

## **SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Guest                      Cllr P Brickley                      Cllr C Brickley  
              Cllr Jones                      Natalie Robertson (non councillor member)  
              Cllr Giles

**In attendance:** Vanessa Lawrence (Clerk), District Cllr Fowles, 5 members of the public

- 051    25/26    Apologies for absence**  
None – All present
- 052    25/26    Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**  
None received
- 053    25/26    To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour.
- 054    25/26    To approve appointment of Natalie Robertson – as an independent member to the Council**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Natalie Robertson as an independent member of the Council. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr P Brickley – all in favour. Natalie will be able to have an input in Council matters but will not be able to vote on any matters.
- 055    25/26    To note request made to CDC for a Community Governance Review with a view to increasing the number of Councillors for SPC.**  
A resolution passed by the Council to have a Community Governance Review was sent to CDC.

Cllr Guest was made aware that SOME MOP's attending the meeting were there to comment on a planning application 25/02175/FUL which IS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 065

It was agreed that MOP's should be given the opportunity to make their concerns known. As there were no other questions for the Council the following two items were not applicable at this meeting.

- 056    25/26    **To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation, if members of the public are present - there is a 10 minute time limit**  
N/A
- 057    25/26    **To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.**  
N/A
- 058    25/26    **Clerks Report**  
None
- 059    25/26    **Chairman's announcements**  
The Chairman noted the death of Shaun Longsdon on 23 May. Shaun was a prominent and much liked local figure, formerly Chairman of SPC and Church Warden of St. Peter's. His memorial service at St. Mary's, Fairford on 2 September was attended by over 400 people and half of the retiring collection was generously donated by the family to St Peter's.
- 060    25/26    **To receive report from District/County Councillor**  
The District Cllrs report will be attached to the Minutes as an Appendix. Other points brought to the attention of the Council are as follows:
- **Housing** – Central Government want 1.5 million houses nationally. This would mean that this would be 1035 houses per annum in our district. This puts a lot of pressure on the AONB, given that 80% of the Cotswold is AONB leaving 20% to cater for the increased number of houses. CDC has written to the Deputy Prime Minister to advise and will continue to pursue this.
  - **Inheritance Tax on farming communities** – CDC has written to Central Government on this matter
  - **Devolution** – Still in early stages. Division still being looked at whether this is east/west split or north/south split is still in discussion. This may bring more pressure on Parish Councils.

#### **FINANCE**

- 061    25/26    **To approve retrospectively, any payments made since the last meeting and to approve payments to be made.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, retrospectively, payment made since the last meeting and payments to be made. Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Guest – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to make payments.**

**062     25/26     To consider and agree cashbook & reconciliation at the end of July and August 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** to agree cashbook & reconciliation at the end of July and August. Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

**063     25/26     To consider and agree to appoint Mrs B Bowen as Internal Auditor for 2025/26 audit.**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs B Bowen as Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 audit. Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Mrs Bowen to advise.**

**PLANNING**

**064     25/26     To receive Decision notices:-**

**25/01271/FUL:** Garage conversion insertion of rear glazed door and insertion of roof light within rear facing roof slope, erection of garden store outbuilding and stone boundary wall at 1 Wadham Close Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3NR. Received CDC 17.4.25; Validated 21.5.25 – **Status: PERMITTED**

**25/01706/TCONR:** 1 - Conifer tree - Laterally cutback the roadside clump by approx. 1.0m up to approx. 8.0m at Boxwood Cottage Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PH. Validated: Wed 04 Jun 2025 | **Status: Decided – NO OBJECTION**

**065     25/26     New Planning Applications**

**Objections (and MOP's views expressed at the meeting) focussed mainly on 25/02175/FUL - MOP's were permitted to make their views known.**

**25/01973/COMPLY |** Greys Court Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3NU Validated: Wed 25 Jun 2025 | **Status: Awaiting decision – NO OBJECTION FROM SPC**

**25/02175/FUL |** Erection of 3 new structures and associated landscaping to provide additional spa facilities and hotel accommodation. Validated: Tuesday 22 July 2025 | **Status: Awaiting decision**

Cllr Guest reported that he had heard from the applicant yesterday that a revised planning application would be submitted imminently. He therefore thought it inappropriate to discuss the current proposal in any detail.

He summarised the current responses as follows; there have been 24 objections and 9 support comments (including 5 from Thyme employees).

Since the cut off date for comments is tomorrow and is very likely to be extended (in view of the revised application) more comments may be expected.

Objections focussed mainly on:-

MOP's views related to:

- Building in a Conservation Area
- Proximity to other properties especially Listed Buildings
- Even more traffic through the Village
- A general feeling of being taken over
- Access
- Overdevelopment
- Privacy, light and noise
- Loss of general amenity
- Comments relating to the previous application (2019), with special reference to the overflow car park were made where it seemed that the planning conditions were not adhered to and why CDC allowed this to happen without any enforcement action.
- 

Support comments tended to focus on employment opportunities in the village created by Thyme.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

**066    25/26    To consider and agree to upgrade the website and to change domain name and take.gov.uk mailboxes.**

It was **RESOLVED** to upgrade the website and to change the domain name but not to take up new mailboxes at the present time.

Proposed Cllr P Brickley, seconded Cllr Jones – all in favour.

<b>ACTION: Clerk to contact Bulldog websites</b>
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**067    25/26    To consider and agree nomination of any green space for the Cotswold District Local Plan 2025–2043: Call for Local Green Space Nominations - Deadline Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Discussion took place where it was agreed that as far as anyone was aware SPC did not own any land. However the Clerk was asked to check on various green spaces in the Village to confirm that these spaces were owned by Glos. Highways or privately owned.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Glos. Highways and possibly Land Registry**

- 068     25/26     To consider and agree “AGREEMENT FOR THE TEMPORARY PLACEMENT & STORAGE OF TWO CONTAINERS” at Jubilee field**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Agreement for the Temporary placement & storage of two containers. Proposed Cllr Giles, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour. This should be placed on the Asset Register. Keys held with Colin Medley, Peter Brickley, Philip Roberts and Andy Howarth. Funds from the Fete budget were used to pay for this. Thanks should go to Peter Brickley and Colin Medley for their work installing the containers.

**ACTION: Clerk to add containers to the Asset Register.**

- 069     25/26     To consider and agree date for next SPC newsletter**  
- Cllr C Brickley reported about the retirement of the postman who has been delivering post for many years.  
- Tanoy system used 3 times by various groups in the village, since being purchased  
- A credit card machine (sumup), also purchased recently has been used by other groups in the village and has proved very useful.  
Date for the next newsletter has not been fixed.

- 070     25/26     To receive an update on speeding**  
Cllr P Brickley reported that speeding on the Lechlade road has not abated and proposed that the Council consider the purchase of another camera to be placed on this road to better assess the speed of vehicles. The general feeling was that this would be wise move but this would need to be agreed formally at the next meeting. It was noted that speeds and numbers of speeding offences have significantly reduced since the installation of the two current cameras. Thyme have been approached again to remind them to contact their suppliers to ask them to ensure that their drivers do not speed through the village.

**ACTION: Clerk to add formal agreement for a speed camera on the Lechlade Road to the Agenda for the next meeting.**

- 071     25/26     To receive Flood Warden report**  
Cllr C Brickley reported that she had attended a Flood Warden meeting in August where she listened to a presentation by the

Natural Flood Management Partnership (NFM). This is facilitated and funded by Gloucestershire County Council.

At that meeting, Cllr C Brickley explained about the Eastleach Road flooding issue. NFM agreed to come out and do a site visit. Grants are available to help with projects such as attenuation of run-off from the fields and any negotiations with landowners. The site visit is scheduled for 8th September.

Cllr C Brickley also reported that Anne Johns of Gloucestershire Highways has agreed to come out to discuss the hydro break device and look at the efficiency of the current Eastleach Road drainage arrangements. This meeting is scheduled to take place on 10th September.

**072     25/26     Anything the Chair considers urgent.**

Cllr P Brickley suggested that SPC consider the purchase of a smaller Gala Tent, 4m x 10m at a cost of around £900. This would be a useful addition to the much larger existing village marquee.

It was agreed to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting.

<b>ACTION: Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the next meeting.</b>
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**073     25/26     Date of next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 6.30pm**

**074     25/26     To consider and agree under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960, the public and press should be excluded from Item 073 25/26 where confidential matters are to be discussed.**

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public as per Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960, the public and press should be excluded from Item 073 25/26 where confidential matters are to be discussed. – All in favour.

**The Clerk left the meeting**

**075     25/26     To consider and agree amendments to T & C's of employment 2025/26.**

Amendments to the T & C's of employments were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to amend the terms in line with recent national guidance. – All in favour.

<b>ACTION: The Clerk will be notified</b>
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**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm**

**Chairman.....**

**.....2025**

## APPENDIX 1

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – September 2025

#### Forthcoming Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Monday 1 September 4.00 pm [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Thursday 4 September 6.00 pm [Cabinet](#)

Wednesday 10 September 2.00 pm [Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Wednesday 24 September 6.00 pm [Council](#)

Thursday 25 September 2.00 pm [Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire & Street Trading](#)

Tuesday 30 September 4.00 pm [Audit and Governance Committee](#)

#### Recent Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)

Wednesday 13 Aug 2.00 pm [Meeting of Planning and Licensing Committee](#)

Thursday 21 Aug 2.00 pm [Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee \(Taxis, Private Hire, and Street Trading](#)

#### THERE WAS NO CABINET OR FULL COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST

Cotswold District Council responds to Government's letter stating housing targets remain

Cotswold District Council has received a formal response from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to the council leader's recent letter expressing "deep concerns" over revised housing targets for the Cotswold district.

In July the leader wrote to Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, requesting that the government take due consideration for the "unique development constraints" in the Cotswold district, and pause its disproportionate housing target. This would be while the council works on a full update to its Local Plan.

In her reply, Baroness Taylor acknowledged the Cotswold district's constraints but emphasised that all areas must "play their part" in meeting national housing needs. She pointed to the revised methodology's affordability focus and strategic planning goals. However, she did not commit to revisiting the housing targets or offer interim protections against speculative development while the new plan is being prepared. The Minister states that other areas have similar constraints to the Cotswold district, but the reality is that there are very few planning authority areas which have as much land designated as National Landscape. 80 per cent lies within the protected

Cotswolds National Landscape, with additional areas affected by flood risk and existing development. The response seems to be a reiteration of national policy rather than a tailored solution to the challenges in the Cotswolds.

#### **LETTER FROM LEADER OF CDC TO Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves RE: IHT PROPOSALS BEING CATASTROPHIC FOR FARMS IN THE REGION**

The attached letter, which was proposed and seconded by the Conservatives urges the Chancellor to adopt pragmatic, farmer backed alternatives.

An investigation was carried out by the council's cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and outlined alternatives designed to protect family farms, support sustainable land management, and maintain the economic and environmental vitality of farms in Cotswolds and across the UK.

More than 90 per cent of land is agricultural in the Cotswolds, with farming supporting four per cent of local jobs - nearly triple the national average. The world-renowned landscape, shaped by generations of farmers, draws 23 million day-visitors and 1.5 million overnight visitors annually, contributing over £1 billion to UK GDP.

#### **Crowdfund Cotswold opens new round of funding for local projects**

The latest round of funding is now open, and the Council is encouraging individuals, groups, and organisations to get involved and share their ideas for projects that will benefit their local communities. The deadline to apply is 24 September 2025.

If you are interested in raising funds for your own ideas you can get started today by visiting the [Crowdfund Cotswold website](#) and creating your own project page.

#### **Gloucestershire County Council launches £400k fund to support local community projects**

Community groups across Gloucestershire are invited to apply for a share of £400,000 through the county council's [Thriving Communities Grant](#) programme.

#### **Who can apply for a Thriving Community Grant?**

- Community or voluntary groups
- Registered charities
- Community interest companies
- Town and parish councils
- Art, music, performance, nature-based and sports groups



- Faith-based groups (where the application demonstrates that the project will bring wider community benefit and the primary purpose of the activity is not religious)

#### **Who can't apply?**

- Organisations where activities focus on children and young people
- Sole traders
- Statutory organisations except for Town and Parish Councils
- Schools and academies
- Organisations located outside of Gloucestershire
- For-profit businesses

#### **What is the grant for?**

- Projects that help adults to stay well and support them to live independently for as long as possible
- Developing community connections, social networks and building resilience
- Promoting inclusive independence and wellbeing in adults
- Providing place-based activities (activities in residential communities), for example community-led activities)

#### **What can the grant money be used for?**

- Costs to set up a new project or maintain an existing project
- Staffing costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Project/programme delivery costs
- Equipment costs
- Core funding (for example, insurance, rent, utilities)
- Transport costs (for example, taxis)
- Continued delivery of projects or increased activity to meet demand

#### **What can't the grant money be used for?**

- Capital (building and planning works)
- Consultancy costs
- Vehicles

#### **Grant conditions**

- We will support applications from a minimum of £500 up to £7,500
- You must have a bank or building society account in the name of your organisation or group
- There must be two or more signatories for the bank or building society
- You must be a not-for-profit organisation. We cannot fund sole traders or any organisation with less than two unrelated directors or signatories
- Organisations that are funded will be required to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of their project
- Sign up to your local 'Know your Patch' network and register your group/organisation on YourCircle
  - <https://knowyourpatch.co.uk>
  - <https://www.yourcircle.org.uk>

### Application timeline

- Monday 18 August 2025: Applications open
- Sunday 28 September 2025: Applications close
- Monday 29 September - Friday 14 November 2025: Selection process
- End of December 2025: Outcomes communicated to organisations
- January - February 2026: Grant funding sent to successful organisations

### CIRENCESTER FOODBANK

A new report from [Cirencester Foodbank](#) highlights how food poverty is affecting working families, single adults, and those with health conditions. The 2025 South Cotswold Food Poverty Report urges urgent, community-led action.

No one should face hunger alone. There is a particular need for:

Instant Coffee

LongLife Juice

Multi packs of Crisps/Snacks

Tomato and Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise

Tins of Peas, Mushrooms, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Soup, Curry,

Hot Dogs

Sponge Puddings, Angel Delight

Chocolate

Glutenfree Products

Cat Food

Shampoo, Washing Powder, Toilet Cleaner

They do NOT need

Baked Beans

Tins of Fish, Pulses, Custard

Rice or Pasta

Dog Food.

The Food Bank is very very grateful for everything.

### A417

Due to bad weather forecasts, the A417 closures scheduled for Friday 29 August to 1 September are rescheduled for 9pm Friday 12 to 6am Monday 15 September. For more information on this scheme, visit our [A417 Missing Link web page](#).

The Customer Hub, located at the crusher compound at Shab Hill, continues to open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. You can visit any time during these hours, without pre-booking an appointment. Members of the team will be on hand to and answer any questions that you may have.

**A417 Project Office, Birdlip, Gloucester, GL4 8JX**

**What3words: <https://w3w.co/shaped.quietest.payback>**

**10 mph and site restrictions must be adhered to. Please Reverse Park.**

**Site visits began again in June for members of the public. If you are interested, please contact [A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk)**

**All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published on the Traffic England website: [www.trafficengland.com](http://www.trafficengland.com). Road Closure Reports, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, are updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/).**

**To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>.**

**Webpage: [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/)**

**Email: [A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk)**

**Phone: 0300 123 5000**

**X: @HighwaysSWEST**

**Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST**

**Did you know that you can report highway issues, such as potholes, and track their progress online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fixmystreet) Or download the app: FixMyStreet**

**Cllr David Fowles  
Conservative District Councillor  
Coln Valley Ward, Cotswold District Council  
07747012256**

**Coln Valley Ward PCs: Coln St Dennis, Bibury, Quenington, Coln St Aldwyn's, Hatherop, Southrop and Eastleach**

**\*If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting District Council officers or other agencies relevant to your query. \***