



NOTICE OF FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday June 13th 2022 at 7pm, Henfield Hall, Ram Hill, Coalpit Heath

Please do not attend if you have been in contact with any other person who has tested positive for COVID within the last 5 days or if you are feeling unwell. Please respect social distance from others. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 relating to this meeting
4. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish SEE Agenda Appendix 1
5. Pre-arranged items from members of Public
6. PLANNING: (a) Council to NOTE comments submitted since last meeting
(b) Council to discuss/comment on any necessary Planning Applications or other Planning Matters
P22/03005/F Conversion and extension of existing club house. Windmill Golf Academy Henfield Road Westerleigh South Gloucestershire BS36 2FE (ADJOINING PARISH APPLICATION)

(c) Council to discuss concerns raised and responses received regarding the planning process
See also Agenda Appendix 2 and item 7.
7. Parish Councillor Reports – written submissions, taken as read with questions taken as necessary
 - (a) From Cllr Clark – See Agenda Appendix 2 - **South Gloucestershire Council Planning Peer Review Meeting**
 - (b) From Cllr Taylor – Wapley Solar Farm proposal engagement meeting
In my opinion - The choice of this position is an obvious one: close to the sub-station and under the 132 kv overhead lines. It is already well-shielded from surrounding roads and houses. The are already making contact with Avon Wildlife Trust about nature enhancement. The land is currently pasture, of little wildlife or agricultural value.
I think the team has a good plan
8. Council to APPROVE Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on May 9th 2022
9. Council to NOTE receipt of E & L Minutes of 23.5.2022
10. To consider matters arising from E & L Committee meeting and APPROVE where relevant including:
Picnic benches at Westerleigh Playing Field; Defibrillator at St Saviours Hall; Litter issue – meeting with Cllr S Reade; Accessible gate & radar key project at WPF;
11. Council to consider Lake sub-group membership or take as part of E & L committee remit
12. Council to NOTE receipt of May 2022 payments & income documentation
13. Council to NOTE ZURICH INSURANCE POLICY renewal year 2 of 5
14. Council to receive any updates or discuss issues in relation to WESSEX WATER/Bitterwell Lake at Ram Hill
15. Council to receive information relating to underground water leak at The Chalet/Henfield Hall site
16. Council to receive update relating to a Housing Needs Survey for Westerleigh ward of this Parish Council
17. Council to NOTE Response & related information from Highways Investigation Scheme Request re Henfield Road/ Roundways Coalpit Heath waiting restrictions
18. Correspondence/Communication with Westerleigh Parish Council:
From SGC:
 - South Gloucestershire New Deal, PowerPoint slides and Q and A's.
 - PT.7295 Serridge Lane, Westerleigh - Notice of 3 day closure of Serridge Lane some time after 20th June.
 - Estimate of 2023 election costs
 - Minutes Frome Valley CEF 11 May 2022
 - PT.7310 Broad Lane, Westerleigh - Temporary Road Closure 2 days (after 11th July)
 - PT.7301 - Besom Lane, Westerleigh (No.2) - Temporary Road Closure - 5 days some time after 1st August
 - Badminton Road Closure 23rd-25th June 8pm - 6am

Other received items

- From Bristol City Council – details of Clean Air Zone coming into effect
- From Cotswold Scouts – update on Mafeking building project
- Thank you from Manor School for Platinum Jubilee mugs and tree

19. Council to REVIEW/APPROVE Standing Orders, Committee Terms of Reference and Financial Regulations
20. Council to receive information/APPROVE an email/communications technology policy
21. Council to receive any other information from Clerk/Deputy Clerk regarding ongoing matters/required approvals
Confirmation of details of Period for Exercise of Public Rights; Outcome of Casual Vacancy period;
22. Council to discuss any required CONSULTATIONS
23. Council to discuss/APPROVE any required GRANT APPLICATIONS
24. Items considered urgent or exempt by the Chairman
25. Dates of upcoming public Parish council meetings <https://www.westerleighparishcouncil.org.uk/meeting-dates/>
Monday July 11th 2022 Full Parish Council meeting Westerleigh Village Hall 7pm
Monday 18th July 2022 Finance Committee meeting 7.30pm at red brick annex Manor Hall

AGENDA Appendix 1

Westerleigh Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 13th June 2022

Subsidised Bus Services Under Threat

An acrimonious extraordinary meeting of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) on 26th May, called by the constituent authority leaders, to discuss how to address the current bus crisis ended in stalemate after Dan Norris, the West of England Mayor, and the leaders of the three authorities failed to agree a compromise. The meeting was adjourned and will reconvene on 14th June.

A total of 26 subsidised routes, that receive public money as they are not commercially viable, are at risk of being withdrawn. Additional funding is needed for subsidised routes because running costs have soared by 43% due to soaring fuel prices and driver shortages. Amongst those services is the 622 which provides the only regular bus service to Rangeworthy and Tytherington.

There is also a threat to the Y3 and Y5 which have only been given support in the short term from underspends in WECA's 2021/22 budget. If both services were withdrawn Westerleigh, Rangeworthy, Tytherington, Iron Acton and Engine Common would all be left without any regular bus service. Residents who do not drive face being wholly reliant upon community transport providers, taxis and the assistance of their friends and neighbours. This neither acceptable nor sustainable as it would worsen inequality and social deprivation in our rural communities.

Dan Norris is due to attend the next meeting of South Gloucestershire Council's Scrutiny Commission on 6th July to discuss and take questions on the current bus crisis. We are encouraging residents and parish councils impacted by changes to the bus services in their area to submit written statements and/or speak under public participation at the meeting (this can be done remotely or in person).

Fencing on the Manor School Playing Field

In September 2020 Cllrs Young and Clark had a site meeting with Sue Webber (School Projects Commissioning Officer at South Gloucestershire Council), Amanda Flanagan (headteacher of The Manor Church of England Primary School) and a member of the School Governors. The meeting was to discuss ongoing safeguarding problems that the school was experiencing when holding lessons on the playing field and the school's wish to fence off a section of the playing field for the exclusive use of their pupils. At that meeting we stressed that, once detailed proposals had been drawn up, it was critically important for there to be a proper public consultation before any permission for fencing is granted. The playing field has been freely accessible to residents for decades and it could antagonise residents if they were presented with a *fait accompli*.

Despite regularly asking for updates on the school's plans no such proposals were forthcoming until a few weeks ago when we were sent copies of the notices the school were due to put up in the area. These notices explained that the school owned the entirety of the playing field and that fencing would shortly be installed in the eastern corner of it. We sought clarification from senior officers at South Gloucestershire Council; we wanted to know whether permission had been granted, the process used to arrive at the decision (if the school did have permission) and clarification about the ownership of the field.

Officers were not aware of the school's plans but confirmed that SGC does own the playing field (the school pays the council for the use and maintenance of the field). The school were instructed to halt their plans whilst further discussions/meetings took place. Officers have subsequently gotten back to us to acknowledge that the

problems and the history of the field are complicated but, in their view, there should indeed be a public consultation before anything is agreed and installed. No timescales for a public consultation have been announced yet but, as soon as they have been, we will let the parish council and parishioners know how they can participate in it.

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AGENDA Appendix 2

South Gloucestershire Council Planning Peer Review Meeting – Cllr Clark

On Wednesday 25th May I attended an online Planning Peer Review Meeting on behalf of the parish council. It was called to discuss how the planning system operates in South Gloucestershire and the experiences of town and parish councils. It is important to note that the peer review was an informal and not a statutory review.

South Gloucestershire Council invited representatives from other local authorities into the department to review how the planning system operates and to identify both strengths and weaknesses.

The meeting was only arranged a day or so beforehand, via the Town and Parish Council Forum, and the external reviewers only had half an hour allotted to them for the meeting. This unfortunately meant that each attendee only had the opportunity to speak for a few minutes. There was, however, a lot of common ground in the comments of each attendee. The following points were made:

- There is no formal training provided by South Gloucestershire Council to town and parish councillors, particularly those new to the planning process, to help them in their role as a consultee.
- There is little or no contact from planning officers, during or after the consultation period.
- There is no technical help or advice from either planning officers or formal consultees (e.g. highways officers, biodiversity officers, etc.) which makes it harder to engage with large planning applications. Large applications, including revisions, can sometimes have hundreds of submitted documents.
- Residents struggle to understand the different stages of the planning process and the various roles involved. They confuse the functions of the case officer, town/parish councils, and the three different planning committees at South Gloucestershire Council (the Development Management Committee, the Strategic Sites Delivery Committee and the Spatial Planning Committee).
- The online planning portal can be complicated, even for those with good computer skills, and tends to exclude residents without computer skills and/or internet access.
- Comments aren't uploaded onto the portal in a timely manner.
- Town and parish councils are not always notified in a timely manner when revised documents are submitted. This can mean they lose the opportunity to formally comment on those revisions.
- Consultations are often too frequent, too long, written in technical jargon and open for only a short period of time. They aren't written in a format that encourages residents to respond and feel like a mere tick box exercise.
- There's a lack of respect from officers for the role of town/parish councillors as community representatives and for the informative local knowledge they often provide.
- There's a lack of respect from officers for the views of residents and their comments are usually disregarded (even when a resident might have a lot of professional/technical experience on a subject they have raised).