89.SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27th March 2025

Present: **Cllr Guest** **Cllr C Brickley**
Cllr Jones **Cllr Giles**

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence (Clerk), Philip Roberts (SVH), Natalie Robertson (part)

111 24/25 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr P Brickley and District Cllr Fowles

112 24/25 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda
Cllr Jones declared a personal interest in Item 124.

113 24/25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd January 2025
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd January 2025 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour

114 24/25 To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation, if members of the public are present - there is a 10 minute time limit
All in favour
No questions

115 24/25 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.
All in favour

116 24/25 Clerks Report
The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be held with the Minutes. Two matters were brought to the attention of Cllrs:- Audit to take place in May and contact has been made with Oxon City Council regarding the condition of the road from Southrop to the A361.

117 24/25 Chairman's announcements
The Chairman reported that at the parish council meeting held on the 23rd January on a possible development on land owned by CDC at Quarry View and on the proposed actions of this Council which are as follows:-

- The Council were proposing to appoint a planning consultant to advise on this. This has now been done, and the report has been received by SPC.
- The report raises some material issues about whether there is a local need for such a scheme, also on the proposed size (12 units) and the location.
- We submitted our initial response (based on the consultant's report) to Alan Hope- CDC's Strategic Housing Manager, on the 5th March. No response so far and no further information from CDC about the proposed scheme
- We also requested an update to the Housing Needs Survey Report carried out by GRCC (Glos. Rural Community Council) in March 2021 – 4 years old now. We have had a meeting with GRCC (Sarah Walker) prior to this Council meeting to discuss this request and to consider the contents of an update.

118 24/25 To receive report from District/County Councillor

The District Cllr's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be held with the Minutes. (Appendix 1)

FINANCE

119 24/25 To approve retrospectively, any payments made since the last meeting and to approve payments to be made in March 2025

It was **RESOLVED** retrospectively, to approve payments made since the last meeting and payments to be made in March. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Giles – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to pay invoices

120 24/25 To consider and agree cashbook & reconciliation figures at 27th March 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to agree cashbook & reconciliation figures at 27th March 2025. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr C Brickley – all in favour.

121 24/25 To consider and agree to renew subscription for CSW camera (£179). Retrospectively

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to renew subscription for CSW camera. Proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Guest – all in favour.

122 24/25 To receive receipts & payments information against budget at 27th March 2025

The payments and receipts data against budget was received without comment.

PLANNING

123 24/25 To receive Decision notices:-

24/03597/COMPLY|Compliance with condition 3 (Sample Render) of permission 24/00852/FUL - Erection of single storey rear extension, first floor extension above

existing balcony and replacement windows|Old Stile House Lechlade Road Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PG
Received CDC - Wed 27 Nov 2024 Validated CDC Mon 02 Dec 2024 Expiry date for response Mon 02 Dec 2024 (No notification to SPC) = **PERMITTED.**
25/00312/TCONR|1-Weeping Pear – Reduce crown back to approx. 1ft below old trim line to leave smaller shaped crown at 5 Wadham Close, Southrop GL7 3NR – **NO OBJECTION**
25/00239/TCONR|T1 Oak – Crown lift on house side by 4m in order to clear windows, prune away from overhead phone line and reduce crown by approximately 1m to balance and shape at Ivy Cottage, Southrop. GL7 3NU – **NO OBJECTION**
25/00646/NONMAT|Non material amendment to window frames to permission 24/00852/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension, first floor extension above existing balcony and replacement windows at Old Stile House Lechlade Road Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3PG - **PERMITTED**

124 24/25 <u>New Planning Applications</u>
25/00749/TCONR|1-Horse Chestnut – Re-Pollard back to previous pollard points and reduce selected limb 1.0m below old pollard point at Tanglewood The Farriers Southrop GL7 3RL- Awaiting decision – Validated 10/3/25 – Expiry 20/3/25 – **NO OBJECTION**
25/00814/FUL|**Full** Application for Erection of a carport at Farriers Barn Wadham Close Southrop Lechlade Gloucestershire – Awaiting Decision – Validated 17/3/25 – Expiry 17/4/25 – **NO OBJECTION**

<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>

125 24/25 To receive Speed Camera update

Cllr P Brickley circulated his report prior to the meeting and is as follows:-
Our oldest camera pointing east near the village hall has almost reached its 1st anniversary. We used to get 50+ speeders there per day and that has dropped to about 10 a day - suggesting 97% of traffic now does less than 25mph. Speeders get Police letters and van companies are written to or rung by the SPC. The second camera has now been up for a few months, pointing west beside the school. This is catching 60-70 speeders a day, and the higher speeds are in the 30s mph, some 40. It appears the speeds are slowly dropping, probably for the same reasons as the first camera, giving hope that it will also calm the traffic. It is however clear that this road is as dangerous as we first thought. There is one company who has sped 16 times now and ignores our requests to slow down. Their customer is Thyme, and we thank Thyme for asking that company to act more responsibly and slow down. There are still a few hardcore speeders, typically SUVs, commuting through the village and it must be worth asking the Police to consider an actual speed trap to start getting points on their licenses. Villagers are very law abiding!

126 24/25 To receive Highways update

Little to report. The state of the Oxfordshire road to Filkins is a real issue. It seems the SPC will need to escalate oncemore to get them to maintain their road.

127 24/25 To receive Flood Warden update

Cllr C Brickley reported that efforts to sort out the issues regarding flooding on the Eastleach Road have reached stalemate. Cllr Brickley has again been in contact with Glos Highways (Anne Johns), regarding an attenuation pond and has been informed that GCC feels that there has been a misunderstanding and that they cannot do anything regarding this but that it is upto the landowner. It was agreed that this would be difficult given that the landowner in question does not live locally and the land is farmed by Mr Ponsonby. Cllr Brickley said that she would talk to Mr. Ponsonby.

ACTION: Cllr C Brickley to discuss this matter with Mr. Ponsonby

128 24/25 Update on preparations for Village Fete

Fete on June 7th. Publicity is underway and all the main attractions are booked/deposited, including Morris dancers, magician, kids inflatable, antique valuer, school country dancing etc. Several companies are taking "trade stalls" and donating for the pleasure. Each of the 4 village institutions are on the committee, and all very active. We've received good donations and sponsorship, reaching 1/2 our target, but more needed.

Villagers, our stalwarts, are pledging their help once more. We could do with more volunteers, "many hands make light work". The duck race is being reinstated. villagers buying 10£ in the race, before the fete, will get a free duck! If any one who would like to discuss the fete please contact Peter peterjohnbrickley@gmal.com

129 24/25 To consider and agree to change domain name to .gov.uk - £12 registration and £12 annually.

Discussion took place regarding this matter and merged into a discussion regarding item 130 and 131 below. It was agreed to defer these items to the next meeting, to allow Cllr Giles time to meet with the website provider.

ACTION: Clerk to add items relating to domain name, website and mailboxes to the agenda for the next meeting.

130 24/25 To consider and agree to open new .gov.uk mailboxes for the parish council.
See item 129

131 24/25 To consider and agree to look at updating the website
See item 129

132 24/25 To consider and agree date for Annual Parish meeting.

Dates were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to hold both the Annual Parish Council meeting on the same date as the Annual Parish Meeting, with the Annual Parish Council meeting held at 5.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. Proposed Cllr Guest, seconded Cllr Giles – all in

favour. Reports from organisations in the Village have been requested by the Clerk.

133 24/25 Anything the Chair considers urgent.

The Clerk requested that the Asset Register is considered and approved for formal approval at the next meeting. Cllr Jones requested clarification why there was no log of the bus shelter, given that the bus shelter roof was listed. Discussion took place regarding ownership of the shelter and no one was able to confirm whether the PC actually owned this structure. It was agreed that a £1 value should be put against the bus shelter as this dates back to the 1800's and there does not appear to be any documentation to show ownership. Cllr Giles pointed out that the new village PA system should be added to the asset register and that the bus shelter should be shown with a £1 value.

ACTION: Clerk to amend the Asset Register to include the Bus Shelter with a £1 value and the new PA system

134 24/25 Date of next meeting 16th May 2025 (Annual Parish Council meeting)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

…….Chairman

…….2025

APPENDIX I

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - MARCH 2025

March Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked)
Monday 3 March 4.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 6 March 6.00 pm Cabinet
Wednesday 12 March 2.00 pm Planning and Licensing Committee
Wednesday 19 March 2.00 pm Council
Thursday 27 March 2.00 pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street
Monday 31 March 4.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Committee
February Committee Meetings (underlined texts are linked to calendars of meetings with Agendas including Report Packs & Webcasts).
Mon 3 February 4.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thurs 6 February 6.00 pm Cabinet
Wed 12 February 2.00 pm Planning and Licensing Committee
Mon 24 February 6pm Budget Council, Council (date moved)
Thurs 27 February 2.00 pm Licensing Sub-Committee (Taxis, Private Hire, and Street
FULL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING - 24 February 2025 -(Budget papers start at page 33)
Members Questions:
Responses to Member Questions PDF 1 MB
Opposition leader's suggested amendment to the Budget:
Restructure the CDC communications team so that the staffing costs within the communications budget are reduced from £340,000 to £200,000 to give a £140,000 annual saving, reducing the overall Press & PR/Communications budget from £404,764 to £264,764. £40,000 of this annual saving to be used towards a new permanent Level 1 Case and Field Work Officer post in the Environmental Protection Team.
Opposition response to the Budget: (Start at 1:09)
Summary: CDC faces financial struggles and the threat of bankruptcy, with the need for government assistance looming. Despite economic challenges like inflation and national policies affecting the council's finances, the administration was criticised for focusing on style over substance, of wasteful spending, particularly on PR, communications and a costly rebranding, the staffing cost alone at £340,000, for a six-strong team plus a designer (who is shared with Forest of Dean District Council), within the £405,000 PR and communications budget, an increase of 40% in this budget (it was in the region of £250,000). Meanwhile important services are being cut and short-term decisions being made.
The ongoing "Publica transition" is highlighted as a major factor driving up costs. The transition process is now expected to cost taxpayers over £1 million, far exceeding initial estimates. New managerial roles have been created putting more strain on the budget. This is against the backdrop of the Central Government drive for Gloucestershire to become a unitary authority. This is considered as self-inflicted financial mismanagement, with a lack of efficient planning and potentially devastating for the Council's future. Taxpayers will bear that burden.

CABINET DECISIONS - 6 FEBRUARY

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund update February 2025

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on the delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund projects to date and seek approval for the approach to the delivery of UKSPF projects in 2025/26 along with the necessary delegations.

Cabinet :
1. Noted the progress with the delivery of UKSPF and REPF projects to date.
Noted that the Council has been awarded UKSPF funding of £327,146 for 2025/26.
Agreed to allocate up to £140,000 of funding for 2025/26 to Cirencester Growth Hub and up to £50,000 to a local employment and skills project.
Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment, to allocate the remaining funding, having regard to the recommendations of the UKSPF Assessment Panel.

Review of Parking Charges and Season Tickets

To detail proposed changes to the day tariffs and season ticket fees in the district car parks to take effect from 1st April 2025.
Cabinet
1. Approved the freezing of car park charges for short stays of ½ hour or 1 hour at all the Council's Car Parks;
2. Approved the car park charges for stays of 2 hours or more being increased by 2.7% (rounded to 10p), to reflect CPI inflation between October 2023 and October 2024 as per Annex B;
3. Noted the proposed charges for Rissington Road Car Park include the tourism levy increases from 50p to 60p agreed November 2024;
4. Approved increasing the fee for season tickets as per Annex D, reflecting a higher than inflationary increase to reflect the high level of subsidy offered for season tickets;
5. Approved the updating of the Parking Order to reflect agreed changes.

2025/2026 Fees and Charges

Revised schedule of fees and charges for 2025/26.
The report also described the rationale for the revised charges compared to current charges for 2024/25. Revised charges were presented at Annex A alongside current charges for 2024/25.
Cabinet:
1. Endorsed the rationale for revising fees and charges as set out in the report; and
2. Approved the implementation of revised fees and charges for 2025/26 as detailed in Annex A from 1 April 2025.

Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy

To present the Revenue Budget for 2025/26, the Capital Programme and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2028/29.
Cabinet approved for recommendation to Council: 1. 2. 3. 4. the Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex B the Budget Pressures and Savings for inclusion in the budget, set out in Annex C the Council Tax Requirement of £7,065,418 for this Council the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £158.93 for a Band D property in 2025/26 (an increase of £5) 5. 6. the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D the Annual Capital Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex E
7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex F
8. 9. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H the balances and reserves forecast for 2025/26 to 2028/29 as set out in Section 7 of the report.
10. Formally noted the renewal of the CIVICA Open Revenues 3-year software contract from 01 June 2025 with an annual fee of £0.106m (an increase of £0.031m over the previous annual contract value)
RESOLVED: Cabinet approved delegation to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to: Agree changes to the General Fund Summary arising from the Local Government Finance Settlement and the Business Rates Retention Scheme estimates prior to submission to Council.

DEVOLUTION FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE - UPDATE

On 5 February it was announced that Gloucestershire was not included in the devolution priority programme so Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) elections will take place on 1 May 2025.

BINS & WASTE COLLECTION

Across the District, Councillors continue to raise the issue of missed collections with the Cabinet Member and the Contracts team at CDC. We have requested that if we know that a collection is to be missed then we should receive a briefing and then I can contact your parishes directly so that it can be broadcast on your local WhatsApp groups etc. At the same time if you hear of any missed collections in your parishes please could you either let me know or the relevant officers.

FLY TIPS

Many flytips were reported across the District in February - in particular cannabis farm detritus in the Ermin ward. Please keep your eyes open for unusual behaviour, another successful prosecution was made last month, this is progress, the ERS officer works hard to get these outcomes

UNSUNG HEROES

Please nominate your Unsung Hero here: www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes

A417 UNDERPASSES

The regular flooding of the A417 underpasses affect the day-to-day lives of people who live on both sides of the A417. Progress is slow on remedial works and is overshadowed by the major works on the missing link.

A417 MISSING LINK PROJECT UPDATE

The Air Balloon roundabout is suffering delays at the moment, even during low traffic periods. The A417 between the A46 Brockworth junction and the Air Balloon roundabout will be closed overnight:

11pm on Friday 7 March to 6am on Monday 10 March

To install drainage and utilities. This will require full weekend closures

The A417 will be closed overnight between the Air Balloon roundabout and Burford Road junction:

To safely remove lighting columns. Fully signposted diversion routes will be in place during the closure. Please follow the official diversion route and not satnavs:

Air Balloon roundabout to Burford Road Southbound:

Follow A436 towards Stow-on-the-Wold. Turn left towards the Seven Springs roundabout

At Seven Springs Roundabout, turn right onto the A436 Oxford Road

Turn right towards Oxford and follow the A40

Turn right towards Cirencester onto the A429

Turn right onto the A429 Burford Road

Turn left and follow the A429 towards Stow-on-the-Wold

Turn left and follow the A40 towards Cheltenham

Turn left and follow the A436 towards Gloucester

Head over the roundabouts towards Gloucester

Access for emergency services will be fully maintained during the closures.

Tuesday 25 February – Sunday 10 March - Between 2pm and 3pm

Enormous bridge beams will be transported via the A419/A417 to the Air Balloon Roundabout before turning into the site entrance near the A436/Air Balloon temporary roundabouts.

Police escorts will briefly stop traffic for around 10 minutes to ensure safe delivery.
DAYTIME AND NIGHT TIME CLOSURES - A417 MISSING LINK - COWLEY JUNCTION
From 7 January to approximately 1 April.
All roadworks and planned road closures on motorways and major A roads, including the A417, are published on the Traffic England website: www.trafficengland.com.
Road Closure Reports, which includes a seven day look ahead of planned road closures, are updated twice daily, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/road-closure-report/.
To find the latest information about local road closures, please visit: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/.
Webpage: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a417-missing-link/
Email: A417MissingLink@nationalhighways.co.uk
Phone: 0300 123 5000
X: @HighwaysSWEST
Facebook: @HighwaysSWEST

FARMERS

The Coln Valley is a rural ward so it is important to continue to highlight this issue.
Inheritance Tax Relief: Farms debated in Parliament on Monday 10 February 2025 following the petition – "Don't change inheritance tax relief for working farms" signed by 150,000 people
TRANSCRIPT: https://hansard.parliament.uk/.../InheritanceTaxReliefFarms
WATCH ON YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/live/g6bSH3jCJ48

Cllr David Fowles
Conservative District Councillor
Coln Valley ward, Cotswold District Council
07747 012256

Coln Valley PCs: Coln Rogers, Calcot, Winson, Bibury /Ablington, Coln St Denis, Fossebridge, Coln St Aldwyns, Quenington, Eastleach, Southrop/ Fyfield

*If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting District Council officers or other agencies relevant to your query. *
* For more information on how I and the District Council use personal data visit http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-data/data-protection/

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