

**SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

**PRESENT**

Cllr J Hall (Chair), Cllr N Deller, Cllr E Jones, Cllr A Painter, Cllr M Painter, Cllr A Prosser, Cllr A Pugh and Cllr M Turner,

Cllr S Parsons (GCC/CDC) (from 8.30pm) and Clerk of the Council R Cowley were also present, along with two members of the public.

**1 - APOLOGIES** Apologies were received from Cllr N Selby (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Hayward and Cllr A Wagstaff.

**2 - MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

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**

There were no matters arising.

**4 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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

**5 – CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk requested that a date be set of the Annual Parish Meeting in May. It was agreed that 7.30pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May was most suitable subject to availability of the Village Hall. The Clerk also reported that the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) was preparing a simple guide to the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and that this would be circulated week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**6- POLICE REPORT FOR SIDDINGTON AREA**

**Date 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

**Produced by: PC 2221 DAVIS**

**Summary**

This report covers the period of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. During this period there was **1** crime. This compares with **3** in the same period last year.

**Crime Breakdown**

1 x Theft: making off without payment

(This is a taxi incident, whereby the offenders have run away without paying, not sure if this occurred in Siddington or South Cerney area. Enquiries ongoing)

**Comments from PC DAVIS**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 the Watchword System will be no more. Gloucestershire Police will no longer be using Watchword to send out messages from this date. Messages will be sent out using the new Your Community Alerts system and we are encouraging all members of the watchword system to sign up. To do this visit:

<https://www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk/> It will take only a few minutes of your time to complete the registration process. You will also be able to select what type of messages you receive e.g. Rural Watch, Good News, Local News. **To continue to receive messages from your local policing team it is essential that you sign up to Your Community Alerts.** We value being able to contact you about relevant issues and really wish for this to continue, so please do not disregard this request. If you have trouble signing up then please contact your local policing team. Police can be contacted by telephoning the non-emergency number 101. 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](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk) and follow the links from the Neighbourhood Policing section on the left of the page, or email to one of the officers below.

firstname.secondname@gloucestershire.police.uk

Many thanks

PC Leah Davis (Area Beat Manager)  
PCSO Adrien Kapronczai

### **7 – NEW DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED AT WILDWOOD PARK**

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a new date for commissioning by South West Ambulance Service Trust (previously cancelled due to the weather).

### **8 - OUTSTANDING ISSUES LIST**

- Removal of grass island on Church Avenue – ongoing.
- Pursue new village signs. The Chairman had been in contact with Richard Gray of Highways, who had sent details of the 50/50 Community Offer, whereby the County Council would match-fund the costs of approved projects on a 50/50 basis. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to pursue this route to purchasing new village signs. The Clerk and the Chair would arrange to complete the necessary forms.
- Wall between 1 Empire Villas and the junction with Church Avenue – ongoing. The Clerk had written to Bathurst Estate and awaited a response.

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

- 11072155 – Replacement of missing Siddington school sign – ongoing
- 11102027 – Clear drain at the railway bridge stanchions on Ashton Road. The drains from this point lead into sump tanks in a nearby field, which date from the construction of the railway. Cllr Wagstaff had contacted the Highways Agency Historic Railways Estate who believed that Gloucestershire Highways would be responsible. Highways disputed this however. Former Parish Councillor Dave Parsloe had offered to show the Clerk and Cllr Deller the locations of the tanks to aid matters. Ongoing.
- 11115630 – Drain area on Park Way opposite The Twenties regularly blocked during heavy rain. Highways had reported that this had been dealt with. Cllr A Painter felt that the drains needed to be rodded. Cllr Wagstaff would check for a map to show where the drains led. Ongoing.
- 11115617 – Faded weight limit sign at Park Way / Ashton Road junction – ongoing.
- Handrail on steps leading from Upper Siddington bridge to canal still missing Cllr Hayward would arrange for repairs to be made.
- Potholes appearing at the upper end of Park Way –ongoing.

## **10 - PLANNING**

### **Footpath from Spire View to canal towpath**

The Clerk reported that although the new footpath had been fenced off and was in use, it still had to have its final surface laid. This was expected to be completed when better weather had arrived. The Clerk also reported that a new litter bin (rather than a dog bin) would be provided at the Spire View end of the path, with a sticker indicating that it could also be used for dog poo as well as litter.

### **The Parish Council considered a planning applications received by Cotswold District Council to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- **18/00094/FUL CT.0692/S**

Applicant: Mr R Mizon, c/o agent Jonathan Waites, 9A Berry Hill Crescent, Cirencester, GL7 2HF

Proposal: Proposed new dwelling (revised scheme) at Siddington Fields, Ashton Road, Siddington, GL7 6HR

Consultation expiry date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to object to this application on the grounds that that the proposed access would be dangerous to other road users and increase the risk of flooding of the highway at this point.

Mr Sutton's objection refers to the Appeal Decision refusing permission for development on Siddington Fields in 1990. The inspector turned down the appeal primarily on the ground that it was building in open countryside. However, he also considered the access issue – the proposed access then was to be formed by demolishing the railway abutment – presumably to achieve the required sight lines for the then 40 mph speed limit. No such demolition is proposed with the current application. However, the speed limit is now 30 mph so the sight line requirement is 59m from a 2.4m set back. The Parish Council does not believe that the minimum sight line requirement is met but, more importantly, there would be a blind length of road (due to a slight curve) between the 59m point and the proposed exit where a driver coming out of the proposed exit would have no view of northbound cars on Ashton Road due to the abutment. Therefore on these grounds this application should be refused. Furthermore, taking into account the average speed of traffic at that point (noted in 1990 as 47 mph and now probably higher), it would be unwise for this application to be granted permission. These problems would become much more serious if additional housing plots at Siddington Fields were granted permission using the same access route as that now proposed.

The location of the proposed access would also require the creation of a considerable slope down to where it would join the highway – the plan does not identify the deep cutting or retaining walls needed. This point in the highway, immediately below where the old railways bridge crossed over, now regularly floods after even moderate rainfall (photo attached of flooding today), and any increased run-off from this proposed access would exacerbate an already serious problem.

**OBJECTION**

**The Parish Council noted planning decisions of Cotswold District Council to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- **17/04392/FUL CT.4939/Q**  
Erection of dwelling and associated works including access at land adjacent to Roberts House, South Cerney Road, Siddington, GL7 6EX. Application withdrawn.
- **17/04393/LBC CT.4939/R**  
Alterations to boundary wall to create access at land adjacent to Roberts House, South Cerney Road, Siddington, GL7 6EX. Application withdrawn.
- **18/00064/TPO 06/00057/TPO**  
Crown lifting and thinning of lime trees detailed in submitted specification at Plummers Barn, Fraziers Folly, Siddington, GL7 6HR. Application permitted.

**11 - PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL CLUB/GRASS-CUTTING**

The Clerk reported that Countrywide had returned the leys to the playing field at that Harry Carter would commence grass cutting in early April, weather permitting.

**12 - FINANCE**

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

- 1459 – £39.36 – R Cowley – Expenses (phone bill & stationery)
- 1460 - £14.00 - Siddington Village Hall – Room hire
- 1461 - £1,748.00 – Bathurst Estate – Playing field rent
- 1462 - £22.50 – PATA (UK) – Payroll services
- 1465 – £354.34 – GAPTC – membership renewal
- 1466 - £44.40 – Cirencester Golf Club – Mower service
- 1463 – HMRC – PAYE & NI
- 1464 – R Cowley – Clerk’s salary (March)

It was also noted that the donation of £995.00 from Wildwood Park towards the cost of the new defibrillator had been received.

The Clerk presented the monthly spreadsheet showing expenditure compared with budgets, and the accounts statement.

**13 - CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1      PC      Special edition of Cotswold Canals trust magazine featuring HRH The Prince of Wales.
- 2      PF      Notification from RoSPA/Playsafety of inspections in April/May.
- 3      PC      WILD Projects newsletter.
- 4      PC      CDC press release announcing setting of GCC budget for 2018/19.
- 5      PC      CDC press release announcing Consultation on Local Plan Main Modifications begins 19<sup>th</sup> February.

- 6 PC Review of Cotswold AONB Management Plan – Second Draft for Consultation.
- 7 PF Quote from R O W Berry for fence post repairs at the playing field. The Parish Council unanimously approved the quotes.
- 8 PC CDC press release announcing freeze on its share of Council Tax for 2018/19.
- 9 H Winter update from Gloucestershire Highways.
- 10 H Response from Highways to Cllr Parsons (CDC/GCC) regarding poor repairs at the canal bridge in Upper Siddington.
- 11 PC Email correspondence between Daisy Paine and Cllr Parsons (CDC/GCC) and Highways regarding various road safety issues in Siddington.
- 12 PC GCC Councils Connected newsletter.
- 13 P Copy of objection letter from Maisie England to CDC regarding planning application 18/00094/FUL at Siddington Fields.
- 14 PC/P Offer of Planning Enforcement Training from CDC on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Cllr Turner and Cllr Hayward had indicated that they wished to attend.
- 15 P Copy of objection from Tom Sutton to CDC regarding planning application 18/00094/FUL at Siddington Fields.

Cllr Parsons (CDC/GCC) joined the meeting at this point.

#### **14 – COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

Cllr Parsons reported that

- The planning application for 375 new dwellings at Preston had now been withdrawn.
- Completion work on the canal bridge had been delayed due to the recent weather.
- He would speak to CDC Planning Enforcement about the possible incorrect positioning of the new dwelling at Siddington Fields.
- The s106 agreements for the Chesterton development were expected to be agreed by June or July.
- GCC and CDC budgets for 2018/19 had been approved.
- He was working to get the canal path tidied up between Pound Close and the new Spire View footpath.

Cllr M Painter had written to the Clerk about the old canal towpath behind The Willows being closed off and barbed wire being place across the top of the gate. The Clerk had investigated, and it had transpired that, whilst most of the old tow path was a Public Right Of Way, this particular part was not. The right of way follows the old towpath from the canal bridge behind Canal House and into the garden of The Willows, but then

turned right and exited the garden onto Upper Siddington opposite the children's play area.

Cllr Pugh reported that the noticeboard in the bus shelter had been vandalised, and some roof tiles were missing. Cllr Pugh would investigate the cost of a replacement board and the Clerk would ask Bob Berry for a quote to replace the tiles.

Cllr Jones reported that the cricket club would likely be in contact regarding possible use of the playing field. The Parish Council felt that due to current use by the football club, the field might be unsuitable for cricket, but locating practice nets there was a possibility to be considered.

### **15 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Ms England asked about fly-tipping in Green Lane. Cllr Parsons agreed that it was an ongoing problem, but advised that CDC were very quick to collect once they had been informed.

Ms England also asked whether there would be training in the use of the new defibrillator. The Clerk advised that a training session could be arranged once it had been commissioned, and this would be publicised.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending, and the meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting would be Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall.

Chairman