

SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

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

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence (Clerk), District Cllr Fowles, Margaret Davey, Philip Roberts, Gretchen Shoring (Village Hall Committee)

075 23/24 Apologies for absence
None received. All present

076 23/24 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
None

077 23/24 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 28th September 2023
It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 28th September 2023. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Giles, all in favour.

078 23/24 Clerks Report
The grit bin recently purchased has been delivered. The cost will be split with Eastleach. Business Savings account with Bath Building Society cannot now be opened following recent information received that they are no longer taking on business savings accounts. Continuing to try to contact the Fairford Snow Warden

079 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.

Q: M. Davey asked if something could be done about the leaves on the pavement as they are very slippery and hazardous. She also mentioned that many paths are prone to moss, which again is very slippery.

A: The Clerk would contact CDC or GCC Highways to see if anything can be done to clear the hazard.

Discussion took place regarding the amount of pavement debris which is also blocking drains. This will be brought to the attention of GCC Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to contact CDC and GCC Highways.

Q: M. Davey also asked if anything could be done about bins being left out for several days near the school.

A: Cllrs said that the homeowner would be contacted.

ACTION: Cllrs/Clerk to contact homeowner.

080 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.

081 23/24 Chairman’s Announcements
The Chair reported that he and Cllr C Brickley would be attending the Flood Forum meeting tomorrow at CDC, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown. They would raise issues relating to flooding in Southrop. The meeting is open to the public. District Cllr Fowles reported that he would be attending this meeting and that the question from SPC has been put forward.

082 23/24 To receive report from District/County Cllr
District Cllr Fowles reported as follows:=

- By-election taking place on the 14th December for Kempsford, Lechlade and Fairford South. 4 candidates standing. This is due to the resignation of Clare Muir. He wished her well.
- Publica – Some years ago 4 Councils, West Oxon, Forest of Dean, Cheltenham and Cotswold District agreed to re-structure their organisation and combine how they worked, which resulted in the formation of Publica. Many office functions were carried out by Publica. Covid made it difficult to manage this system of working and therefore it has been decided to unbundle Publica. Legal matters would still be dealt with via Publica. Many matters need to be considered relating to expenses, pension commitments etc. Assurances have been given that there would be no hike in severance pay and pensions. Whilst Publica saved money services were compromised.
- Truck stop – recent truck stop application at Daglingworth has been rejected. The applicant is seeking an alternative site.
- Boundary changes – will not change anything at District or County. This relates to coverage of electoral areas. Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown may or may not continue.
- Budget consultation – This is taking place from the 3rd November to 8th December. Can go online to make any comments.

FINANCE

083 23/24 To approve payments to be made in November
The list of payments for approval was circulated prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments - £ 2170.70. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

It was agreed change the order of the Agenda to take the next item with 088 23/24 so that a more informed decision can be taken when budgeting for next year. – All in favour

084 23/24 To consider and agree to prioritise village projects which might require SPC funding, or part funding. See below.

085 23/24 To consider and agree reconciliation figures at the end of October.
It was **RESOLVED** to agree reconciliation figures at the end of October. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

084 23/24 To consider and agree to prioritise village projects which might require SPC funding, or part funding.

This item to taken in conjunction with 088 23/24 below.

088 23/24 To consider the Village Hall committee's development proposal and agree possible funding.

Gretchen Shoring gave a presentation of the work that the Village Hall Committee have been doing regarding the next phase of refurbishing the Hall. She reported that earlier plans to extend the building have been discarded as this would be extremely expensive. Instead the Committee had decided to improve the internal layout with changes to the bar area, improvements to the toilets, possible improvements to the playground area, improvements to the outside paintwork. The first phase would concentrate on the bar area, opening up a new entrance from the main hall. Costings were presented amounting to £53k approx. to complete the whole project.

Following the presentation Cllrs debated funding that might be made available referring back to previous discussions relating to possible funding that could potentially be granted to the Village Hall. The Council advised that other grants for village halls were available from various organisations which needs to be researched further, together with possible crowdfunding via CDC. **It was RESOLVED** to support in principle plans for further refurbishment work.

Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded C

Cllr C Brickley – all in favour. Cllrs also said that the Jubilee Field Committee need to be contacted to establish what of support they might require for any future projects.

ACTION: The Chairman said that he would make contact with the Committee.

The public left the meeting

086 23/24 To consider and agree budget requirements for 2024/25 and to consider possible Precept for 2024/25.

Following debate it was agreed to blanket cover the amounts by increasing all lines by 5%. The amounts to be considered and agreed at the next meeting, together with the decision for the Precept amount for 24/25.

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

087 23/24 Update on recent savings account application.

The Clerk reported that the recent application made to Bath Building society to open a savings account can no longer be completed as the Society have advised that they are no longer taking applications for Business savings accounts. The Clerk has checked other organisations and would be contacting these organisations in order to progress an application.

HIGHWAYS

089 23/24 Update of Highways matters

Cllr P Brickley who has been the lead Cllrs in matters relating to the Highway for some years has requested that the following is minuted.

"For several years I've been the SPC representative to Glos Highways for villagers' concerns, e.g. road condition and safety, drainage, fencing etc. I believe much has been achieved with their

co-operation. That said, this cooperation appears to have stopped since I've been getting no responses for 6 months, why I do not know, but there are now many matters still open for which we have silence – not least South Farm crossroad safety, the recent drainage invoice, speed camera post etc.

It is my view that we need a reset with highways to re-establish an effective relationship once more. It is also the time for a different councillor to represent this village, rather than I, so I suggest that our Chair and our County Councillor (ironically with oversight for Glos. Highways) discuss how a reset might work and with whom.”

**090 23/24 Update on flood warden scheme
As reported above 081 23/24.**

PLANNING

091 23/24 To receive decision notices

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 – **PERMIT**

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**

23/02263/FUL : Full Application for Increase height of rear boundary walls at Boxbush Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PH – **PERMIT**

23/02780/COMPLY : Compliance with condition 6 (Design Details) of permission 22/04341/FUL - Conversion of outbuilding and addition of outdoor swimming pool and alterations to the historic field boundary Elmtree Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PD. **PERMIT**

**092 23/24 To consider NEW planning applications
None received**

OTHER MATTERS

093 23/24 To consider and agree to adopt a Biodiversity Policy
This item to be deferred. Cllr Giles will look at the template provided and circulate draft prior to the next meeting in January.

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

**094 23/24 Anything the Chair considers urgent
Nil of note**

095 23/24 Date of next meeting 18th January 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman.....

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