

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on 15th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall.**

Present: - Cllrs John Graham (JG) (Chair), Paul Caddick (PC), Marion Reeve (MCR), Anne Curtis (AC), Valerie Williams (VW),

Graham Smith (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Carmen Vazquez (CV), Ward Cllrs Tony Williams (TW), Ward Cllr Matthew Riddle

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Evacuation Procedures

The evacuation procedures were noted.

4. Public Participation

2 Members of public were present to observe.

Elizabeth Woodland was present for agenda item 6

5. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated with the agenda papers and Cllrs agreed that this was an accurate representation of the meeting.

24.013 Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th July 2024 were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chair.

6. Presentation – Severn Vale Village Agent

Elizabeth Woodland representing the West of England Rural Network (WERN) gave a presentation describing the function of the organisation, its objectives, meetings and how Cllrs may become involved. Several Cllrs expressed an interest in attending the next meeting and (Clerk) forward mutual contact details.

7. To receive report from South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Tony Williams was unable to attend. Cllr Matthew Riddle was also unable to attend but forwarded the following update.

Locally I am dealing with:

a. The dead medium sized tree outside St Helen's church next to the Millennium Stone. This area of land is 'adopted highway' therefore SGC has control over it, thus I asked SGC to remove it which they have agreed to do.

b. Campaigning to get the Down Road top dressing/ wearing course and the resurfacing of the layby outside The Parade in next years (2024/25) resurfacing programme. The base of the road in Down Road was repaired last year, but officers like that to oxidise/ harden before applying the top dressing (it makes the resurfacing last longer).

c. Proposed battery farm at Earthcott. This was refused on Thursday 20th June's planning committee, the second committee to hear the issue and refuse it. My statement was read out. I strongly suspect that the application will now go to the Planning Inspectorate and the Government will make the final decision.

d. The cycle way/ pavement in the field adjacent to Alveston Hill has received planning permission, I still have concerns about its entrance onto Alveston Hill.

8. Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters

(Clerk) had forward prior to the agenda packs an email from Ron Bailey, who is the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster, who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. He is the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, a UK Charity dedicated to reducing the deaths and injuries caused by electricity and is looking for support to bring the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries into law.

Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting a Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. Support for the bill includes the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.

Mr Bailey is now contacting more locally based organisations and looking to Council for support with the campaign to enable it to be processed into law.

(AC) proposed that the Parish Council support the campaign to enable the bill to be processed into law, (PC) seconded and all Cllrs unanimously agreed.

24.014 Resolved: The Parish Council support the campaign to enable the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill be brought into law.

9. Financial Matters

(Clerk) had distributed June Finance Report and reconciliation with the agenda packs and Cllrs agreed that this was a true representation of the councils' current financial position.

24.015 Resolved: The financial report and reconciliations for June as presented were accepted as accurate and signed by chair.

10. Review and recommendations from Planning Committee.

There were no further Planning Items to raise.

11. Responsible Councillor and sub-group reports.

Open Spaces

1. (Clerk) advised that he had ran into difficulties in progressing the development of the nature area. A meeting with community volunteers at the behest of SGC (collaborator as the land belongs to SGC) was held in March with a view that wildflower patches would be planted in time for blossom in July and that in June structures would be put in place. (Seating, border logs, in readiness to further develop bug houses, hives and a marsh pond). (Clerk) had advised that this had not happened which has now brought into the play the use of the s106 monies which is time critical and requested that alternatives be considered to ensure the funding goes to community assets. Proposals for further play equipment was presented but Cllrs agreed that the s106 funding should be used to target a different section of the community as significant money had already been raised to benefit the children of the community. It was proposed that (Clerk) investigate the potential for a more formal area to allow dogs off the lead for exercise. (AC) proposed that (Clerk) investigate this option (MCR) second and Cllrs agreed. (VW) suggested that she would also seek alternatives.

F240715-01 – To informally research the potential for a dog walkers exercise area.

Action to (Clerk)

2. (JG) stated to Cllrs that litter bins had now been purchased for the pump track area and suggested that the picnic table which is now behind a hump in the pump track is seldom used and would be better placed elsewhere. He proposed to move the table and seating to be located at the top of the pump track next to the start area. (AC) proposed that this be actioned (MCR) seconded and all Cllrs agreed.

24.015 Resolved: The picnic table be relocated to a more appropriate position within the curtilage of the pump track.

3. (Clerk) informed Cllrs that he had considerable difficulty in receiving fixture information from Olveston Football Club in order to produce an invoice for the season which was also to include toilet usage on behalf of the Jubilee Hall Management committee. Councillors agreed that (Clerk) should be provided a fixture list prior to the season commencing and that the first two months of the season fixtures to be paid in advance. (JG) proposed this for 24/25 season (AC) second and all Cllrs agreed.

24.016 Resolved: (Clerk) to obtain a fixture list from Olveston Football club prior to the season commencing and to obtain two months pitch fees upfront.

4. (JG) reported an issue with pump track users bringing a dog onto the area. When requested to remove the dog from the field as notices advised (JG) experienced an argumentative response and a negative reply. Despite advising it was a by-law that no dogs were prenoted the pump track users still refused. Cllrs agreed it the attitude was allowed to continue unchallenged more owners would bring dogs. (Clerk) advised that as it is a bylaw charges may be pressed backed by a Magistrates Court summons. (Cllrs) agreed that a warning be given with someone seen to have more authority than the Parish Council and requested that (Clerk) seek the advise from the Police.

F240715-02 – To seek advice from PC Price regarding to escalating warnings to owners of dogs who allow them onto the Jubilee and Lime Kiln Fields.

Action to (Clerk)

Allotments

1. (Clerk) advised Cllrs that confusion had arose with the AAA in respect to s106 monies on offer for the development of the breakout area. A request for three benches had been received although this was under the permissible allocation as AAA did not take into account that the Parish Council can claim back VAT. On further investigation with the chosen supplier (Riddeford Thornbury) a round table with seating (which fulfils the requirement of the s106 funding project plan) was available. This would bring the cost to a £107 shortfall and approval was sought for the Parish Council to contribute toward the shortfall. (JG) proposed that the Parish Council Grant residual money required to fulfil the SGC PMP for s106 funding toward the breakout area. (PC) seconded and all Cllrs agreed.

24.017 Resolved: To allocate contribution to fund the s106 funding for break-out project.

2. (Clerk) had previously forwarded prior to the agendas being issued a photograph of a neighbour at the allotments installing a gate which allows access to the allotments. Although other neighbours also have gates, these are allotment users who acquired permission. A not allotment holder without permission will be regarded as a trespasser. (Cllrs) considered action to be taken and an initial letter was suggested to request that the owner permanently seal the gate. Should this fail the planting of a hawthorne hedge was agreed.

F240715-03 – Write a letter to the offending neighbour expressing concern for the erection of the gate and to seek remedial action.

Action to (Clerk)

(MCR) gave the council feedback relating to recent activity / meetings with the Jubilee Hall Management Committee where she reported-

The lock to the Jubilee Hall meter box in the Lime Kiln Field had been forced open to access the interior. (Clerk) confirmed that he was aware of the situation and had this repaired by the following day and was unaware why the box should be vandalised in such a way. As the box belongs to the Jubilee Hall, if it were to be re-sighted this would fall within the remit of the Management.

The issue with overflowing litter bin had been resolved with the Cricket Club and a satisfactory explanation and remedial action taken.

The wi-fi is up and running. Front mats will be replaced.

(AC) presented a report from the Charity of Amelia Emily Ponting. A successful application had been made toward course fees for a student. A further application had been turned down due to the applicant being resident outside the parish.

12. Authorisation of Payments

10.1 July payments authorised. Signed by (JG) & (CV)

Details	Ref.	£
Grounds Maintenance	B/P 460	1216.80
Photocopy & Print	B/P 461	50.70
Clerk Salary & Expense	B/P 462	2046.83
Salary – Cemetery Caretaker	B/P 463	163.21
Quarterly Tax & NI payment	B/P 464	1618.59
Repair to Meter Box & Water Box	B/P 465	190.00
Bus Shelter Cleaning	B/P 466	432.00
Park Inspections (Six Months)	B/P 467	630.00
Qtrly Localism Charges	B/P 468	1868.94
Groundworks for Cricket Nets	B/P 469	1920.23
Total Payments		£10137.30

10.2 Recent Receipts (June 2024)

Details	Ref.	£
Credit Interest	DCR	152.36
Tenancy Plots 1 & 13	DCR	76.00
Total Receipts		£228.00

24.018 Resolved: That all receipts and payments presented to the PC meeting on 17th June 2024 were accepted.

13. Correspondence

(Clerk) reported that two emails had been received by a resident at David's Close who is demanding that work on the safety cricket nets be halted with immediate effect otherwise planning enforcement will be called. The full emails were presented to Cllrs. Alveston Cricket Club confirmed that they had consulted all relevant neighbours when the Parish Council were lobbied for the installation of nets in 2022 and all were in favour of the installation for increased safety protection and that the complaining neighbour is new and was not involved.

Cllrs discussed and concluded that the nets are a safety precaution to prevent damage, or worse, injury to occupiers at David's Close. (It were residents that asked for the netting to be installed). The Cricket Club had taken advise from the Cricket Board who stated that nets should now be 8m and compulsory for them to have installed, otherwise insurance may be withdrawn or at worse could be sued for damages if cricket nets were not in situ.

As nets are specifically for H&S purposes and could be reduced in height when games are not played and that the posts are temporary structures, Cllrs concluded that it was not necessary to contact planning nor to conform with the demands of the resident.

It was also noted that the resident complained about the existing safety fence and how it effects the value of property and the condition of the hedge which had not been attended to.

(Clerk) advised that he had spoken to the Cllr responsible for erecting the permanent fence who advised him that correct procedures were followed. It was 1997/98 that the fence was erected, again for safety purposes. Cllrs were unsure of the point of the complaint relating to a lower property value due to the existing fence as the resident had recently purchased his property with fence in situ. The grounds maintenance contractor is aware of rules relating to hedge cutting for councils due to nesting birds and confirmed that the hedge is maintained in Oct / Nov as it has been done every year.

Cllrs advised (Clerk) to contact the complaining neighbour to state that the Parish Council will not reverse the action being taken relating to installing safety netting.

F240715-04 – To contact the complaining neighbour to state that the Parish Council will not reverse the action being taken relating to installing safety netting.

Action to (Clerk)

Alveston Community Events had contacted (Clerk) to request a grant toward the Alveston Summer Fair scheduled for 7th September. Cllrs had considered the previous year event to be a huge success and agreed to contribute the same.

24.019 Resolved: The Parish Council to grant £500 to Alveston Community Events toward the cost of the Alveston Summer Fair.

14. Website / Helmet

Nothing to add.

15. Any Matters to be carried to next meeting.

(VW) requested that issues relating to cars speeding at Greenhill and illegal parking at the parade should be considered.

(AC) requested that investigation be made to trading of used cars being operated within the parish and to check the operator has consent from SGC.

Meeting Closed 21.25PM

The next Council Meeting will be 16th September 2024. (Jubilee Hall)