

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT

Cllr. J Hall (Chairman), Cllr E Jones, Cllr A Pugh, Cllr M Turner, Cllr A Wagstaff.
GCC/CDC Cllr S Parsons.

Clerk of the Council R Cowley

1 - APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Selby, Cllr N Deller, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr A Painter, Cllr M Painter and Cllr A Prosser.

2 - MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 11TH JULY 2017

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

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

Cllr Deller had completed the necessary forms to claim the grant from CDC towards the cost of the defibrillator to be sited at Wildwood Park. (Cllr Parsons (CDC) later signed the form for the Clerk to submit to CDC).

4 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had no separate report to make as all matters were covered elsewhere in the agenda.

5 – CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had no report to make.

6 – POLICE REPORT

No Police report had been received this month. The Council noted that PC Mark Weedon had now moved to his new area and PC Leah Davies had taken over.

7 – REPORT ON INSTALLATION OF GIGACLEAR FIBRE-OPTIC BROADBAND IN THE VILLAGE

The Council noted that this phase of installation now appeared to be complete.

Cllr Parsons joined the meeting at this point.

8 - OUTSTANDING ISSUES LIST

- Removal of grass island on Church Avenue - ongoing
- Pursue new village signs – Cllr Hall would circulate the catalogue and website link for members to express their preferences. – Ongoing.

9 - HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & HEDGES (GCC ref nos)

- 11072155 – Replacement of missing Siddington school sign – ongoing

- 11081789 – Repositioning of Park Way reflective posts – ongoing
 - Restoration of fallen road sign on Ashton Road – ongoing
 - Resurface parking area by playing field – ongoing.
 - 11102027 – Clear drain at the railway bridge stanchions on Ashton Road – ongoing.
 - 11115630 – Drain area on Park Way opposite The Twenties regularly blocked during heavy rain
 - 11115617 – Faded weight limit sign at Park Way / Ashton Road junction – ongoing.
 - 22010624 - Speed limit sign on Park Way still leaning – ongoing.
 - Handrail on steps leading from Upper Siddington bridge to canal still missing.
 - Cllr Wagstaff had previously reported the increasing number of potholes appearing at the upper end of Park Way –ongoing.
 - 11147385 - Footpath from Pound Close to school – trees and bushes overhanging path – partly cut back.
 - 11147386 - Clarks Lane – trees and hedge overhanging road causing vehicles to drive on verge on opposite side of road –ongoing.
 - 11147390 - The Butts/Nursery View – weight limit sign down.
 - Wall at entrance to Pound Close now rebuilt – Bromford
 - The Clerk had reported the overgrown hedge and brambles along Ashton Road to Church Avenue – the Clerk would chase this again. Ongoing
- Cllr Hall passed this list of outstanding issues to Cllr Parsons to investigate further.

10 - PLANNING

North Hill Road Footpath

Cllr Parsons reported that Bloor Homes expected to install the footpath from their development to the canal path in the autumn.

The Parish Council noted planning applications decided by Cotswold District Council:

17/02013/FUL CT.5259/C

Erection of a single storey oak framed garden room to rear elevation at Old School Cottage, 5 The Close, Siddington, GL7 6HQ

Application permitted

17/02404/FUL CT.3449/C

Proposed outbuilding as ancillary accommodation and garage at 9 The Common, Siddington, GL7 6EY

Application permitted

17/011091/OUT CT.1491/1/Y

Erection of a detached two storey dwelling and alterations to vehicular access at 90 Siddington Road, GL7 1PQ

Application refused

17/01410/OUT

Outline application with all matters reserved for the construction of 2 dwellings at 1 Ashton Road, Siddington, GL7 6HB

Application permitted - the Parish Council had objected on the following grounds:

1. The unhelpfully unnumbered Block and Site Layout plans published on 7th August

2017 give no indication of the number of bedrooms proposed for each semi-detached house. The unnumbered drawing NEW DETAILS - PROPOSED ELEVATIONS AND FLOOR PLANS plan published on 10th May 2017 shows two detached four bedroom houses attached by a link garage. These drawings are surprisingly not noted as Superseded. However, as the ground floor layouts of the latter are similar to those on the 7th August plans, we have assumed for the purposes of our second ground of objection that the proposal is for a pair of four bedroom houses. The application should be rejected on the grounds that the various plans that are now to be considered are contradictory and should permission be granted it would not be clear for what.

2. The parking provision shown is inadequate, falling below both national and CDC guidelines. The argument put forward by the applicant in the Design and Access Statement that the location is sustainable and implicitly therefore warrants a lower parking provision is false. The applicant is proposing market family housing and with it the probability of a two car families. The national requirement for a 4 bed semi-detached house is 2.75 spaces per house. Using Government guidelines, the requirement for 5.5 spaces that this application would generate is rounded up to 6. Even if a tandem parking arrangement could be designed to overcome the shortfall, any such arrangement would result in an inadequate turning area, causing vehicles to reverse out onto the highway which would be dangerous and thus unacceptable. Even the permitted single dwelling scheme (as shown on the block plan) falls short of national guidelines on parking, which would require 2.25 spaces for a semi-detached 3-bedroom house.)

Chesterton Development

Cllr Hayward had drafted a response for the Parish Council to submit to CDC. With a slight amendment the Council unanimously approved and the Clerk would submit this to CDC. The response is set out in full below.

“Siddington Parish Council objects to the application.

1. Introduction. The Parish Council has read the Inspectors' reasoning behind their decisions to grant planning permission in both instances in the recent planning appeals by Great Gable in Siddington and Gladman in South Cerney. A consistent point that the applicants/appellants make (and one that is accepted by the Inspectors) is that because such a significant proportion of Cotswold District is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the District's housing need has to be substantially accommodated in the relatively small areas outside the AONB, particularly the area to the south of Cirencester. Against this background, it is clear that the parishes of Siddington, South Cerney and Preston will remain especially vulnerable to opportunistic planning applications until such time as the District's objectively assessed need is demonstrably satisfied by the planned allocation of sufficient land.

2. The Parish Council's objections are to the ill-thought through implications of the scheme for the surrounding area and the lack of proposed mitigating measures.

3. Traffic generation is the major concern. The developers have procured a Transport Study which has been subjected to detailed examination by Gloucestershire Highways' engineers apparently with the input of external consultants on certain aspects. We do not believe that this reactive method of assessing transport impact is appropriate for a scheme of this magnitude.

4. The Highways' Authority in its section headed Impact South of Site - South Cerney, Siddington & Ewen is dismissive of the fears previously expressed by those parishes as to the impact of traffic on them: "the vehicle trip generation from the proposed development is relatively low" based on the detailed estimates contained in the Technical Note Land to the South of Chesterton, Cirencester. The note records 675 dwellings and about 19,500 sqm of employment space being located on the east side of the Chesterton Farm scheme. At say 30 sqm average per employee, the employment space is likely to attract some 700 staff as well as deliveries and service vehicles. To suggest that those staff plus the residents will only generate between them, for instance, an additional 15 peak hour trips at the Ashton Road/Park Way junction, defies credulity.

5. Even if the proposed traffic light mitigation measures were to be generally effective, the scheme depends on the continuing efficacy of narrow roads. When there are, for instance, road works or unloading car transporters blocking the carriageway, drivers will be faced with the binary choice of long queues or an alternative route south through those parishes. Each parish has had experience of this and junctions such as the Ashton Road/Park Way one will become intolerable for residents.

6. The conclusions of the developer's consultants and Gloucestershire Highways may be correct and the very modest mitigation measures proposed - introducing traffic lights - may be sufficient. However, the implications for the town and the surrounding communities if the conclusions of the study prove to be unduly optimistic will be a social, environmental and economic disaster. The developers should be required to fund and support (but not influence) an independent study before planning permission is granted for the 675 houses and the employment space on the east side of the proposed scheme."

11 - PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL CLUB/GRASS-CUTTING

Football Club

The Clerk reported that due to increased growth of the grass the contractor was now cutting the grass weekly. However, due to the inability of the current contractor to collect the grass it had been necessary to employ the occasional services of another contractor to bring the field up to an acceptable standard for football and general use. The contract would be reviewed shortly, but in the meantime Cllr Wagstaff would seek further advice on grasscutting.

12 - FINANCE

The monthly schedule of cheques for September had been circulated with the agenda. The cheque totals were:-

1420 – £30.31 – R Cowley – Clerk's expenses (phone bill, stationery)
 1419 – £460.80 – Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – grass cutting
 1421 – £225.00 – PJ Landscapes – grass cutting
 1422 – £15.00 – A B West – bus shelters
 1423 – £233.71 – F Lovatt – grass cutting
 1424 – £74.00 – Siddington Village Hall – room hire
 1425 – £22.50 – PATA (UK) – payroll services
 1426 – HMRC – PAYE NI
 1427 – R Cowley – Clerk's salary (September)

The Parish Council unanimously approved making the above payments, and also noted the pre-approved payments made in August. The cheque totals were:

- 1412 – £15.36 – R Cowley – Clerk’s expenses (phone bill)
- 1413 – £230.40 – Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – grass cutting
- 1414 – £15.00 – A B West – bus shelters
- 1415 – £162.00 – F Lovatt – grass cutting
- 1416 – £168.00 – Notice Board Company Ltd – replacement door
- 1418 – £46.00 – R O W Berry – fit new notice board door
- 1417 – R Cowley – Clerk’s salary (August)

The Clerk presented the monthly spreadsheet showing expenditure compared with budgets.

13 - CORRESPONDENCE

F= Finance H= Highways P=Planning PF=Playing Field PC=Parish Council

- PC/P 1 Notification for CDC that the Chesterton Application will be considered on 26th September 2017.
- PC 2 Police Report for June.
- PC 3 Advice from GAPTC that the Police Commissioner’s Fund 2018/19 is now open for applications.
- PC 4 CDC Business Matters newsletter.
- PC/P 5 Email correspondence between Cllr Shaun Parsons (CDC/GCC) and Mike Napper (CDC Planning) and Bloor Homes.
- PC 6 Announcement from PC Mark Weedon of his departure from our area and his replacement by PC Leah Davis.
- PC 7 Request for assistance in supporting a new Facebook page, Cotswold Local Information Group. The Parish Council felt there were enough resources for information in the Cotswolds already.
- PC 8 Email from GAPTC regarding a Police Open Day on 16th September 2017.
- PC 9 Copy of Cotswold Canals Trust magazine, The Trow.
- PC 10 Copy of CPRE magazine, Countryside Voice.
- PC 11 Email from GRCC offering help and bursary towards formulating a Community Emergency Plan.
- PC 12 Invitation from CWPT to the Chairman to attend the official opening of Cotswold Country Park & Beach. The Chairman would attend and represent the Parish council at this event.
- PC 13 Email from Mike Barton of Gloucestershire PROW regarding “aggressive” horses in the field from Pound Close to the railway line. Mr Barton visited with Tristan Chippendale of Bathurst Estate and found the horses inquisitive but not aggressive. Possibility the estate may fence off the path from the field.
- P 14 Notification from the Planning Inspectorate that the Gladman Appeal against CDC refusal of the application to build 92 houses on land off Berkeley Close in South Cerney is allowed.
- PC 15 Email from Nick Bond-Powell, General Manager at Wildwood Park, confirming they are happy to have a defibrillator sited on their on-site office and will cover the costs of electrical installation and contribute £1000 towards the cost of defibrillator and cabinet.

- H 16 Email correspondence with Highways regarding the damaged canal bridge.
- PC 17 Funding request from Cotswold & Stroud District CAB for 2018-19. The Parish Council agreed to donate £50.
- P 18 CDC press release confirming dates for Local Plan independent examination.
- PC 19 Email from Kirsty Walker of Bathurst Estate seeking Parish Council approval for replacement of new stile with kissing gate on footpath from Pound Close to old railway line.

14 – COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Cllr Parsons (CDC/GCC) reported

- that although Bloor Homes would be installing the footpath from their development to the canal path shortly, the canal path itself from that point to Pound Close was in very poor condition. Cllr Parsons indicated that he may have some funding available towards improvements next year.
- that resurfacing of the remaining part of Siddington Road was in hand.
- that Ofsted had rated Gloucestershire Children’s Services as “inadequate” and that the entire senior management team had now been replaced.
- that the Police & Crime Commissioner had commissioned a report to look at the possibility of taking over the Fire Service. GCC’s separate report indicated a cost of up to £3m, so it was unlikely to proceed.
- that GCC’s contract with Amey Gloucestershire was due for renewal in June 2018, but would likely be different with only major works remaining with Amey and other work being taken back “in-house”.

Cllr M Painter had reported via the Clerk

- that burial space in the churchyard was diminishing rapidly. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for October’s meeting. The Clerk would check the Parish Council’s liability for provision of space.
- That fly-tipping had taken place behind the bungalows in Pound Close. Cllr Turner would investigate.
- That the stone wall at 1 Empire Villas had not been reinstated and further along towards Church Avenue had only been partly repaired

15 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting would be Tuesday 10th October 2017 in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall.

Chairman