Q: Mr Lauder raised a query regarding the gates at the Lodge, and whether the conditions set originally, were being adhered to regarding access.

A: This will be looked into.

057 23/24 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.
It was **RESOLVED** to reconvene the meeting – Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

058 23/24 Chairman's Announcements
None

059 23/24 To receive report from District/County Cllr
District Cllrs Report
Cllr Fowles reported as follows:-

- Confirmed that the CDC had confirmed that the minimum housing requirement figure with adjustments had been confirmed at 9094

- dwellings which meant that the 5-year land supply was secure which would offer protection to the Cotswolds from speculative developers.
- Informed the PC that built into the CDC budget was the need to utilise over £831k of reserves and that so far at the end of quarter one, there was an income shortfall against budget of £445k because of a reduction in fee income as well as items not budgeted for such as the funding of new waste bins on new developments.
 - Stated that as a direct result of the shortfall of CDC income, the administration has refused to reinstate the £54k grant funding for Visitor Information Centres following the submission of a petition with over 2000 signatures
 - Confirmed that the provider of leisure and cultural services across the Cotswolds was outsourced to a not-for-profit leisure trust and that it had changed from SLM/ Everyone Active to Freedom Leisure. CDC we're currently in negotiation with SLM regarding the detail of the contract termination.
 - Informed the PC that more planning officers (up to 4) were leaving CDC and that this was putting pressure on the processing of Planning Applications
 - Stated that CDC had partnered with a provider of solar panels called 'Make my home Green' in order to provide grants to CDC residents who wish to fit solar panels
 - Confirmed that following the adoption of 'agile working' for CDC staff, the Council had agreed to convert and refurbish 35% of the CDC buildings at Trinity Road for services offices at a cost of £1.25m
 - New Local Plan bringing in green initiatives

Q: Cllr Guest asked if it was true that CDC might be following the steps of Birmingham Council?

A: Unlikely as whilst things are tough, reserves are healthy

FINANCE

060 23/24 To approve payments to be made.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments to be made. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr P Brickley – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange payments

061 23/24 To consider and agree to prioritise village projects which might require SPC funding, or part funding.

It was **RESOLVED** to prioritise village projects, which might require SPC funding or part funding. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour. A list to be made out and worked through. Village Hall Committee and Jubilee Close Committee to be contacted to discuss projects.

ACTION: List to be compiled and contact to be made with organisations

062 23/24 To consider and agree reimbursing costs incurred by Hamish Lauder in connection with major drain clearance work.

Mr Lauder explained about the work he has carried out recently, which should have been undertaken by Glos. Highways. Recent flooding issues prompted Mr. Lauder to act sooner as Highways could not remedy the issues in a reasonable timeframe. Mr. Lauder employed a company to clear a drain chamber which was causing flooding issues for himself and neighbours. Some of the costs were reimbursed by neighbours, and whilst Mr. Lauder was prepared to pay the remainder of the costs, SPC considered that he acted for the benefit of the village. It was **RESOLVED** to reimburse Mr. Lauder for the expenses incurred and he was asked to obtain invoices made out to SPC, (£1584). Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones –

all in favour. Details of the company employed were given to the Council and they were assured that the company was highways accredited. Photographs of the work carried out and the condition of the chamber have been forwarded to the Council. Mr. Lauder explained that 5.5 tons of silt was removed from the chamber and that the channel is still not completely clear and further work should be undertaken. It was suggested that CDC (Laurence King) and GCC (Cllr Dom Morris) is contacted with details of the location of this pipe to establish whether clearance could be carried out by the authority. A video has been sent to Glos. Highways on the 25th April. Mr. Lauder reported that in 12 years the manhole has never been opened.

ACTION: The Clerk asked Mr. Lauder for his bank details so that payment can be made

063 23/24 To consider and agree reconciliation figures at the end of September

It was **RESOLVED** to agree reconciliation figures at the end of September. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Giles – all in favour.

064 23/24 To consider budget requirements for 2024/25 and possible Precept request.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting due to the restrictions at this meeting i.e. no lights and no heating. Hall in virtual darkness and meeting held with the aid of lamps.

ACTION: Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the next meeting.

HIGHWAYS

065 23/24 Update of Highways matters

- A361 to Southrop (W. Oxon District Council) have been contacted to advise of 24 potholes.
- Broken fence near the bridge was repaired very quickly. Sth. Farm crossroads 4 years of campaigning for better road arking, give way signs and improvements to drainage to prevent severity of ice during the winter months. Highways have been given photographs. Highways have advised that they only have 2 accidents in 3 years recorded although it is known that there have been many more accidents at this location. To date some work has been done to improve signage and the owner of the field on the South Eastern corner is to be contacted by Highways. Cllr P Brickley offered to pay for signs but this was rejected as the signs did not comply with the regulations. Junction is on the flood plain and the ditch requires regular attention. It was suggested that a message is put out to the village and further afield to obtain information on anyone that has been involved in an accident at this junction.
- White gates at entrances to the village have been considered but information from Glos Highways is still awaited.
- Slow sign by Jubilee Close
- School sign requires replacement 'H' sign needs to be improved
- Lechlade road requires resurfacing
- Awaiting the arrival of new speed cameras under the Community Speedwatch project (no charge to the Council). Sites have been identified and approved by the Police. The project has been overwhelmed with requests which has delayed the release of this new equipment. An SLA is in place. New post has to be fitted
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- by Glos. Highways. Once pole in place camera, when it arrives, can be fitted. The various Locations identified are:-
- by Village Hall; Tubbs Cottage; 20mph sign on elevated path by school. Mr. Lauder has also indicated that he is happy to accommodate a camera or sign if necessary.

066 23/24 To consider and agree changes to grasscutting schedule.
It was agreed to extend the areas for grasscutting in the village. Cllr P Brickley is waiting to talk to the contractor. The Clerk reported that she would be seeing the contractor next week and would remind him to make contact. – Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley - All in favour.

067 23/24 Update on flood warden scheme
Cllr C Brickley reported that we are signed up for the flood warden scheme, run by GRCC, which in place to help the locality in an advisory capacity, to help themselves. There has been a change of staff at GRCC. Issues remain with determining who has responsibility for ditch maintenance, especially the one running alongside the Eastleach Road from near Fyfield Manor up to the left turn to Tiltup. Laurence Murphy of GRCC has been asked to advise. Our District Cllr, David Fowles who attended this SPC meeting also offered to see what he could find out

PLANNING

068 23/24 To receive decision notices
23/02199/COMPLY | Compliance of conditions 5 (Enclosure to Swimming Pool), 6 (Design Details) and 8 (Bird and Bat Boxes) of permission 22/04341/FUL and Conditions 3 (Enclosure to Swimming Pool) and 4 (Bird and Bat Boxes) of consent 23/00032/LBC - Conversion of outbuilding and addition of outdoor swimming pool and alterations to the historic field boundary at Elmtree Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PD – **PERMITTED**
23/02281/TCONR | T1 - Himalayan Birch - 3m height reduction and 1-2m lateral reduction to balance crown. G1 - Hornbeam and Birch - reduce crown back to previous pruning points at Tanglewood The Farriers Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3RL – **NO OBJECTION**
23/02263/FUL | Increase height of rear boundary walls at Boxbush Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PH – **PERMITTED**

069 23/24 To consider NEW planning applications
23/02328/FUL Full Application for Removal of conditions 3 (Boundary treatment) and 5 (Bike store) of permission 22/00418/FUL - Change of use from an office to 1 no. residential dwelling at Fraser House Wadham Close Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire – **NO OBJECTION** (by e-mail)
23/02462/TCONR Works to trees in conservation areas for T1: Oak - removal. T2: Cockspur - removal. T3: Malus domestica (apple) - removal. All 3 trees are greatly overshadowed by larger neighbouring trees, contributing to the overall overshadowing of the small garden. at Old Post Office Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3NY- **NO OBJECTION** (by e-mail)
23/02263/FUL Full Application for Increase height of rear boundary walls at Boxbush Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PH – **NO OBJECTION** (by e-mail)

OTHER MATTERS

070 23/24 To consider and agree whether to purchase any defibrillators and if so agree locations (see e-mail from Stephen Andrews).
It was agreed not to install any other defibrillators at the present time – all in favour.

071 23/24 To consider and agree to revise decision made at the last meeting regarding the purchase of a Tanoy/Active speaker system, in light of new information received from the Village Hall Committee (see e-mail 25th August 2023).

Cllr P Brickley reported that he has sourced a suitable active speaker system which can be used by various organisations in the village. Funds from the 'The Shoot' have been donated for this purpose (£500). In light of this new information, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase an active speaker system circa £750. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour

ACTION: Clerk to place order

072 23/24 Update on replacement grit bin at Fyfield/Eastleach junction.

The Clerk reported that Eastleach Parish Council have agreed to share the cost of a new grit bin for the edge of the village at the junction to Filkins, 'what three words location is dress-yard-demanding', which borders both villages. The total cost of the bin is £179.72 exc. VAT.

ACTION: Clerk to place order

073 23/24 Anything the Chair considers urgent

Nothing further to add

074 23/24 Date of next meeting - Thursday 30th November 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

.....Chairman

.....2023