

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
4TH JULY 2016
WESTERLEIGH VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair) J Butler, A Gibbs, A Fay, S Blackmore,
Officer: Clerk F Thornton

1992. Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Boulton, G Jancey, M Crumpton
District Councillor C Young

1993. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

Cllr J Butler declared a personal interest in agenda item 9

1994. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish

Cllr C Young reported:-

Planning issues

Policies, Sites and Places (PSP) DPD

On 29th June, South Gloucestershire Council approved a revised Policies, Sites and Places (PSP) plan for public consultation. This followed its consideration at a joint meeting of the Environment and Community Services committee and the two Development Control committees and at a meeting of the Policy and Resources committee.

The plan provides detailed planning policies that the council will use when making decisions on planning applications and also protects some of our much valued open spaces by designating them as Local Green Spaces. There will be a formal consultation on the plan over the summer before it is submitted to the Secretary of State in October. A planning inspector will then consider it at an examination in February/March 2017, with the plan expected to be adopted in May next year.

Some of the open spaces that were nominated as Local Green Space could not be taken forward at this stage, including Woodlands Farm. There will be a chance to make further comments during this summer's consultation. Further green spaces could be designated in the new Local Plan, which is due to be completed during 2018.

The draft considered last year included the allocation of some additional land for housing. These allocations have not been included this time because it was considered they would now conflict with the progression of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and new Local Plan. Similarly, last year's draft included the policy framework for handling Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson's planning applications but this has been removed from the PSP plan and will be dealt with through the new Local Plan. This is to avoid further delay to the completion of the PSP plan while the council reviews the evidence base and the interpretation of the new Government guidance on the definition of Gypsy and Travellers.

Mafeking Hall

Officers recently visited Mafeking Hall and are satisfied that the parking, turning and cycle parking provisions are in place within the 3 month time limit specified for implementing that condition.

Devolution

Despite the concerns that my colleagues and I along with many of the Town and Parish Councils raised, last Wednesday South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset and Bristol councils all agreed to go ahead with the West of England devolution deal. This will create a new West of England Combined Authority with a directly elected "Metro Mayor". It comes with a promise of £30m a year for 30 years, but every 5 years there will be a test to decide whether the Combined Authority receives the money and it is not clear yet what those tests will be.

The deal was rejected by North Somerset Council. Without them we have the messy situation where we will have a Joint Strategic Plan and Joint Transport Plan covering four authorities but a combined authority and Metro Mayor covering just three. It will be difficult to address the major infrastructure problems and inequalities in our region without their involvement.

The formal consultation will take place over the summer, with the responses going to the Secretary of State.

Council offices

You will recall that South Gloucestershire Council was considering closing Kingswood Civic Centre and extending the Badminton Road offices to accommodate not just the staff that would need to relocate but also a council chamber for council meetings. A public sector organisation has come forward with an interest in leasing a large part of the Civic Centre. If this goes ahead, the council chamber, training rooms and One Stop Shop would remain on site but most of the staff would transfer to the Badminton Road offices. The main impact for Westerleigh Parish is obviously parking. Officers assured us that the office car park could be extended without encroaching on land designated for the long-planned Park and Ride.

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Network Rail

As yet I do not have further information regarding the type of gantries to be used. I have been assured that the concerns about the vegetation growing out of the viaduct, which were first raised last summer and which I have been chasing ever since, will be addressed soon as part of the survey prior to the electrification work going ahead.

Litter bins in Coalpit Heath

Following the last meeting, I raised with the Head of Street Care a request from a Parishioner for additional litter bins and other actions to tackle litter. The Street Cleansing manager arranged for the area to be inspected. Only isolated pieces of litter were found, although the Parishioner attributes this to the fact they themselves pick it up daily. Street Care said the existing twice a week emptying of the existing litter bins was adequate as they are not full when emptied. South Gloucestershire Council would not be looking to install additional bins but can provide costs to the Parish Council. I shared this information with the Clerk and I note you have an item on the agenda to discuss this.

Nibley Lane

I have been contacted by residents who are concerned about the speed of traffic on Nibley Lane between Nibley and Iron Acton, despite the introduction of a 20mph limit. Some would like to see the road closed to through traffic while others would like speed tables introduced. I raised these concerns with the relevant highways officer.

She said that exceeding the speed limit is a police enforcement issue, and copied her response to the local beat manager. He pointed out that it is difficult to identify suitable locations for speed checks where a good view along the road can be achieved while maintaining the safety of the officer.

Closing the road would need to be considered in an investigation scheme, which could be included on the Local Transport Priority List for possible selection in March 2017. Similarly, speed tables would require an investigation scheme. The investigation would look at drainage implications, forward visibility and urbanising the rural area. The officer pointed out it is a signed cycle route.

Before adding the two investigation schemes to the Priority List, the officer would like the request to be discussed by the relevant Parish Councils. I therefore agreed that she would write to the Clerks.

Consultation on ending day care services at Turnberries, Thornbury

South Gloucestershire Council is consulting on a proposal to decommission the day service currently provided for adults with learning and physical disabilities at Turnberries in Thornbury. This currently serves people from across South Gloucestershire, not just the Thornbury area. The deadline for comments is 2nd September.

Support for those experiencing racial abuse

Sadly since the referendum result there has been an increase in racially motivated incidents reported nationally and some problems have been reported here in South Gloucestershire, although not as far as I am aware in Westerleigh Parish. If you do know of anyone experiencing such abuse as well as encouraging them to report it to the police, you can also suggest they contact SARI for support. SARI is a charity that is partly funded by South Gloucestershire Council and among other services has trained caseworkers to support victims of such abuse. You can find them online at <http://www.sariweb.org.uk/> or call 0800 171 2272 to report a hate crime. They also carry out training and education and I was among a number of South Glos. councillors to attend one of their tours recently.

Community Engagement Forums

The Safer Stronger Community Groups have now become Community Engagement Forums. The first meeting covering Westerleigh Parish is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th July in the Greenfield Centre, Winterbourne.

Cllr A Fay pointed out, with reference to the suggestion at looking to close Nibley lane as a through route, the investigation would need to include the fact that if the proposal went ahead they would also have to close Hope Road unless barriers were put at both ends of Nibley lane.

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1995. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary

Cllr B Taylor

REPORT FROM CYCLE FORUM (26 May 2016)

The Cycling Strategy was approved by SGC Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment Committee in May. It contains an updated cycleway map, including aspirational routes, and will be posted on the SGC website shortly.

SGC Officers gave a comprehensive update on the Yate Spur cycleway:

1. A new gate has been ordered for the level crossing by Network Rail training building (near the oil terminal).
2. If the landowner cannot prove title to the farm land from Westerleigh Road to Broad Lane, SGC will consider a Memorandum of Understanding. This section is still scheduled to be completed in financial year 2016/7.
3. Broad Lane has been resurfaced in preparation for its use as part of the cycleway.
4. The section running from Dodmoor Crossing to Gibbs' Corner requires detailed planning and land acquisition, and is scheduled for 2017/8.
5. There will be a consultation on a proposal for the crossing of Nibley Lane shortly.
6. The section in front of Beech Hill Farm to the railway bridge will be tarmaced in early June.
7. The cycleway will then run through the left-hand archway, and in front of the houses in Shire Way to Rodford roundabout and the "road to nowhere". This section is due for completion in 2016/7.

Cllr A Fay

REPORT FROM MEETING WITH LUKE HALL MP RE: JUNCTION 18A

I introduced myself as representing Westerleigh PC and expressed our concerns about the effect a junction at Emersons Green would have on Westerleigh village and Westerleigh Road.

Luke hall had nothing to say except to reiterate his conviction that a new junction onto the M4 would relieve traffic congestion in our part of South Gloucestershire.

He pointed out, quite justifiably, that the communication infrastructure in South Gloucestershire is shockingly inadequate and stressed again that a new junction to the M4 would do wonders to relieve the congestion on the Ring Road and in local villages.

The Government have granted £500,000 for a feasibility study so they obviously think it is a good idea. Bath University has already done a preliminary study a copy of which Luke Hall promised to send me. It has not arrived yet.

REPORT FROM AGM FRIENDS OF RAM HILL COLLIERY

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Ram Hill Colliery was held on June 23 2016.

A successful Open Day was held on May 31 with 72 visitors.

Work to be done: the archway needs attention. Awaiting South Glos. and Heritage England for advice. An overhanging tree needs to be cut back, a dead tree removed and more ivy removal is necessary. The owl box is not in use.

An EGM needs to be called to change the constitution from requiring every member to be notified of every meeting to only being notified of the AGM

A query was made as to why there were tennis balls on the accounts. They are used to protect the spikes from the remains of the machines.

A new membership secretary was appointed but there is still no chairman.

As a matter of interest, it was noted that there are 55 environmental sites in South Glos. with 21 voluntary groups giving 7,468 hours labour valued at £13.80 an hour.

1996. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 6TH June 2016

Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr A Fay the minutes were approved and signed

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1997. Correspondence/Communication with Council

CORRESPONDENCE FOR RESPONSE

CORRESPONDENCE	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<p>Joint Parishes Consultative Committee – JPCC</p> <p>Whether your Council agrees with readopting the current Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If not, any changes you wish to propose - Any issues you want the JPCC to discuss immediately - Whether you are happy for Cllr P Hulbert to continue as JPCC Chairman for the moment - If not, who you would propose - Any nomination for interim Vice-Chairman 	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Email from parishioner of Westerleigh Village</p> <p>I would like to make a proposal to the parish council at the meeting tomorrow that the Council lead a meeting of village residents to discuss the road developments around Westerleigh.</p>	<p>(This item is referring to the proposed new M4 junction and its impacts on the local area)</p> <p>It was agreed that Council will host a public meeting and invite MP Luke Hall. It was also agreed that the meeting would need SGC representation</p>

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Notice of Intent - Temporary Traffic Order - Badminton Road, Yate (Church Road, Frampton Cotterell) - PT.5365
2. SGC - Date order induction eventsv45
3. Yate Town Council - Competition for land North of ~Brinsham Park
4. Westerleigh Neighbourhood Watch – thank you letter for £100 grant towards production of newsletter
5. Notification of forthcoming bus changes
6. Network Rail like to advise you about the Cable installation work to be undertaken at Westerleigh road as part of our Railway upgrade plan
7. SGCTransport to Health project has reached the end of stage 1. A briefing note update is attached for your information.
<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/public-community-and-school-transport/transport-to-health/>
8. JPYFSG Minutes 2.6.2016
9. SGC amended letter regarding the resurfacing works planned for Badminton Road, Coalpit Heath. The dates of the works have been pulled forward by 2 days
10. Annual report from South Gloucestershire Library Service which includes details of how the service is delivering on key areas of the service and making an impact both across South Gloucestershire and within our community.
11. Heritage Briefing 21st September 2016 at Poole Court, Yate
12. Wardens Walks
13. ALCA Devolution Deal Workshop on Monday 11th July at 19:30

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION:	COUNCIL RESPONSE
<p>South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and North Somerset are conducting a joint consultation on their draft, Oral Health Promotion Strategy https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/oralhealthpromotion/consultationHome</p>	<p>Support initiative</p>

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<p>Day Services In-House Building Provision consultation</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council is consulting on a proposal to decommission the day service currently provided for adults with learning and physical disabilities at Turnberries in Thornbury.</p> <p>https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/dayservices2016/consultationHome</p> <p>Following a consultation on South Gloucestershire's Day Services in 2013, the Promoting Opportunities Team was established, underpinned with key service principles: that service-users want genuine choice and control over employment, volunteering and social activities, they want to feel supported to live as independently as possible and they should have access to the same level of high quality facilities available to everyone who needs support.</p>	<p>Noted but express concerns about the reduction in services</p>
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1998. Payment of Account

To Whom	Details	Net (£)	Gross (£)	VAT (£)
Staffing Costs	Hmrc/banes/mth 4 salary	2236.35	2236.35	0.00
Hands Property Main	Empty litter/dog bins June 16	348.00	348.00	0.00
Head Groundsman	Grounds maintenance contract June16	865.00	865.00	0.00
South Glos. Council	Localism charges Apr. – June 16	387.39	464.87	77.48
Mrs F Thornton	Office expenses – phone/post/mileage	129.00	129.00	0.00

Proposed by Cllr J Butler and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore, all in favour, the above payments were approved.

Council also noted bank reconciliation as at May 16 and spend v budget as at June 16.

1999. Track at Pansy Vale – Council to consider quotations for repairs

Papers circulated to Council by the Clerk were:-

- a) Email from resident outlining current condition of track
- b) South Glos. Council – quotation for patching £4,273.84
- c) South Glos. Council – quotation for resurface £11,336.21
- d) NMC Surfacing – quotation for patching £5,942.97
- e) NMC Surfacing – quotation for resurface £13,698.72
- f) C R Belcher – quotation for resurface £10,200.00
- g) Thornbury Surfacing – quotation for resurface £7,430.00

Decision: Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr J Butler that SGC are awarded the works to carry out the resurface of the track as opposed to just patching. Agreed by all. It was acknowledged that there may be a variation in quotation price due to the age of the quote.

2000. Manor Hall Representative – Council to re-appoint following withdrawal of Cllr D Boulton from this position

Decision:

Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr A Gibbs that this appointment is left in abeyance due to the pending change to CIO status. Cllr J Butler abstained. Agreed.

2001. Suitability of Westerleigh Village Hall as a meeting place

Cllr G Jancey advised Council that he had spoken to the equalities officer for south Glos. Mr Will Bees. The use of the Westerleigh village hall as a permanent venue due to its toilet facilities being joint for disabled and female is not an acceptable venue. He has stated that it should only be used if there is a very special need in that location but not on a permanent basis. He has stated this should be considered as discrimination against a disabled person if used permanently. I have ask him to write to you.

I am asking you to consider if the venues used are appropriate for public meetings that disabled people will be attending. Can I ask that you consider whether the Westerleigh village hall is acceptable considering the requirement of the equalities act 2010?

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The Clerk advised that to date she had received no letter from South Glos. Council in relation to this matter. She had telephoned Mr Bees for clarification. Mr Bees had advised that equalities legislation is all to do with 'reasonableness'. It may not always be possible to achieve a desired outcome but you must have demonstrated reasonableness in trying to accommodate.

With regard to the Hall; the usage is 5/6 occasions per year (excluding any non-regular meetings). Due to the geographical makeup of the parish, full council meetings alternate between Coalpit Heath and Westerleigh to allow as many parishioners as possible access to parish council meetings.

With specific reference to the toilet facilities at the Hall, [as per Mr Bees] in general it is not viewed as 'ideal' having a mixed gender toilet facility. Quite often a disabled person and their carer can be of opposite gender. The most desired facility is that of a 'unisex' facility so that neither gender feels uncomfortable.

This council do not own the Hall, but, as agreed with Mr Bees as being 'reasonable' this council have changed the sign on the door of the toilet facility to 'unisex/disabled toilet'. This shall be for the duration of the Council meetings. If this were to be a permanent change then this would be for the Village Hall Committee to decide and act upon. However, Council have acted to accommodate this facility in line with advice given.

2002. Request for additional bins in the parish

Cllr M Crumpton reported that following the Councillor surgery on 6th June, a parishioner requested additional litter bins in the parish as follows:-

- Bell Lane /church Lane junction (dog bin there already)
- Bus stop at St Saviours Church
- Inside the Manor Field
- Roundways near the ring of bells

Cllr M Crumpton also would like to add

Badminton Rd next to the lane that runs down the side of the Badminton Carvery.

Could signage state bins can be used for all rubbish etc. can we get an idea of extra cost for collection of these bins too?

The parishioner also brought to our attention that the area could do with the traditional street clean that has been lacking for some time.

He also wanted clarification of any extra bus services to and from South mead and that it should be more inclusive of the area and it's population. He felt that a service that runs via church rd would not be used by the residents who lived in his part of the village as they would find it difficult to walk that far.

The Clerk reported that:-

We currently pay £3.95 per empty of a bin. South Glos. Council do not empty our bins as their cost per empty was £4.56 per bin.

With reference to above location requests we have a dog bin on Roundways (near the school play area); we have three dog bins at Manor Field (one at end nr jct with Southview Crescent, one at the other end of the path, one at the gate as you leave the field at the bottom exit to Badminton Rd) The bin referred to above at Bell Lane is in Frampton parish and therefore SGC empty.

The parishioner attended the meeting and stated the priority bin request would be at St Saviours Church bus stop.

Decision: proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr J Butler that Council install a litter bin in this location.

Clerk to investigate change of signage so the bins can accommodate general litter as well as dog litter.

It was noted that the street care issues raised had also been raised with Cllr C Young who has referred these matters to SGC.

2003. To consider extending the Councillor Surgeries until end of 2016

Decision:

Proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore to extend the surgeries. Agreed by all.

With reference to The Manor Hall, the Hall administrator stated it is not their role to put table and chairs out council should make arrangements for this to take place.

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2004. To note the report from the Staffing Committee – for information, taken as read

Noted

2005. To Implement a Bullying and Harassment Policy for Westerleigh Parish Council

Cllr S Blackmore reported that she had drafted it and that Mr V Anderson had reviewed it.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr B Taylor that Council approve and adopt the Bullying and Harassment Policy. Agreed by all.

2006. Council to consider Road Closure request – remembrance service Westerleigh

The church of St James the Great, Westerleigh is planning to hold as usual a Remembrance Service around the war memorial on Westerleigh village green on Sunday 13 November 2016 at 11am.

This annual service will be the same as has been held on the Westerleigh green since the first world war and is in common with similar services held at the same time all around the country. Last year the two-minute silence at 11am was marked by bugle calls from the RAF cadets. The service was attended by some 60 young people from the cadets, scouts and other uniformed organisations as well as many families from the village. We expect a similar attendance this year.

Last year, many people in the village expressed to me strong concern that the surrounding roads were not going to be closed for the short remembrance service since Avon and Somerset Police had declared that they were no longer be in a position to provide this arrangement. In the event the police did close the roads last year, but said they might not be able to do so in future. They recommended referring the proposed closure to Westerleigh Council.

I therefore request that Westerleigh Council arrange for the roads around the Westerleigh Green be closed on Sunday 13 November from 10.50am to 11.15am for the duration of the Remembrance Service as a

and security measure to protect the many young people present.

Patrick Mills, churchwarden, St James the Great, Westerleigh.

Decision:

Proposed by Cllr B Taylor and seconded by Cllr J Butler for Clerk to obtain quotations for signage and timescale of manufacture. Clarification needed as to logistics with church wardens. Agenda item E&L Committee 25th July.

2007. Items considered urgent by the Chairman (if any)

None

2008 Date of Next Meeting 12th September, Manor Hall

Signed:

Date: 12th September 2016