



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

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STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 12th March 2024

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire all those present should leave the building calmly, breaking a fire alarm panel on the way out, and assemble on the far side of the car park at the assembly point.

Attendees are reminded to either switch off or make silent their mobile phones.

PRESENT:

Cllrs D Addison, R Barber, M Brown, S Bandcroft, J Brunwin, K Cranney, N Das Gupta, A Hyde, K Marsden, P Richardson & A Shore.

In attendance was J Rendell [Parish Clerk] and six local residents.

1	Welcome and apologies for absence. The Chair, Councillor Keiron Marsden welcomed all present to the meeting and proposed to bring items 8 & 9 for discussion following item 4, seconded by Councillor Tony Hyde, proposal carried. Apologies noted from Councillor Brian Mead.	
2	To receive notification of any member's personal or prejudicial interest. None.	
3	Public Session [3-5 MINUTES PER PERSON WITH A MAXIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PER SESSION] – Six residents were in attendance. A local resident and ex Chair of Council Ernie Brown informed all present that following the passing of ex District and Parish Councillor Brian Allinson, he has been in contact with the family and can confirm the funeral will be taking place at 13:15 on 10 th April at Westerleigh Crematorium. The Clerk has been looking into the purchase of a bench to be installed on the village green to help remember Brian and for the hard work and dedication put in locally at District and Parish level by Brian over many	

	<p>years. Councillor Dave Addison approved for the Clerk to go ahead and purchase the bench (include engraving) and install on the village green, seconded by Penny Richardson, unanimously carried.</p> <p>Local residents continue to report the poor condition of the roads through the parish and South Gloucestershire as a whole. Potholes continue to increase and get deeper, and various rubber speed control ramps are damaged and dangerous along the Kingsway. The Kingsway and along Little Stoke Lane are particularly bad and South Glos Council have been notified on numerous occasions by residents and the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed the parish office has reported the condition of the Kingsway Road surface on a handful of occasions and direct to Mark King. District Councillor Keith Cranney will follow this up with Mark King and Streetcare.</p> <p>It appears SGC Officers have attended the roads and made a half-hearted attempt to repair some potholes but not all. Some are painted which gives hope that Operatives will be back to complete the job, but it would be useful to understand a plan or at least acknowledgement from SGC that the local roads are in the system to be repaired.</p> <p>SGC are consulting with the public for a proposed 20mph speed limit at Bush Avenue, Smithcourt & Gipsy Patch Lane. Local residents and Council members have reservations about this consultation which seems to have been conducted during recent years where the traffic in the local area was badly affected by the Gipsy Patch bridge works. Councillor Dave Addison encouraged residents and Councillors to make comment on the SGC website.</p> <p>Discussions were held on the lack of infrastructure in the in the local area and this is cause for concern in the new development areas in particular. The Chair, Councillor Keiron Marsden informed members the following was discussed at the recent South Glos Council New Local Plan – Towards a Preferred Strategy meeting:</p> <p>This virtual event covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan Objectives, which will shape and inform a new Plan strategy and planning policies • information on the amount and type of homes, jobs, and infrastructure we need to plan for up to 2040 <p>The emerging preferred strategy which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 potential allocations within our urban areas and our market towns • introduces over 70 potential sites beyond the urban area, which we think should be used to meet our need for new homes and jobs and to mitigate the climate change and biodiversity crisis • Explores the challenges and opportunities relating to the infrastructure which may be required to support our emerging spatial strategy. 	<p>Keith Cranney to contact SGC.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the approach our Local Plan is taking to address climate change, plan for strategic Green Infrastructure, areas for mineral working and extraction, planning for Travellers communities and range of detail planning policies. 	
4	<p>Minutes of the last Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting dated 12th December 2023 were approved at January Full Council 2024.</p> <p>The Finance & General Purpose minutes dated Tuesday 12th December 2023 were agreed as an accurate record at the January Full Council meeting.</p>	
5	<p>To note the expenditure and general accounts for February 2024.</p> <p>The Clerk tabled financial correspondence for February 2024 which included payments totalling £43,116.75 for the Co-operative general account, with a cash book balance of £351,587.49.</p> <p>A discussion was held, Council noted the expenditure and bank balance for February 2024. Councillor Keiron Marsden proposed acceptance, seconded by Councillor Dave Addison, unanimously carried.</p> <p>Councillor Dave Addison congratulated all involved on a very healthy and well managed budget during a difficult period following the boundary changes and precept amendments.</p>	
6	<p>Grant Aid allocation of £18k for 2024/25.</p> <p>The Chair, Councillor Keiron Marsden has looked into the way the Parish Council offer funding to local groups clubs and organisations (in way of Grant Aid), ensuring the budget is fairly covered across the applications received. Following the research members believe the current budget is well covered and the way in which it's conducted is the most productive way so no need for change.</p>	
7	<p>Localism Contract and SGC Live Labs 2 Greenprint project.</p> <p>Information on the SGC Initiative Livelabs project was presented to the recent Recreation & Leisure committee. Committee members were keen on the idea and requested it be tabled at Finance & General Purpose meeting along with the Localism contract options.</p> <p>As Yate Town Council started the initiative during 2022/23 the Clerk contacted the Operatives who acted as a 'guinea pig' last year piloting this project and they had many Issues. Obviously reducing the cuts from 6 cuts to 2 cuts in the growing season means there is a period of time where certain areas of grass will grow long (looking unkempt) which prompts all the calls into the parish office, however once a cut is undertaken (cut and collect) there will be a period of time where the grass verges look much better.</p>	

	<p>The options provided by the Clerk are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Stick with SGC on the current agreement: two core cuts (April & October) and six cuts in between. b) Stick with SGC and sign up to the Livelabs agreement (verbally agreed by SGC same cost or slightly less). c) Give SGC notice and approve a local contractor to carry out this work alongside the two core cuts from SGC. This will bring more pressure on the office but would improve quality levels on the cut and timing of attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SGC £14,362.15 (3 years) - Ambience Landscapes £18,900 (1 year) - Hathaway Groundcare £11,250 (1 year) - CPS no quote provided. <p>Officers have held several meetings with Hathaway Groundcare and believe the Council would save money over the next year by approving the company to carry out the 'Localism work' whilst at the same time vastly improve the outlook as they will take better care of their grass cutting, and at the appropriate times.</p> <p>The Livelabs project sounds great and a real positive for the Parish Council to be linking the grass cutting with SGC's food waste and taken to an energy from waste plant, but the Parish Council need to see if this is something Members are willing to buy into meaning we will have longer grass verges in the parish for periods of time. It may be best to stick with the six cuts (plus two core cuts) over the next 12 months and see how the Livelabs project improves at Yate TC. The Clerk is in regular contact with them as well as Chris at SGC who is heading up this project.</p> <p>Following discussion Councillor Dave Addison proposed to approve SGC to continue to service the waste pick up from LS Park for £5,610.22 for three years fixed, and Hathaway Groundcare on a 12 month agreement and for the Clerk to see if SGC can work with the contractor on any areas to wildflower and link together on the Live Labs project, seconded by Councillor Richard Barber, proposal carried.</p>	<p>Clerk confirmed SGC to wildflower areas serviced by SGC only.</p>
8	<p>Update from the Brooklands Community Hall project.</p> <p>Members asked the Clerk to contact Winterbourne Parish Council to see if they will assist with funding for the proposed Brooklands Community Hall as 40% of the new development falls within the Winterbourne parish. Cheswick Village and Stoke Park should also be contacted.</p> <p>Members of the public and Parish Councillors continue to have queries on the financial aspect of taking on the Community Hall and are in no rush to make a decision. The Parish Council Business Case show a deficit of approx. £88k and SGC have offered £60k towards the project and the parish will continue to negotiate to reduce the risk on the Parish Councils finances before making a decision.</p> <p>Councillors hope to ask the Clerk to send the amended Draft Heads of Terms and Lease Agreement to SGC by the end of the month.</p> <p>Members feel that once SGPC have received feedback from SGC then information</p>	<p>Clerk to contact Winterbourne PC and Cheswick Village.</p>

	<p>could be shared and thoughts received from local residents. The Parish can use the Community Hall to host a Brooklands Community Hall workshop engaging with local residents.</p> <p>Following correspondence between Members and SGC, Councillor Dave Addison proposed to defer a decision to Full Council in April, seconded by Councillor Penny Richardson, a vote was taken, 9 for, 1 abstention, 1 against, proposal carried.</p> <p>The Clerk will liaise with Grainne Stables (SGC) and ask Grainne to attend the meeting in April.</p>	
9	<p>Additional funds to a Lloyds bank fixed rate savings account for 12 months.</p> <p>At the Full Council meeting in December members agreed to add £80k from reserves into a fixed rate savings account. The Clerk sourced three quotations from companies offering a 12 month short term deal and members approved to invest in Cambridge & Counties Bank. However, by the time this was approved the deal is now a longer term deal only offering a 3 or 5 year deal for local authorities. The Chair would prefer a short term 12 month deal, and this is brought before members of the Finance Committee to agree on a way forward.</p> <p>Three options available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSBC business money manager 1.94% - NatWest Liquidity Manager 35 Days' Notice Account 3.25% - Lloyds Bank Fixed Term Deposit 12 months 3.6% <p>Following discussion members agreed that a 12 month deal is preferable, and Councillor Penny Richardson proposed to invest £80k from reserves into the Lloyds Bank for 12 months, proposal seconded by Councillor Sue Bandcroft, proposal carried.</p>	
10	<p>To receive recommendations from Parish Council Committees relating to expenditure across the Parish of Stoke Gifford.</p> <p>Finance.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Planning & Transportation.</p> <p>We have received seven planning applications to date, so expect a few more before the next Planning, meeting on the 26th March.</p> <p>Recreation & Leisure.</p> <p>The qualified grounds staff continue to remove dead trees around the parks and recreational spaces and contract out a Tree Surgeon to remove the larger trees.</p> <p>This work will continue as we look at remove all Ash trees as part of the Ash Dieback initiative.</p>	

11	Any other business relevant to this committee. None.	
12	Date of next meeting. Tuesday 9 th July 2024 at 19:00	
15	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS. To resolve, by the nature of the sensitivity of items to exclude the press and public [Public Bodies Admissions to Meeting]. None	

Meeting closed 21:25

Signed: _____

Date: _____

K Marsden (Chair)

On behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council