

SAPPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2021

AT 7PM VIA ZOOM

1. IN ATTENDANCE

Members of the Parish Council: Sarah Osborn Smith, Chair (SOS); Charles Houldsworth, Treasurer and Vice Chair; Sara Taylor (ST); Daniel Janocka (DJ); Barbara Maloney (BM) Clerk;

Also, GCC Councillor Stephen Hirst; CDC Ermin Ward Councillor Julia Judd

Apologies: Graham Marchand (GM); Marcel Puyk (MP);

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the February 2021 meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom were approved and will be signed by the Chair as soon as practicable.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended the meeting on this occasion.

4. CDC AND GCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS

4.1 Julia Judd Report:

- New Planning Protocol
 - applications referred to Committee for further scrutiny are now triaged – previewed by Panel of Committee Chair, Vice Chair and 2 Senior Planning Officers.
 - Ward Councillors not invited. Not able to represent Parish views.
 - No Minutes therefore no record of discussion. No transparency under this new mechanism – open to abuse/corruption
 - Only one per month is getting through for Committee scrutiny where 4-12 were previously referred.
 - Ward Councillor is taking it up with Monitoring Officer
 - Planning Dept under stress – staffing shortages

PC questioned under what authority CDC were able to set this system up. In-house decision in December 2020 as time saving mechanism. However, the important purpose of Committee and the additional scrutiny it provides is being undermined. Public perception = significant mistrust of Planning process already.
- Cotswold Crowd Funding: Depending on how much you raise CDC will provide some additional funding. If you do not raise enough, project fails and money has to be returned to supporters. Accessed via ‘space hive’ – 67% success rate. System allows 10 weeks to raise funds – will help you publicise project. Platform costs CDC £30,000 per year. PC expressed shock at this annual cost as crowd funding can be achieved by individuals for very low cost.
- Fly-Tipping: ‘Kev’ has been invaluable as contact for fly-tipping removal – his contract has been renewed. Motion Activated Cameras suggested for known ‘hot spots’. Funding

possible under 'Civic Pride'. PC Councillor offered info on own successful CCTV setup to Ward Councillor to be forwarded to CDC 'procurement'.

- Flood Forum Meeting: Multiple agencies involved but not cohesive approach. Drainage budget cut to fund other things.

4.2 GCC Councillor Stephen Hirst

- GCC recommended Budget =£483m – an increase of £14.8m over last year
 - £25.5m investment in services including £8.75m – Adult Social Care Levy; £7m –Vulnerable Children + economic development.
 - £36m invested in new schools, school improvements and making more school buildings Carbon Neutral.
 - £20m for Road and cycle route improvement including £5m for Glos South West Bypass. (Current pinch point is at 'Bikini Bathrooms') To mee
 - £2m towards £9.5m Cheltenham to Gloucester Cycle Path
 - £2.7m – Fire & Rescue Service
 - £1.8m to support broadband rollout. Gigaclear subsidised to install broadband in rural areas. VOIP phone connection available.

PC asked if Gigaclear could be pressured into allowing other providers to use their infrastructure. Contract end may mean Gigaclear's exclusivity could end.

- GCC Highways: Road repairs = 41 sites micros surfaced 196 sites patched and surface dressed, 495 resurfaced with new tarmac, (599,000 tons of tarmac have been used (31,000 lorry loads). 17% of Glos roads have been resurfaced. Glos Highways App for reporting location of potholes will find exact spot and report immediately – take a photo and upload. Repair within 3 hours for serious ones.
- Ash Die Back Project: 2,500 dangerous Ash trees removed. Removing 3,300 infected trees by end of year. Natural regeneration already occurring – 1,500 new trees. Plan to reintroduce 7,708 trees plus 2,410 hedging plants. Offering Parish Councils free 'whips' of trees.
- Registration Services: Death registrations falling. 3,485 amended weddings; 285 postponements, 1,864 new bookings, 474 couples have decided not to marry. Backlog of 467 newborns yet to be registered.
- Libraries are now open. Click and Collect service working well.
- Fire services have done sterling work helping with recent flooding, driving ambulances and delivering PPE to care homes and other services.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

20/04591/FUL – JOLLY NICE CAFÉ & FARM SHOP

Extension to existing farm shop incorporating conversion of former White Horse Inn, retention of existing buildings, existing picnic meadow seating and 2no. yurts, erection of 1no. yurt and glasshouse, creation of 1 no. residential flat, new accesses, parking, and associated landscaping.

- PC sought professional planning assistance from local planning consultants but quote although fair was too high for PC to commit public funds to. Clerk sourced another experienced planning consultant who offered to review and comment on this application for expenses only. Deadline for comment has been extended. Planning consultant provided brief summary of queries for comment:

- All deliveries to and from site are routed via Rodmarton Lane – too narrow for two large vehicles to pass and possible issues re room to turn around within the site.
- Highways: Lack of engagement. CDC Planning Officer states that if GCC Highways as consultee, do not request conditions on a planning application or do not request a S106, planners have no power to add these.
- PC regards GCC Highways as failing in its duty under the Highways Act by not ensuring the junction at the White Horse Inn is fit for purpose. Road Safety Audit can be requested if impact on road layout is significant.

ACTION:

- Chair to request appraisal of application from PC Planning Consultant, identifying potential issues, circulate draft to members and submit comment by 19 March deadline.
- Clerk to finalise letter to GCC Highways Jose Nunes dos Santos, expressing dissatisfaction with his ‘robust assessment’ which stated no issues with increased traffic at Junction, cc CDC Planning.
- Chair to contact Mr Nunes dos Santos re site visit and follow up with confirmation email re conversation
- Clerk to compile list of residential properties affected by increased activity at junction: Residences on A419, The Downs and Rodmarton Lane.

Matters Arising from last meeting:

Query re CIL payment – could it be payable where breach has occurred and works have already begun.

20/02657/FUL – JOLLY NICE CAFÉ AND FARM SHOP (JN)

Erection of drive through (relocation of existing drive through) together with car parking, access, landscaping and associated works.

No decision has been made yet on this application. Breach has occurred - work has been undertaken without requisite planning permission. PC has lodged two objections on this application.

20/03785/FUL – JOLLY NICE CAFÉ AND FARM SHOP (JN)

Installation of External Lighting (retrospective).

Significant amounts of Festoon lighting were installed without planning permission and left on overnight. The Parish Council submitted a comment on this application and submitted photos of the external lights taken after business hours of CDC Planning. The lighting is currently being turned off appropriately. Local residents raised objections to volume and brightness of lighting creating a statutory nuisance and significant glare for motorists. CDC Planning Case Officer has confirmed that the current festoon lighting will be removed. Application still awaiting decision.

OTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

PC resolved not to comment on any other applications currently in progress.

6 LEVEL CROSSING

- Philip Hackett and PC Clerk attended a webinar with Office of Road and Rail.

- Level Crossing seen as high risk due to ‘long signal section’ – trains can be seen by NR signaller to be in section but exact location is not known.
- ORR agreed to contact Wales and South West representative and request he liaise with NR on our behalf to encourage better communication.
- Recommendation is for mini stop light which would flash red when train in section. Work was to be undertaken in March 2021 – we keep fingers crossed

7 FINANCE

- **Current Bank balances: Current Account: £564; Savings: £9,033**

Outgoings:

- FM Grass Cutting: M Kellet - £1,420
- Clerk’s remuneration - £150 p.m.

KP Gardens has enquired about continuation of grass cutting contract for Sapperton due to expire soon. PC discussed current cost and work undertaken by KP Gardens as amount charged considered high by some members of the Council. Additional mowing and hedge-cutting has been requested over time. Above a specified amount detailed in PC standing orders, quotes are to be sought as part of procurement of services.

ACTION: PC resolved to source quotes from other providers to ensure current annual fee of £4,922 + VAT is competitive (VAT component is reclaimed by PC). This will require ‘walking the village’ with prospective service providers. An itemised list of current tasks and costings has been circulated to Councillors.

Accounts approved for Audit

8 CLERK’S REPORT

Clerk’s Report was circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting

- Blocked Public Right of Way BSA3: Ramblers Assoc arranging reopening of path as and when Covid restrictions allow.
- Bath dumped at 1st ‘pull-in’ on Chapman’s Cross to Sapperton road was reported via CDC Fly-Tipping app and removed.
- Flooding near Lower Manor and Viaduct in FM – reported to GCC Highways Incident Number 11302894 and Thames Water consulted. GCC Highways are investigating
- Sapperton Housing Needs Survey: Result still not provided
- Westley Farm – right of way exists from Westley Farm to Lower Manor via the Coombes. Clerk has checked OS maps with Ramblers Assoc contact – owner of Westley Farm correct to request walkers to turn right at farm buildings – no bridleway.
- Retail space checked with CDC Planner – marginally greater than in previously approved application 19/03644/FUL. CDC Planner confirms that Use Class E, introduced in Sept 2020, amalgamates several Use Classes into one. Use can be changed to any within the class without further planning permission. This includes ‘Restaurant’ which would significantly impact on local pubs in vicinity.

9 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

SOS:

Frampton Mansell Playground Lease: 25 year lease, £100 per year, ran out in 2019.
PC resolved possible offer - £200 per year. Lease to be in PC's name.
Alternative Suggestion: Bathurst Estate donate the land and PC offers to cover legal fees re transfer (approx. cost £450 - £1,000).
ACTION: PC to ascertain ownership of field as may have changed hands recently.

ST:

FM Road Closure: Crown Inn to Lower Manor overnight 22/23 March for Network Rail to conduct Bridge inspection.
Wooden Bollards in Sapperton – can these be removed? To be discussed with Landowner.

CH – Nothing to report

DJ – Nothing to report

10 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021 AT 7PM – VIA ZOOM

**IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK
ON 01285 760 276 FOR ACCESS LINK AND PASSWORD**

Zoom Meeting Ended: 9:33pm

Signed.....Date.....

(Chair of Sapperton Parish Council)

Minutes (62) 9 March 2020