

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**Held on 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm at the Stoke Gifford Retirement Village.**

Present: - Cllrs Anthony Hyde (AH) (Chair), Prisana Ramarathnam (PR). Bethan Candlin (BC), Srinivasa Boinapally (SB), Graham Smith (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Anil Mishra (AM), Rajanataraj Sivaraj (RS), Nirav Mathani (NM).

2. Evacuation Procedures

(AH) described evacuation procedures.

3. Declaration of Interests

(AH) declared that he is a councillor at Stoke Gifford Parish Council for any relevant items.

4. Public Participation

Two members of the public attended.

One public participant explained that he was present to discuss the provision of a Defibrillator in Stoke Park and that the British Heart Foundation is running an invitation to bid to site defibrillators subject to conditions, of which applications must be received by 15th March 2024. (Conditions are to remain unlocked and uncoded with 24/7 power supply with no other public sited defib within 200 yards). It was noted that the British Heart Foundation perform all necessary training.

The same member of public raised an issue regarding the ownership of a strip of land between Longdown Avenue and Wright Way and asked if the Parish Council hold information relating to land ownership.

The Parish Council confirmed that it would investigate both issues.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11th of December had been circulated with the agenda papers and Cllrs agreed that they were an accurate representation of the meeting. (PR) proposed to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 11th December, (SB) seconded and all Cllrs accepted minutes as presented.

23.045 Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023 were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chair (AH).

6. South Gloucestershire Council

Ward Cllr Ayrden Pocock (SGC) was invited to the meeting and all agenda papers were forwarded to him. No SGC councillor representation was available. (AH) informed Cllrs that a formal complaint by a resident had been lodged with SGC but this was overturned and not pursued.

7. Feedback from Cllrs re Community Meetings

(SB) informed Cllrs that a Simms Hill Community Woodland meeting will take place on the 1st Feb and that he would be attending and report at the next meeting.

8. Financial Matters – Report & Review & Ratify decisions.

(Clerk) had distributed the December Financial report and reconciliations with the agenda packs. Cllrs confirmed reading of the document and there are no outstanding issues. (PR) proposed the financial report be accepted (SB) seconded and all Cllrs unanimously agreed.

23.046 Resolved: Finance reports and reconciliations for December 23 were accepted by the finance committee.

9. Cllr Candlin – Update re-meeting Boston Tea Party

(BC) informed Cllrs that she had attended a meeting with the Boston Tea Party (BTP) management (Cheswick Village) with a view to working together to assist overcoming some concerns relating to awareness of council and venue for Annual Parish Meeting. Conversation covered community noticeboard managed by (BTP) located at the rear entrance and is widely used and read (as is their Facebook and Instagram accounts in which the Council may utilise to assist creating awareness within the community). It was confirmed that (BTP) would be pleased to host Cllr surgeries, the participants, dates and times yet to be confirmed. Annual events occur and were discussed with the potential that the Parish Council become involved in a similar way to that of the Christmas event. The date of the Annual Parish meeting was confirmed and agreed that (BTP) could host the event. (BC) and (Clerk) agreed that a further meeting should be held to clarify detail.

240108: Action 001 – Organise a further meeting with (BTP) to discuss and confirm the finer detail of original discussions.

Action to (Clerk) & (BC)

(AH) rectified a misunderstanding relating to the distribution of Mince Pies at the (BTP) Christmas event and confirmed that his concerns were not relating to (BC)'s organisation.

10. To Consider implementation of Parish Plan

Further to November meeting and the introduction and distribution of councils' Parish Plans (Clerk) advised that Cllrs should consider constructing a formal plan to distribute to residents. It was understood that currently there is no set direction for the council as the commitment and strategy relating to their community commitment on the part of Wallscourt Farm academy has not been forthcoming. It is understood that the intention to create a Parish Plan was agreed to which (PR) proposed ((SB) seconded and the formation of a working group be proposed in which (PR), (SB), (BC) and (Clerk).

23.047 Resolved: The Parish to form a subgroup to work toward producing a Parish Plan for residents.

11. To consider requesting item from SGC under “Freedom of Information act 2000”

(Clerk) advised Cllrs that it had been over a month since SGC contacted him to confirm that they were prepared to discuss Wallscourt Farm Academy community use commitment and the S106 monies passed to them to enable this to happen and yet nothing had been discussed since. (Cllrs) agreed that a meeting had been held with the School Trust in August with subsequent excuses not to meet to discuss community benefit was a regular occurrence. Cllrs agreed action should be taken. (PR) proposed that Clerk contact SGC to issue a freedom of information request to ask for details and dates of s106 community benefit monies released to Wallscourt Farm Academy over the past 10 years and to detail the expenditure. (SB) seconded and all cllrs unanimously agreed.

23.048 Resolved: To issue SGC with a “freedom of Information” request.

12. Councillor Vacancies / Resignation

(Chair) informed Cllrs that the resignation of Cllr Andrew Badger had been presented to him based upon the fact that Stoke Gifford PC paid a discretionary £40,000 payment for which he perceived fell short of previous precept payments paid to Stoke Gifford PC from SP & C residents. (AH) assured Cllrs that despite being a councillor sitting on both councils, he was not part of the process and acted on behalf of SP & C PC to secure what (all Cllrs agreed) was a satisfactory outcome.

It was noted that (AB) was not present at the meeting where discussions had taken place and was not fully aware of the underlying issues. Both Councils agreed that issues arose due to poor handling of the setting up of the councils by SGC.

(Cllrs) accepted (AB) resignation and requested that (Clerk) retrieve the noticeboard key in his possession.

13. Authorisation of Payments

13.1 Payments authorised at meeting by (BC) & (AH)

Details	Ref.	£
Clerk Salary & Expense	B/P 026	1157.06
To construct & fit signage to notice boards	B/P 027	234.00
IT support / consultation	B/P 028	313.72
Total Receipts		£1,704.78

13.2 Receipts Dec 2023

Details	Ref.	£
Settlement of SP&C precept held in reserve	DCR	40,000.00
Total Receipts		£40,000.00

23.049 Resolved: Payments presented to the PC meeting on 8th January 2024 were accepted.

14. SGC Audit Contract

(Clerk) had previously distributed a contact received from SGC audit department relating to the undertaking of the 2023/24 internal audit and if deemed satisfactory requested that he be given permission to sign. Cllrs agreed that the contact was satisfactory for (Clerk) to sign.

15. Correspondence

None

16. Planning Item for Consideration

P23/03398/TRE	50 Casson Drive BS16 1WR	Works to 1no. Pear to reduce by 2m in height and 1m from the sides covered by TPO10/98 dated 03/06/1999.
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Cllrs unanimously agreed that they had no objection to this planning application.

Meeting Closed 20.30PM

The next Council Meeting – 12th February 2024. (Stoke Gifford Retirement Village)