

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT

Cllr M Turner (Chair), Cllr M Barge, Cllr N Deller, Cllr A Gibbons, Cllr C Smith, Cllr J Sparrow, Cllr I Waters, Cllr C Young and Cllr M Young.

Cllr M Evemy (CDC) joined the meeting at 7.52pm. Clerk to the Council, Mr R Cowley and two members of the public were also present.

Cllr Turner opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1 – APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Hayward and Cllr I Smith.

2 – MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 12TH NOVEMBER 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

The Clerk reported that he would be arranging a visit to look at potential sites and an ANPR speed camera on Ashton Road.

4 – CHAIR'S REPORT

Cllr Turner:

- thanked Cllr Sparrow for decorating the Parish Council tree at the recent Christmas Tree Festival in St Peter's Church.
- reported that a petition had been started against the renewal of Ringway's contract with Gloucestershire Highways.
- reported that it had been suggested replacing the bench in the churchyard with a backless version so the it could be used to face in either direction. There was also an option of acquiring benches from storage at the old station.
- a suggestion to purchase a leaf blower for street cleansing was considered, but dismissed on logistics and health and safety grounds.

5 – POLICE REPORT

No report had been received.

6 – BATHURST ESTATE

It was reported that the Estate was still looking at options for the graveyard that would satisfy Environment Agency requirements.

7 – RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON REMOTE AND HYBRID MEETINGS AND PROXY VOTING

The Council agreed to oppose the option for hybrid meetings, support the option for remote meetings in extreme circumstances, and oppose the option for proxy voting.

8 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Barge reported on the findings from the household survey, which included support for maintaining the gap between Siddington and Cirencester, and no support for other than infill development. It was noted that the land opposite the Greyhound on Ashton Road had already been offered for development. The plan would aim to encourage proper development of the old Talland site.

9– FLOODING MATTERS

The Council noted that despite the recent heavy rain, there appeared to have been no issues other than blocked road gullies. Parkway had been a major problem, and it was noted that CCTV inspection had now been put back to January 2025.

10 - 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. 12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up. 05.09.24 – Clerk chased again. 03.10.24 – Clerk chased again. 21.10.24 – GP will arrange to replace any faded signs.
<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 had worked.
<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. 21.10.24 – Clerk chased with Gloucestershire PROW.

- 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.
12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up.
02.07.24 – GP sorting replacement.
05.09.24 – Clerk chased again.
03.10.24 – Clerk chased again.
21.10.24 – GP arranging for new sign and gateway to be erected at no cost to Parish Council.

- 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.
12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up again.
02.07.24 – GP advised replacement ordered.
05.09.24 – Clerk chased again.
03.10.24 – Clerk chased again.
21.10.24 – GP arranging for new sign to be erected to gateway and 30mph sign to be changed to original at no cost to Parish Council.

OTHER ISSUES

- 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.

<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.
<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. 12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up again. 02.07.24 – GP advised would look to get flailed. 05.09.24 – Clerk chased again. 03.10.24 – Clerk chased again. 21.10.24 – GP advised on list for cutting back and programmed for December 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding on Parkway corner. 22.12.23 – RG arranging CCTV and exploratory investigations. 12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up again. 02.07.24 – GP advised that landowner refused to deal with. GCC drainage team will look into. 05.09.24 – Clerk chased again. 03.10.24 – Clerk chased again. 21.10.24 – GP advised CCTV booked for November. 27.11.24 – GP advised CCTV now booked for January 2025.
<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. 12.04.24 – GP advised she would chase up again. 02.07.24 – GP advised would chase up CCTV. 05.09.24 – Clerk chased again. 03.10.24 – Clerk chased again. 21.10.24 – GP advised CCTV booked for November. 27.11.24 – GP advised CCTV now booked for January 2025.

11 – HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

- Defibrillator provision for Upper Siddington – The Clerk was waiting to hear back from Lechlade with more information on the scheme involving installing defibrillators on specially made lamp post “stumps”.
- The Clerk had also chased up Stonewood for the promised defibrillator.

12 – PLANNING**Planning applications received by Cotswold District Council to 5th December 2024**• **24/03468/FUL**

Applicant: Mrs C Hilditch, c/o agent Mt Colin Rowland, Halzac Design Ltd,
1 Whitgift Close, Swindon, SN5 6HQ

Proposal: Erection of a boundary stone wall and rebuild of damaged stone wall at
Siddington Mill, South Cerney Road, Siddington, GL7 6EU

Consultation expiry date: 2nd January 2025

NO OBJECTION

Planning decisions at Cotswold District Council to 5th December 2024• **24/03148/NOTDEM**

Demolition of a block of 10no prefabricated concrete garages with corrugated asbestos
roofs and steel up-and-over doors at 1-10 Pound Close, Siddington GL7 6JH - Prior
approval not required

Update on the solar farm development

The Clerk reported that the £80,000 community contribution from the owners had been transferred to the Parish Council. The Clerk would research an appropriate bank account for the deposit, in order to spread the risk.

Update on the school development

Cllr Young reported that work was on track to be completed by 22nd December.

13 - PLAYING FIELD MATTERS**Trim Trail**

Cllr M Young reported that he was still gathering supporters' signatures.

14 – GRAVEYARD EXTENSION

This had been covered under the Bathurst Estate update earlier in the meeting.

15 – FINANCE

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

The amounts noted for December were:

£50.00 – Siddington Village News – donation (December)

£46.05 – PATA (UK) – payroll services

£22.39 – R Cowley – expenses (parking, mileage & phone)

R Cowley – salary (December)

The Council noted the receipt of £80,000 community benefit funding from Gresham House in respect of the new solar farm.

The Council also considered the two tenders for the grass cutting contract for 2025 to 2027 and voted for the preferred contractor. The Clerk would advise the contractors.

16 – POTENTIAL CLOSURE TO TRAFFIC OF GREEN LANE – UPDATE

Cllr Hayward had made a report including costs by email, and the Council voted for the preferred Counsel.

17 – CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 November report for Cllr Spivey (GCC).
- 2 Notice of GPFA AGM and agenda.
- 3 GAPTC newsletter (including information on the government consultation on remote and hybrid meetings and proxy voting).
- 4 CDC Business Matters newsletter.
- 5 GRCC Newsbites newsletter.
- 6 Email from Siddington Village Hall introducing their new website and invitation to the annual carol concert on 17th December.
- 7 Request for a replacement notice board in the bus shelter in north Siddington. The Council agreed to provide a replacement notice board in a similar style to that at the post office, but without doors.
- 8 Request for release of school activity support funds to Siddington CofE School. The Head had been asked to provide a schedule showing how the funds would be spent.
- 9 Tenders for grass cutting for 2025-27.
- 10 Further information from GAPTC on the government consultation on remote and hybrid meetings and proxy voting.
- 11 GCC Councils Connected newsletter.

18 – COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Cllr Young reported that a memorial service to mark the 80th anniversary of the Lancaster bomber crash in Siddington would be held at St Peter’s Church on 9th February 2025, followed by a reception and unveiling of a plaque at the Village Hall.

Cllr Barge reported that the church carol service would be taking place the following Sunday.

Cllr Evemy (CDC) reported that:

- the first transfer of staff from Publica to CDC had taken place and senior roles in the planning department were now being filled.
- the CDC cabinet had been reshuffled.
- the government’s White Paper on local government changes was due to be published next week.

19 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public present raised the issue of the poor state of repair of the steps on footpath BSN15/BSN1 where the canal crosses the Churn. The Clerk would write to Gloucestershire PROW. Questions were also raised about other footpaths in Siddington and it was agreed to check the county council’s definitive map for any missing.

20 – NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked members for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Chair