

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT

Cllr Hayward (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Barge, Cllr N Deller, Cllr D Evans, Cllr A Gibbons, Cllr J Sparrow, and Cllr M Young. Clerk to the Council, Mr R Cowley, and Ms Wendy Hopkins of Brodie Planning Associates, and six members of the public were also present.

Cllr Hayward opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1 – APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr C Smith, Cllr I Smith, and Cllr M Turner, and from Cllr M Evemy (CDC) and Cllr L Spivey (GCC).

2 – MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 9TH JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were unanimously approved as being a true record.

3 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

4 – NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Hayward introduced the consultant, Wendy Hopkins of Brodie Planning Associates, who would be helping to formulate the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Siddington.

Ms Hopkins then provided an introduction to Neighbourhood Planning.

- A Neighbourhood Development Plan (or Neighbourhood Plan) is a statutory planning document which sits alongside Cotswold District Council's Local Plan, and it conforms with it. It carries the same weight as CDC's Local Plan.
- The policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan must be taken into consideration by developers in the planning applications and by the Local Planning Authority (CDC) when making planning application determinations.
- Stages of a Neighbourhood Plan:
 - Evidence gathering – history of the parish/community, what the residents like or dislike.
 - Formulation of policies based on the evidence gathered.
 - Publicise the plan and consult the community.
 - Submit final version of Neighbourhood Plan to CDC for approval.
 - Referendum (run by CDC) for electors of the parish to approve or reject the Plan.

Ms Hopkins also advised that there were many different opportunities for residents to be involved, and that many Plan groups had members who came and went during the process, only choosing to be involved in part of process.

Following some questions from members of the public present, Cllr Hayward encouraged those present to consider whether they might wish to be involved in creating the Neighbourhood Plan in whichever way they felt they might be able to assist.

Cllr Hayward then thanked Ms Hopkins for attending and she and the six members of the public left the meeting.

5 – CHAIR’S REPORT

Cllr Turner had reported via email:

1. I have been approached by a couple of people asking about the Bathurst Estate charging for access to Cirencester Park. Outside of Siddington I know but probably of relevance to many residents. The facts are that they will be charging for access to Cirencester Park from the Spring this year (dates as yet unspecified on their web site). Siddington is within the postcode area where households or individuals can apply for a community pass which will allow free access to the park for the pass holder(s). This can be requested via the Bathurst Estate Web site or at the ticket office on Cecily Hill. A £10 deposit is required for each pass, and proof of address is required to verify that you qualify for the community pass. Although I applied online, it was not easy, so if people are not confident with a computer probably better to do it in person. I am waiting to hear back from them that I qualify and when I will receive my pass
2. Health and Safety – the gas connection on Parkway is still surrounded by temporary barriers. This will become a problem in grass cutting season as it will either be run into and the pipe potentially damaged, or the grass will not be cut properly in that area. This will need to be chased up.
3. Police report – 6 crimes of violence and 4 of theft in one month in a community of our size seems quite high to me. It would be helpful if the report gave some indication if any or all of these are connected.
4. Highways
 - a. The state of the roads particularly Siddington Road between Church Avenue and Spire view. They have patched the worst of the craters, but the road is still full of potholes and in an appalling state. The only bit fit for driving or cycling on is the strip down the middle of the road – not ideal to say the least.
 - b. The Butts – more pot hole than road. I have heard someone blame local building works, but much of the damage is between that entrance and the bridge, which the heavy lorries are not using.
 - c. Out of Siddington I know but still GCC and a road I travel along too many times a day – Somerford Road/Spratsgate Lane – again more pot hole than road along much of it.
 - d. Nursery view – the drain part that was down appears totally blocked causing flooding during periods of prolonged rain. Possibly due to all the mud and debris from the recent works.
 - e. Signs – coming into Siddington from Cirencester is a disgrace. As Cllr Deller has pointed out the gateway sign is now lying in the verge beyond repair. On the other side of the road is a very faded and almost illegible pedestrians in the road sign.

6 – POLICE REPORT

SUMMARY

This report covers the period of **1st January to 31st January 2024**

There were **13 crimes** to report this month.

CRIME BREAKDOWN

Burglary Residential – 1 (Attempt burglary)

Burglary Business & Community – 0

Theft – 4
Criminal Damage – 2
Violence – 6
Public Order – 0
Concern for Welfare - 0
Fraud – 0
Sexual Offence – 0
Drugs – 0
Other Notifiable – 0

INFORMATION

There are continuing trends of online banking frauds. Please look up on the Gloucestershire Website or please report any incidents to Action Fraud- [Reporting fraud and cyber crime | Action Fraud](#) or by calling the number below. You can also report any concerns or incidents by calling **0300 123 2040** Monday to Friday 8am - 8pm. If you are calling from abroad please call +44 300 123 2040.

For further information concerning the crime figures please go to the police website www.police.uk

The South Cerney Policing Team can be contacted by telephoning the non-emergency number 101 or emailing 101@gloucestershire.police.uk. Information can also be passed via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. We are also contactable on line either via the Constabulary website www.gloucestershire.police.uk and follow the links from the Neighbourhood Policing section on the left of the page.

Many thanks
PC Christopher Pritchard (Area Beat Manager)
PCSO Beverley Rowe

7 – FLOODING MATTERS

- Cllr Hayward would speak to Jan Bayley regarding mapping of recently flooding areas.
- Cllr Deller reported water rising from the ground in fields to the north of Talland.

8 - OUTSTANDING & HIGHWAYS ISSUES LIST

<u>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faded weight limit sign at Park Way / Ashton Rd junction – (GCC-11244507) Clerk chased Jan 2019. RG (Highways) chasing. Clerk chased Jan 2020 and Sep 2022. 21.09.23. RG reported – “When this has been reported I have forwarded onto the contractor’s safety inspection team for inspection. My system tells me that the weight limit signs were replaced but at the time of inspection the “except for access” plate was legible and not in need of being replaced. I can arrange another inspection now and if required arrange for a new plate to be installed.” 14.11.23 - The Clerk would chase again. 22.12.23 – RG ordered new sign. 	25.08.16

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding by old railway bridge on Ashton Road. Done. HE checking every 6 months. Monitor situation. Glos Highways drainage works Dec 2022. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough parking area at Upper Siddington 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath sign down on Coach Road opposite school. (GCC-11348847) 21.09.23 – RG chased with Gloucestershire PROW. The Clerk would chase again. The Clerk chased again. Jan 2024 - Gloucestershire PROW writing to landowner. 	05.01.22 Nov 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30mph sign on Siddington Rd from north - and posts damaged on gateway sign. (GCC-11365464). Chased Sep 2022. Chased Mar 2023. Clerk to chase again (Jun 2023), and also hidden in hedge foliage. 21.09.23. RG reported – “there has been some confusion with respect as to where the maintenance liability lies for gateways and gateways which incorporate the speed limit termination/start points. I have now received clarification which is the community offer 50/50. I understand that Gill has now explained this and she is seeking a quote for you. Once in we can process an application for repairs etc. Also, I have had a look at this and it would appear that the foliage is growing from a third-party boundary hedge. This would be the responsibility of the adjoining landowner. We have already approach Bathurst whom we believe to be the owners, as a fall back and without prejudice when I next have the community gang, I will get some local trimming undertaken.” 14.11.23 – Sign now totally demolished. Clerk would chase again. Awaiting quote for repair (50/50 Community Offer). Feb 2024 – Clerk chased again. 	17.05.22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing 30mph gateway sign on Ashton Road. (GCC-11365467) 26.05.22 – job raised for replacement. 29.07.22 – awaiting work. Chased Sep 2022. Chased Mar 2023. 21.09.23. RG reported – “there has been some confusion with respect as to where the maintenance liability lies for gateways and gateways which incorporate the speed limit termination/start points. I have now received clarification which is the community offer 50/50. I understand that Gill has now explained this and she is seeking a quote for you. Once in we can process an application for repairs etc.” 14.11.23 – Clerk would chase again. Awaiting quote for repair (50/50 Community Offer). Feb 2024 – Clerk chased again. 	17.05.22
<u>OTHER ISSUES</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropped kerb on Siddington Road opposite Church Avenue. RC meeting RG 14.10.22. Possible 2023-24 under 50/50 Community Offer. Clerk to chase again (Jun 2023). Progress paused to await Bathurst plans for Talland. 	Sep 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven surface of path from Pound Close to School. RC emailed Glos PROW – looking at 10.10.22 Worked to be carried out over October 2023 half-term. 14.11.23 – Work done, but not to the expected standard as still uneven around tree roots. Cllr Spivey to investigate. 10.01.24 – Cllr Spivey reported via email that the path had been improved, but not to high standard, which would not be possible without major expensive work. The Clerk would take photos and email Cllr Spivey and Gloucestershire PROW. It was noted that the path serves the school, Spire View, and Severells Field. 	Sep 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive foliage along east side of road between Preston Toll Bar and junction with South Cerney Road (close to Siddington Mill). 21.09.23. RG reported – “This was added to our flailing list for when resources are available.” 14.11.23 – Clerk to chase again. 22.12.23 – RG reported that resources had run out – re-added to list. 	Oct 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding on Parkway corner. 22.12.23 – RG arranging CCTV and exploratory investigations. 	Nov 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding on Parkway at old railway bridge by entrance to The Twenties. 22.12.23 – RG added to CCTV list for next financial year. 	Nov 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign down at entrance to Church Avenue. Jan 2023 - Repaired by Cllr Barge. 	Nov 2022

9 – HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

- Defibrillator provision for Upper Siddington – no update until weather improves.

10 – PLANNING

Planning applications received at Cotswold District Council to 8th February 2024

- **23/02153/FUL**
Applicant: Mr Jonny Bruce, c/o agent Mr Nico Smith, Red Kite Design & Build Ltd, 12 South Croft, Winscombe, BS25 1JW
Proposal: Creation of access track to highway, creation of farm track and hardstanding and associated works at land parcel at Severells Field, Parkway, Siddington
Consultation expiry date: 29th January 2024
NEW DETAILS
The Council agreed to maintain its earlier objections.
- **24/00100/FUL**
Applicant: Mr Balendran Thibakaran, c/o agent Mr Samraj Randhawa, 202 Burnham Lane, Slough, SL1 6LE
Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to store/flat, dropped kerb to front drive way and other associated works at The Post Office Stores, 26 Ashton Road, Siddington, GL7 6HD
Consultation expiry date: 23rd February 2024
Whilst the Council did not object to the proposed extension to the building it did object to the proposed changes to vehicle access arrangements, which it believed were not properly thought out. It was felt that the proposal would actually reduce parking provision, and would create a dangerous exit onto an already busy highway between

frequently parked cars. Marked out parking spaces on the current forecourt were felt to be preferable.

OBJECTION

- **24/00145/FUL**

Applicant: c/o agent Mr Royston Davies, TPM Cotswold Ltd, Lane Close, Station Road, South Cerney, Cirencester, GL7 5UB

Proposal: Removal of condition g (agricultural occupation) of permission CT2970 - Outline application for the erection of one farm dwelling, mains water supply, septic tank drainage, construction of a new vehicular access at Worms Farm Bungalow, Cirencester Road, South Cerney. GL7 6HT

Consultation expiry date: 22nd February 2024

It was explained that some rural housing which would not ordinarily receive planning permission can be permitted subject to the occupation of the property being restricted to those engaged in agriculture. Such properties are said to have an agricultural tie. Worms Farm Cottage is subject to such an agricultural tie which the new owner has applied for planning permission to lift so that the property may be occupied on an unrestricted basis. After discussion members decided that the reasons given to justify lifting the tie were either insufficient or irrelevant or needed further explanation and it was agreed to object to the application.

OBJECTION

To note planning decisions at Cotswold District Council to 8th February 2024

- **23/04007/AGFO**

Prior notification for a storage shed to store materials associated with running the plant nursery at land at Severells Field E402487 N199836, Parkway, Siddington – Application refused

Update on Severells Field development

Cllr Turner reported via email that all houses are now complete although a few are as yet unoccupied. Work is continuing on the communal areas and roads. I haven't seen anyone to speak to about when they hope to be off site completely.

Update on Anesco Solar Farm development

There was no update.

Update on the school development

Cllr Evans reported that the development was on track to be finished in November this year, and that the drop-off point in the Severells Field development would be completed shortly. The Parish Council was pleased to hear of the good relationship between the construction company and the school and that the schoolchildren were getting educational benefit from seeing the works progress.

11 - PLAYING FIELD / FOOTBALL CLUB / CRICKET CLUB

Trim Trail

Cllr C Smith reported via email that the application forms were in the process of being completed.

12 – GRAVEYARD EXTENSION

The Clerk reported that he had written to Bathurst Estate with the suggestion of land to the south of Church Avenue as an alternative to the earlier proposal, which included part of Talland.

13 – FINANCE

The monthly schedule of payments for February had been circulated with the agenda, along with the monthly accounts statement and finance spreadsheet.

The amounts noted for February were:

- £50.00 – Siddington Village News – donation (February)
- £112.50 – Siddington Village Hall – room hire (Village Show)
- £18.00 – Siddington Village Hall – room hire
- £235.00 – H J Carter – grass cutting
- £16.12 – R Cowley – expenses (mileage & phone)
- R Cowley – salary (January & February)

14 – POTENTIAL CLOSURE TO TRAFFIC OF GREEN LANE – UPDATE

Cllr Evemy (CDC) reported via email:

I raised this with Phil Measures, the relevant CDC officer, as requested. Here's a precis of his reply:

The main thing that has changed is that we have placed enforcement cameras in the lane over extended intervals and this has resulted in enforcement action and a significant drop in fly-tipping incidents there. These are the fly-tipping statistics in Green Lane for the last 7 months:

December	1
November	0
October	0
September	1
August	0
July	0
June	0

This contrasts with 8 to 10 a month prior to that period.

When we looked at closure before, we advised that it would be better for residents to make a direct application to the County Council to close the lane. If the Council was to consult on the application of a PSPO to close the lane, it would still require the approval of the County, but the district Council would be responsible for the enforcement, maintenance and reinstatement costs. This would require a report to Cabinet to consider the costs and benefits. The evidence for a PSPO must show there in an ongoing problem.

Unless there is other evidence of ongoing anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping would not be sufficient to justify a PSPO.

All the limitations of a PSPO as previously discussed still apply, it's limited timescale and costs for CDC and the requirement to gain support from GCC who haven't been supportive of a road closure order.

I am sorry that this isn't a more positive answer, but I think it backs up what was said two years ago that a road closure order was the better option.

15 – CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Minutes and action points from Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown's Flood Meeting on 24th November 2023.
- 2 Notification of closure of Canal Lane from 23rd January for up to five days.

- 3 Written approval from Bathurst Estate for the installation of the trim trail and the defibrillator.
- 4 GAPTC invitation to February networking session on Annual Parish Meetings.
- 5 GAPTC January newsletter.
- 6 Notification from GAPTC on launch of GCC Greener Gloucestershire climate change community fund.
- 7 Notification of Cirencester Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation.
- 8 Notification of changes to parliamentary boundaries across the Cotswold District to come into effect for the next General Election.
- 9 Copy of an email and photos from a resident to Cllr Spivey (GCC) regarding the potholes in Siddington Road.
- 10 CDC update of its Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 11 Notification of temporary closure of Ashton Road from 26th February to 4th March for sewer repair works.
- 12 GCC Councils Connected newsletter.
- 13 Press release from CDC regarding installation of CCTV cameras in rural Cotswolds following a series of car thefts and break-ins.
- 14 GAPTC training opportunities.
- 15 GRCC Newsbites newsletter.
- 16 Invitation to CDC Town & Parish Council Forum on 28th February.
- 17 Notification of consultation on update of CDC Local Plan.
- 18 Notification of Cotswold District Local Plan Update and Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan Consultation.
- 19 Notification of temporary closure of the road from Spratsgate Lane to Park Leaze near Ewen from 4th to 8th March.
- 20 Invitation to GAPTC online Annual Parish Meeting workshop on 27th February.
- 21 Report from Cllr Spivey (GCC).

16 – COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Cllr Sparrow reported that the allotment holders would be holding a meeting to form a committee.

Cllr Spivey (GCC) reported via email:

- Siddington Road and Ashton Road from Cherry Tree Drive to Frazier’s Folly are planned to be re-surfaced during financial year 2025/26. I have asked that this be expedited if at all possible as the road is well use and in very poor condition. I also expressed my concern about the section of road between Church Avenue and Spire View which is always falling apart when it rains.
- I have asked again for comprehensive hedgerow cutting to happen now on that same stretch of road as it becomes quickly quite a danger, especially for cyclists when it grows.

- I still have Build Back Better funding which I need to use this year, so if there are any community projects you know of that need support, please pass on the information and spread the word.

The Parish Council wondered why the proposed re-surfacing only went as far as Frazier's Folly and not to the edge of the village at the speed limit signs near Nursery View, as this section of road is also in as bad condition and needs re-surfacing.

17 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

18 – NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked members for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Chair