

FALFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th November 2016 at 7.30 pm at Falfield Village Hall

Present

Parish Councillors: Miss E. Jarvis, Mr A. Gregory & Mr K. Fryer.

Clerk: Mr J. Carpenter **Public:** Ward Cllr O'Neill, Police Constable Shaun White (part) & 5 Parishioners

00649/16 Apologies for Absence: Mrs J, Hathway, Mrs V, Stanley & Mrs M. O'Connor

00650/16 Police Report

PC Shaun White gave a brief report on crime and road traffic accidents in and around the parish. He advised parishioners to be vigilant as there had been a number of burglaries in recent days in Thornbury, Charfield, Stone & Berkeley. One item of note was that on 31st October a "Cup Cake Stand" was stolen from outside a house on the A38. He also reported on the accident which occurred on the A38 between the Park Hotel and Eastwood junction between a Car and a motorbike which luckily did not result in any life threatening injuries.

00651/16 To Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Gregory and **resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th October be signed as a correct record.

00652/16 To Receive Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda and Dispensation Requests

None

00653/16 Public Forum

00653.1/16 A parishioner was concerned over safety with the current position of the Bus Stop for the 62/X62 bus services on both the North and South bound carriageways on the A38 outside of the Gables Hotel and whether something could be done to improve this. Ward Councillor John O'Neill would take this up with Integrated Transport Service at South Glos and report back. **Action: J. O'Neill**

00653.2/16 A parishioner requested that the grass verge on the southbound side of the B4059 between the A38 and the layby within the Tortworth Parish be cut and rubbish removed. The parishioner commented that he noted that more people are now using this route as a footpath. Streetcare would be contacted to make them aware of the parishioners concerns and enquire what action could be taken. **Action: Clerk**

00654/16 Planning Matters

00654.1/16 To Discuss the Following Application

PT16/6231/PNGR - Prior notification of a change of use from Agricultural building to 1no dwelling (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (use classes) Order 1987 (as amended). Sundays Hill Farm Sundayhill Lane Falfield Wotton under Edge South Gloucestershire

This application had only been received on the day of the Council meeting. Initial thoughts by Cllrs present were that there were no grounds for objection, however it was agreed to allow time for those Cllrs not present to provide comment back to the Clerk before finally deciding on the Councils response. **Action: Clerk**

00654.2/16 To update Council on applications previously submitted and discussed.

PT16/5140/F - The Haven, Moorslade Lane - Erection of 1no detached dwelling, parking and associated works. **Expiry: 9/11/16 AWAITING DECISION**

PT16/5345/RVC - The Cornfields, Gloucester Road, Whitfield - Removal of condition 3 attached to planning permission PT10/3362/F to enable agricultural vehicles to use access driveway. **Expiry: 10/11/16 AWAITING DECISION.** Cllr Jarvis commented that the wording on this application had been amended to read "Variation of condition 3 attached to planning permission PT10/3362/F to allow vehicular access"

PT16/5715/F - Whitfield Gate Farm Gloucester Road Whitfield Wotton under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8DR. Erection of first floor rear extension to form additional living accommodation. **Expiry: 10/11/16.**

00655/16 To Note Planning Decisions

PT16/4623/PNH - 9 Eastley Close, Falfield - The erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4m, for which the maximum height would be 2.4m, and for which the height of the eaves would be 1.8m. **NO OBJECTION**

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PT16/4784/LB - Mount Pleasant Chapel Bristol - Regularisation of external and internal works including external lime render, works to trusses, installation of 6no. timber shutters to windows, re-fit balcony and install new staircase. **APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS**

PT16/4999/ADV - The Gables Hotel, Bristol Road, Falfield - Display of 1no. Internally illuminated double sided post mounted sign and 1no. Internally illuminated wall sign. **APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS**

00655.1/16 To Discuss/Receive Feedback regarding Cotswold Homes Development

Currently Highways England are conducting a survey on junction 14/M5 (see Highways section) and until this issue has been addressed the application will not be determined.

00655.2/16 To formally approve the notes of the meeting with Tortworth Estate/Buckover Garden Village – 7th September 2016

The notes had been previously circulated following the last meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Fryer and seconded by Cllr Jarvis and **resolved** that these notes be accepted and signed as a true record. The Clerk was instructed to forward these comments to: Tortworth Estate, Thornbury Town Council, Falfield Action Group, Thornbury Action Group and Ward Cllr John O'Neill.
Action: Clerk

00655.3/16 Cllrs raise the comment that in the original concept document it identified Buckover Garden Village as a part of Thornbury but in the later "Expression of Interest" submitted to Dept. of Communities and Local Government it had changed to a stand-alone village.

00655.4/16 Cllr Jarvis then read out a letter received from Dept. for Communities and Local Government (DCLM) in reply to the Council's letter dated 20th September in which they noted the Council's concerns about the lack of engagement and community involvement and that the concerns raised by the Council are ones to which the DCLM had regard to in assessing this expression of interest.

00656/16 To Discuss/Receive Feedback regarding West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

Cllr Jarvis stated that there would be a "Drop in Exhibition" in Falfield Village Hall on Monday 28th November between 1pm and 7pm which is open to members of the public with Council officials in attendance to answer any questions. Cllrs had a number of comments to make regarding both these consultations which were required to be submitted by 19th December 2016. Cllrs agreed to meet in early December in order to formulate the council's response in more detail. The Clerk was instructed to contact all Cllrs to agree a suitable date for this meeting.

Action: Clerk

00657/16 Financial Matters

00657.1/16 To Approve Clerks Salary and Increased hours from January 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Gregory and **resolved** that the Clerk's Salary should be set at SCP18 to be reviewed again in April 2017 and that the Clerk's hours should increase from 7 hours per week to 8.5 hours per week from 1st January 2017 to take into account the additional meetings from January 2017.

00657.2/16 To Approve the following Payments

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Jarvis & **resolved** unanimously to approve the following payments.

	Nett	VAT	Gross
Mr J, Carpenter – Clerks Salary for October & November	338.54	0.00	338.54
HM Customers & Revenue	225.60	0.00	225.60
Village Hall Rental for bookings on 9 th & 15 October	15.00	0.00	15.00
South Glos Council – Grass Cutting 2 nd quarter	83.16	16.63	99.79

00657.3/16 To Note 2016/2017 Budget & Payments/Receipts Statement

The Budget & Payments and Receipts Statement which had been circulated to Cllrs before the meeting, was noted and signed.

00657.4/16 To Discuss Budget and set Precept for 2017/18

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The Clerk had previously circulated the draft budget to all Cllrs. Within the budget there was an increase of 19% in the Clerks salary and an anticipated 40% increase in hire charges for the village hall. This was due to the proposed increase in the Clerk's hours combined with an increase in hire of the village hall due to the Council moving from 6 to 10 meetings a year. In order to offset these increases the budget for asset replacement was reduced by 50%. Overall the precept has risen by 2.54%. After the inclusion of rental and VAT receipts the overall budget income increases by 1.48%

It was proposed by Cllr Fryer, seconded by Cllr Gregory and **resolved** to approve the budget and set a Village precept of £6,460.00 for 2017/2018

00657.5/16 To Discuss Localism charges (Amenity Grass) for 2017/17

The Clerk informed Cllrs that an estimate had been received from South Glos for the renewal of a three year contract for the cutting of grass commencing April 2017 at £333.92 per annum The Clerk advised Cllrs that he had been informed by the previous Clerk that she understood that the current contract did not expire until after this date and because of this further investigation was required before accepting entering into this contract.

Action: Clerk

00657.6/16 To Discuss Updating Bank Signatories

As only 3 Cllrs were present this item was postponed until the Councils January meeting.

00657.7/16 To Receive Feedback regarding Special Expenses Scheme 2016 Query.

The Clerk informed Cllrs that a credit of £128.43 plus VAT had been received from South Glos for the overcharge in relation to 2016/17 for the grass cutting on the Village Green. Further work is now being undertaken in an attempt to obtain overpayments for the previous nine years.

Action: Clerk

00658/16 Highway Matters

00658.1/16 Update on M5/junction 14 capacity.

Ward Cllr John O'Neil reported that a number of meetings between Stroud District Council, South Glos and Highways England had taken place. It had been established that further surveying work on the junction of the A38/B4509 was to take place before any solution to the overcapacity could be resolved. He indicated that an early decision from Highways England was not to be expected. Until a decision made on largescale housing developments in Thornbury and Falfield would be on hold. He also indicated he did not expect that all applications for development in Charfield would be affected.

00659/16 Removal of BT Phone box in Sundayhill Lane

Cllrs agreed to respond to the consultation and object to the removal of the Phone box as they consider that it provides access to any prisoner on their release from Eastwood Park and that under the criteria of providing a service to an individual who has previous been deprived it should be retained.

Action: Clerk

00660/16 Launch of Member Award Funding Scheme.

Ward Cllr John O'Neill informed Cllrs that as a Ward Councillor he has a fund of £3,000 which can be awarded to help voluntary/community groups, social enterprise organisations and town or parish councils towards local community projects. Further information can be obtained from www.southglos.gov.uk/MAF. The Clerk would make the Village Hall Management Committee, Falfield Scouts and Falfield & Stone Brownies aware of this Scheme.

Action: Clerk

00661/16 To Receive Reports from Councillors

00661.1/16 To Note Village Hall Management Committee Feedback

Report submitted by Cllr. Hathway. The recent Wine Tasting evening was very successful. Forthcoming event will be Carols around Christmas tree on the Village Green on Thursday 15th December. The Phoenix Singers will be assisting with carols around the tree and refreshments will be available. The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee will be on 21st November 2016.

00661.2/16 To Receive Feedback from the Oldbury Stakeholder Group Meeting 2nd November

Report submitted by Cllr Hathway. This was a joint meeting of the Berkeley/Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group.

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It is always a well-attended meeting covering the usual business of apologies and accepting of the minutes of the last meeting... Various reports were given which included:

- Mike Heaton for Berkeley and Oldbury sites
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Office For Nuclear Regulation
- Environment Agency reports
- Horizon Update
- South Glos and Stroud College, which opened in September 2016. This was very interesting as it highlighted the importance of training students in engineering for the future.
- Report on Environment monitoring

Other interesting parts of the meeting were that Horizon will be making a representation to the J.S.P about the proximity of the new Power Station. And the possibility that there is a need to consider a Nuclear Emergency plan for the surrounding areas of the new site. It was pointed out that the new administrators of the site would be in charge of this.

00661.3/16 To Receive Feedback regarding William Stephen Charity Meeting – 19th October

Cllr Fryer informed members that this meeting had been postponed and will now take place on 21st November. He was also pleased to report that a recipient for the award of £25 had been established.

00661.4/16 To Discuss / Receive Feedback from HMP Eastwood Park.

No report had been received from Mr M. McBien. Councillors instructed the Clerk to contact HMP Eastwood to arrange a meeting.

00661.5/16 To approve Use of the Village Green for Christmas Events.

It was proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Gregory and **resolved** that the Parish Council give their approval for the Village Green to be used for Christmas events by village organisations providing that these organisations have adequate Public Liability insurance.

00662/16 To Discuss/Approve for Risk Assessment and Asset Inspection Document

The Clerk went through the outcome of the inspection, as listed below:

ASSET	ISSUE/ACTION
ACTIONS	
Bus Shelter – The Huntsman (North Bound)	Ivy needs cutting back
Bus Shelter - Whitfield Gate Farm (North Bound)	Ivy/bushes need cutting back
Bus Shelter - South of Brinkmarsh Lane (South Bound)	Ivy needs cutting back
Jubilee Seat	Ivy needs cutting back
Falfield Centenary (Milbury Heath)	Grass and hedge needs cutting back
Village Green Boundary Stones	Clear stones to ensure visible
Village Green Benches	Remove any overhanging branches
War Memorial	Loose stone on wall (New – reported Nov 2016)

The Clerk was instructed to contact Eastwood Park Prison and Leyhill Prison to enquire whether they would have any working parties available to undertake some or all of the required work. **Action: Clerk**

00663/16 To Discuss/ Receive Feedback regarding Superfast Broadband

Currently the vast majority of the parish is still unable to access Superfast Broadband even though South Glos and a number of telephone providers are indicating that it is available. Currently parishioners were finding it difficult to obtain accurate information from either South Glos, Openreach or BT on the position of the current rollout programme. Ward Cllr John O'Neill would contact the Project Engineer at South Glos to enquire on the current position and report back. **Action: Cllr John O'Neill**

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00664/16 Correspondence

All items available from the Clerk (*Italics – available by email, Bold Italics – By letter* * previously circulated to Councillors.

*Important consultation on Local Council precepts Healthwatch South Glos October *South Gloucestershire Library Service Review/Consultation (Period 10th Oct 2016 – 2nd Jan 2017) Community Based Services Re-commissioning consultation (Period 5th Oct 2016 – 5th Jan 2017) Consultation on the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy (Closes 6th Dec 2016. *Consultation on BT Phone box Removal National Assoc Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issue No 893. Came & Company, "Councils Matter" Newsletter, Autumn 2016 Positive Activities Subsidy (PAS), Grant scheme for voluntary and community sector organisations and Town and Parish Councils who can deliver youth programmes and activities in South Gloucestershire. *South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group- draft commissioning intentions for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 which have been developed as a result of ongoing engagement with our stakeholders and represent our current state of planning and preparation for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. Health in Schools Programme newsletter. Stroud District Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule: CIL Examiner's Report Severn Tunnel newsletter ALCA – Draft minutes of AGM, 8th October 2016 Councillor Development Events up to March 2017. SLCC – Cemetery & Churchyard Survey. Community Resilience emergency plan and flood plan templates *Launch of Member Awarded Funding (MAF) scheme Luke Hall – updated contact information Dept. for Communities & Local Government – Letter acknowledging Councils letter dated 20th Sept in relation to lack of engagement with the

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 17th January at 7.30 pm

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at 9.30 pm.