

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
19TH SEPTEMBER 2016
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

PRESENT:

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair) J Butler, A Gibbs, A Fay, S Blackmore, M Crumpton
Officer: Interim Clerk V Anderson

2009. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor C Young

2010. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

None declared.

2011. Formal Appointment of the Interim Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Decision: proposed by Cllr B Taylor, seconded by Cllr M Crumpton and unanimously agreed that Council formally appoints Mr Vernon Anderson as the Interim Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to cover a leave of absence for the Permanent Clerk and RFO.

2012. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish
Cllr C Young reported:-

Planning issues

Policies, Sites and Places (PSP) DPD

The consultation closed on 8th September. Having received representations on the proposed submission version, the council will submit that version of the Plan and any proposed changes that it considers appropriate along with all the supporting documents to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Council gave delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Vice Chair of the ECS Committee, to respond to all matters arising from the public consultation on the plan up to the formal close of the examination, with the Member Working Group's views being sought where appropriate.

After the main hearing, the Inspector is expected to issue the "main modifications" he or she is proposing for a further 6 weeks consultation. Any further responses will be considered by the inspector and additional hearing sessions run if necessary, before their final report and final modifications to the plan are issued.

Site opposite the New Inn, Mayshill

The owner has withdrawn the appeal and so the enforcement notice is in effect. It is hoped that the vehicles will be cleared within a couple of months.

Road safety

Badminton Road - speeding

Cllr Blackmore contacted me on behalf of a Parishioner who was concerned about the speed of traffic on Badminton Road in Coalpit Heath. I contacted Tracey Hamblett of the Assess and Decide Team at South Glos, who has arranged for the temporary interactive Speedvisor sign to be installed in the vicinity of 242 Badminton Road to measure southbound vehicle speeds in September and near 199 Badminton Road to measure northbound vehicle speeds in October. She also confirmed that where there is a system of street lighting, which denotes a 30mph speed limit, no repeater signs or 30 roundels marked on the road are permitted.

Badminton Road - request for zebra crossing near Sainsbury's

Several residents have requested a more formal crossing point near Sainsbury's on Badminton Road. I raised this with Tracey Hamblett, who said that before she would include an investigation scheme on the Local Transport Priority List she has requested a 12 hour pedestrian count to be undertaken within 100m of the supermarket/pub.

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Westerleigh traffic calming

In 2015, the [Frome Vale Area Forum supported an investigation](#) into further traffic calming measures in Westerleigh after complaints from residents about some of the measures implemented so far. These include concerns from local cyclists about the safety of the pinch points. Unfortunately the final outcome of the investigation has been delayed by the departure of the officer who was handling it. I have been talking to officers to get things back on track and earlier this month met the officer now working on the investigation and a senior manager from Street Care on site to go through the list of problems residents have raised at previous meetings. I will update you when I have more information.

Nibley Lane, between Nibley and Iron Acton - speeding

In my July report, I said that I had been contacted by residents concerned about the speed of traffic on Nibley Lane between Nibley and Iron Acton. I raised these with Tracey Hamblett, who would like the request to be discussed by the relevant Parish Councils. She therefore wrote to the Clerks. In the current circumstances, I asked Tracey to resend the information to the locum clerk ready for your 3rd October meeting.

Roads near the Manor School – formal advertisement of 20mph limit

The formal advertisement of the draft order for the 20mph speed limit on the following roads is being carried out at the moment, with a deadline of 22nd September for comments:

Burcombe Close, Coalville Road, Dormer Close, Heath Gardens, part of Henfield Road, Rathbone Close, Rose Oak Drive, Rose Oak Lane, Roundways, South View Crescent, South View Rise, Station Road, St. Annes Drive, Watters Close, Woodside Road.

The formal advertisement of the waiting restrictions around the Manor School, which is a separate piece of work, has been delayed by the departure of the officer dealing with it.

Ram Hill – investigation into 20mph limit

I reported previously that I had met a highways officer, Tracey Hamblett, and the local neighbourhood watch co-ordinator in Ram Hill earlier this year as part of the investigation scheme into a 20mph limit. At the end of July, the following email was sent to me and to the Parish Clerk:

In March 2016 Members of the Frome Vale Area Forum selected an investigation scheme for a 20mph speed limit in Ram Hill and Serridge Lane.

A meeting with the local Member and a resident took place to identify areas in Ram Hill of particular concern. Monitoring took place to record vehicle speeds and volume between 11 – 19 July 2016 in three locations:-

- *Serridge Lane (west of Ram Hill) – East and Westbound*
- *Ram Hill (nr entrance to Nutridge) – Northbound and Southbound*
- *Ram Hill (nr entrance to Ram Hill Business Park) – Westbound and Eastbound*

When analysing the speed for a 20mph speed limit, the 'mean' speeds are taken into account and speeds of 24mph or below (that is the enforcement speed of 10% of the speed limit plus 2mph for device tolerance). With the introduction of a signed speed limit the speeds (including gateway and repeater signing) the traffic speed are estimated to reduce by 2mph.

Serridge Lane

The mean speed eastbound = 18.9mph

The mean speed westbound = 20.8mph

Ram Hill (Nr Nutridge)

The mean speed northbound = 23.2

The mean speed southbound = 24.6

Ram Hill (nr entrance to Ram Hill Business Park)

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The mean speed westbound = 25.6

The mean speed eastbound = 26.7

The speeds in Ram Hill, near the entrance to the business park, are slightly quicker than the other locations, but with a signed scheme in place, as noted above, it has been found that the speeds could reduce by 2mph).

The data indicates that it would be appropriate to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Ram Hill. It is important that a new speed limit is self-enforcing and does not require unreasonable levels of Police enforcement.

The speed limit would include 'gateway' signing on each approach to Ram Hill and Serridge Lane i.e. speed limit signs on each side of the road. Repeater signs would also be required at set distances within the speed limit along Ram Hill and Serridge Lane.

One comment which was made at the meeting in Ram Hill was that the existing timber posts are retained and the 20mph roundels would replace the existing 30mph speed roundels within the timber posts.

The Council's recorded injury record indicates that there has been one slight accident in Ram Hill (outside Bleak House) involving a car heading southbound which veered off the road and drove into property gates.

The proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Ram Hill will be included on the Local Transport Priority List for consideration and possible selection in the future. I propose to send the proposed signing requirements for a 20mph speed limit in Ram Hill to the Estimating team so that a scheme cost can be calculated for inclusion on the Priority List.

Yate Spur Cycle Path

Work on the section of the cycle path between Nibley Lane and the Shire Way railway viaduct was completed earlier this summer. It has been confirmed that South Glos has secured £400,000 for further work this financial year. In September the council will be consulting on a pedestrian refuge at the Nibley Lane junction, the path under the viaduct and the Shire Way section. The council is also working towards securing land for the Westerleigh Road to Broad Lane section.

More funding will be needed in future years for the construction of the path between Dodmoor Crossing and Nibley Lane. This is arguably one of the parts of the route that will bring the biggest safety improvements.

Bus service changes

From 4th September, the section of the 81 service between Yate and Parkway has been withdrawn, so people living locally have to rely on the 82 to get to Parkway. Most of the direct buses to the University of the West of England have been cut, leaving just one direct service per day in each direction during term time only.

Waste and recycling

The new waste strategy was approved in July. The key changes are:

- The 240l black bins will be replaced with 140l ones and will still be collected fortnightly.
- Recycling will be collected weekly, with the option of having boxes or the existing bags.
- Parents will be able to buy a reusable nappy kit at a reduced price.
- Parents with children in disposable nappies who cannot fit used nappies in their new smaller bin will be given bags for putting out the nappies separately.

Use of the Road to Nowhere

Street Care are going to be using the end of the Road to Nowhere nearest the Badminton Road offices (ie the opposite side of the railway bridge to the Common) as a temporary storage and compound area to support the implementation of the new waste strategy. Initially the site will be used to store vehicles overnight while the existing yard at Dean Road is re-developed. The site will then be used to store the new recycling vehicles and finally will provide space to support the changeover of household bins. All the activity is temporary, they will be off the site by the end of 2017 and no waste will be stored on the site at any time.

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Earlier this month they cleared the overgrown vegetation and were laying some additional before securing the front and back with a fence to link the existing side fences. The large rocks will stay in place at the entrance until the site is fully secured. Once in use there will be additional security.

Libraries

After a consultation which attracted 3,600 responses, there was a partial rethink on the library cuts. The staffed opening hours will still be cut significantly and the mobile library scrapped. New technology will be used to give people access to libraries when no staff are present. This means that having gone through an induction process, your library card will let you into the buildings for 11 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing you are 16 or older. Children will have to be accompanied by an adult when staff are not present. The council has also said it will support up to ten community libraries.

There will now be a consultation on the proposals for each library, for example on which days and times staff should be present. The changes are due to be made in October 2017.

Westerleigh smell

Unfortunately over the summer there were reports of odour problems in Westerleigh village. I contacted the Environment Agency, who informed me that Tulip are investing in a new effluent treatment plant at the abattoir, to be installed this autumn/winter. They hope it will be up and running by the end of the year. In the meantime they were investigating temporary measures to minimise odour release.

The Environment Agency said it would help their investigations if some people kept an odour diary. This simply involves writing down the time, date and a brief description whenever you smell an odour. I would ask anyone happy to do this to get in touch with me. If people experience an odour which they think may be caused by the abattoir, they should first call Tulip on **0117 9571919**, which is answered 24 hours a day. If the odour persists, please also contact the Environment Agency's hotline (**0800 807060**).

Council offices parking

At a meeting with Property Services officers, I was shown plans for the extended car park and the proposed Park and Ride, which demonstrated that the two could co-exist.

Community Engagement Forum

On Tuesday 5th July I attended the first meeting of the new Community Engagement Forum in the Greenfield Centre, Winterbourne. The local beat manager, PC Finbar Simmons, confirmed that a mobile speed camera has been present on Henfield Road twice a month and this will continue until further notice. There were seven speeding detections in April and 13 in May. He also promoted the use of UV pens and labels to mark valuables and the www.immobilise.com database, where you can register serial numbers for your possessions.

Discover Festival

The annual South Glos Discover Festival is currently underway, with events running through until October. For more information, see www.southglos.gov.uk/discover

2013. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary

Cllr J Butler reported that the Manor Hall held an SGM meeting prior to the AGM where parishioners agreed to move forward with converting to CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) status.

2014. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 4th July 2016

Proposed by Cllr J Butler, seconded by Cllr S Blackmore and agreed that the minutes be approved and signed

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2015. Correspondence/Communication with Council

1. 'The Battle of the Somme' Imperial War Museum film is to be screened in Iron Acton on Friday 23rd September at 7:30pm I the Village Hall – SGC
2. Become a volunteer with Avon & Somerset Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Avon & Somerset Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
3. Extension of M32 Bus Lane – Metrobus
4. Councillor Briefing Committee Services and NHS financial & performance challenges – SGC
5. Severn Tunnel upgrade newsletter – Network Rail
6. NALC/ALCA
 - a. NALC Direct Information Service bulletin - issued 1 September 2016
 - b. Grants and Funding Bulletin- issued 1 September 2016
 - c. Local Associations Information Sheet; Housing & Planning Act 2016; Neighbourhood Planning
 - d. ALCA
 - i. Agenda of 43rd AGM to be held 8th October 2016
 - ii. Minutes of 42nd AGM held 3rd October 2016
7. Avon Valley Walks; September 2016 – Cotswold Wardens
8. Notice of overgrown brambles in the lane that adjoins Wayleaze (BS36 2PL) Coalpit Heath Bristol to the Badminton Road A432 (Badminton Arms Pub) – Mr Andrew Jay. It was noted that this should be reported to Street Care.
9. Advance notice of payphone removal consultation – SGC
10. South Gloucestershire's Autumn newsletter – SGC
11. Resurfacing advisory notice Pewsey Vale track commencing at 7:30am 26th September 2016 – Dave Boff, Highways Engineer.
12. Mr Alan and Oliver Price application to erect wedding marquee in Newman's Field; wedding to be held Friday 30th September 2016
13. Notice of potential police support for Remembrance Sunday road closure in Westerleigh– St James The Great church warden

2016. Payment of Account

To Whom	Details	Net (£)	Gross (£)	VAT (£)
Staffing Costs	Hmrc/banes/mth 5 salary	2236.35	2236.35	0.00
Westerleigh Parish Hall	Room Hire	865.00	865.00	0.00
Head Groundsman	Grounds maintenance contract Aug16	865.00	865.00	0.00
Konica Minolta	Copier Charges	55.93	46.61	9.32
Konica Minolta	Copier Lease Charge	37.19	30.99	6.20
Head Groundsman	Grounds maintenance contract Aug16	865.00	865.00	0.00
CPS Grounds Ltd	Clear Footpath Serridge Lane	60.00	50.00	10.00
CPS Grounds Ltd	Works to Pound as per quote	403.20	336.00	67.20
Hands Property Maint.	Empty litter/dog bins Aug 16	348.00	348.00	0.00
Grant Thornton	External Audit Fee	480.00	400.00	80.00
Mrs F Thornton	Office expenses	37.92	37.92	0.00
Staffing Costs	Hmrc/banes/mth 6 salary	2236.35	2236.35	0.00
Manor Hall	Room Hire	33.75	33.75	0.00

Proposed by Cllr s Blackmore and seconded by Cllr A Fay, all in favour, the above payments were approved.

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2017. Formal acceptance of Councillor Jancey's resignation from Westerleigh Parish Council (Coalpit Heath Ward)

Council considered Mr Jancey's resignation letter and formally resolved to accept his resignation.

The next step is to advertise the casual vacancy at the earliest opportunity (notice to be formally published 20th September) for a period of 20 days. Should there be ten or more written requests received by parishioners for a contested election the principal authority will move forward with setting a by-election. If there are less than ten requests for an election the council will co-opt a suitable candidate following set local procedures.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr J Butler, seconded by Cllr S Blackmore and agreed that Mr Jancey's resignation is accepted and that the casual vacancy for the Coalpit Heath Ward be formally advertised on both ward notice boards and the website with effect 20th September 2016.

2018. Statements and implications regarding Mr Jancey's resignation letter and recent posts, made through social media administered by former and current councillor(s).

Council considered a number of issues relating to perceived defamatory and libellous remarks made via Mr Jancey's resignation and posts made on a website blog which is administered by Mr Jancey and other councillors who are currently serving on the Council. This included defamatory comments raised in the blog against named parishioners.

At the chairman's discretion the meeting was adjourned for a few minutes to allow the injured public parties an opportunity to speak and refute allegations being made by people making posts on the web blog.

The chairman then reconvened the meeting in order to discuss the implications and possible legal action that can be taken in order to remove and stop the defamatory and libellous remarks. Also discussed were the implications arising from members of the council who are administrators to the social media and what responsibilities they may have regardless of being oblivious to the offending posts. The Interim Clerk mentioned that he had a view that whilst certain administrators may be ignorant of certain posts there was a matter of culpability as administrators have the power to prevent harassment and libellous remarks from staying public.

The main outcomes identified were:

1. Approach the legal department of SGC (Gill Sinclair, John McCormack) for first advice and if they don't offer contrary advice approach an independent solicitor to issue a letter to cease and desist from further defamatory postings and public announcements.
2. The Clerk suggested that existing councillors who are currently administrators cease their administration rights to the relevant social media that causes offence or could be damaging to the councils reputation.
3. Ask the four existing administrators for a public retraction of harmful material and make a public apology.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore, seconded by Cllr J Butler and agreed that the first above outcome be progressed and respectfully request that councillors whom are administrators to support the second and third outcome (It is noted that Cllr Crumpton was unable to comment on the second and third outcome and abstained from voting on both of these outcomes).

2019. Issues of Intimidating Public Behaviour at Bitterwell Lake

The issue of inappropriate aggressive behaviour at Bitterwell Lake was reported by parishioner Mr Terry Smith and relates to a known offender who has been showing increased levels of aggression towards Mr Smith and possibly other members of the public.

The known offender is known to have mental health issues and also has previous convictions for carrying offensive weapons and aggressive behaviour which is in the public realm.

Following debate taking into account representations made by Mrs Smith on behalf of Mr Smith it was resolved:

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Decision: Proposed by Cllr J Butler, seconded by Cllr M Crumpton and unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to the offender (copied in to the local police) barring him from any public space owned or administered by the Parish Council.

2020. Items considered urgent by the Chairman (if any)

Council considered informally a consultation paper on Special Expenses issued by SGC that had been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Although a formal decision could not be taken the clerk was asked to respond on the following points:

- Q1. Preference is for amend the existing scheme, second is cease the scheme, third is to keep the existing scheme.
- Q2. Only two of the special expense categories apply to WPC (bus shelters and open spaces) but none of the categories listed should be removed.
- Q3. No new special categories to be considered.
- Q4. WPC suggests a grant scheme as the alternative scheme.

2021. Date of Next Meeting 3rd October, Westerleigh Parish Hall.

Signed:

Date: 3rd October 2016