



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Rebecca Prince (Jt Chair), Rob Torrington, Marilyn Harris

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 2 members of the public, County Councillor David Gray, Borough Councillor Cheryl Agg

288. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Joyce Calam, Pam Sissons, Steve Lennon (Jt Chair)

289. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

290. To receive and agree the minutes of the meetings held on 11th February 2025

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

291. Receive reports from Parish Councillors/Speed Watch Team/Clerk

Traffic Data – Community Speed Watch Team – No report
Village Hall – Cllr Prince reported the Gold Cup Café had a successful first day
Councillor Advocacy Scheme – Cllr Calam has volunteered to represent the Council
Councillor Auditor – Cllr Torrington appointed

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons had reported the tree debris blocking ASM 2 on Southam Lane was cleared by GCC on 3/2/2025. A tree inspector was due to visit by 7/3/2025 to inspect the adjacent tree and the options were do nothing, pollard it or take it down. We are still awaiting an update from GCC. Footpaths - following the village walkabout no 18 on spreadsheet - New Road opposite Mole End - hedge/brambles next to stile and dog flap overgrown. It is nesting season March to August so we should avoid cutting hedges, however this was an access and safety issue, so this has been pruned back on both sides to ensure it is usable. It will need to be looked at again in August.

Cleeve Common Trust – Cllr Torrington/Harris – meeting postponed to end of March

NPPF – Cllr Lennon and Prince had attended the webinar on planning reforms and recommended councillors research new policy. Cloudy IT have introduced planning tool to assist in responding to planning applications but this may be too costly for the PC to purchase (B/F)

Village Walkabout – the main issues noted were litter, untidy verges, overhanging hedgerows and damaged or faded road signs – a list was being compiled by Cllr Sissons and action points to be brought to next meeting. There was a hope that a clearance event might be held but clerk to investigate how to dispose of the arisings/rules about volunteer litter picking.

292. Receive and request reports from the County/Borough Councillors

County Councillor Gray advised that County Council have to submit letter to Government department about their choice of Local Government reform by the end of the month but there is still some debate about this and Cheltenham Borough seem to be making their own plans without discussion about Tewkesbury joining with Cheltenham. City Regional Board meeting also to discuss. At the moment, the County Council elections will proceed with everyone in limbo.

500,000 trees have been planted countywide as of tomorrow.

Borough Councillor report as follows:

Meetings Attended

Since the last Parish meeting, we have attended our usual committees and working groups, including:

- Flood Risk Management Working Group
- Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee
- Devolution White Paper discussions and Local Government Re-organisation meetings
- Parish Council meetings
- Budget Seminar, which included a detailed discussion on grass cutting
- Climate Change and Ecology Management Group
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Full Council
- Cotswold National Landscape Board

Matters of Interest to the Parish

Southam

An issue in Wayward Lad Close has been reported to Environmental Health for further investigation.

Traveller Site Update

Updates regarding the traveller site were discussed, and further details will be provided as they become available.

293. Adjournment for public participation on items on the agenda (if about another subject residents should write to the clerk clerk@southamtodayorg.uk)

- A resident requested that the County Council renew the white line markings at head of Southam Lane/Old Road/New Road (to be followed up via email)
- Increase in fly tipping and potholes in Noverton was reported to the County Councillor (to be followed up via email)

294. Planning Consultations

APP/1630/D/25/3359629 Application ref: 24/00731/FUL Re-modelling of the existing dwelling to include the change from a pitched roof dormer bungalow to two-storey flat roof design with a new flat roof single storey extension with a balcony to the front (western) elevation. Darrel Ley, Lye Lane – **previous comments still apply**

25/00139/FUL Remodelling of existing dwelling to include single and two storey rear front and rear extensions, new dormers, replacement doors and windows, replacement roof covering and new wall finishes – Garden Vale, Southam Lane

No objection to the scale and shape of the proposed alterations and extensions, but consideration should be given to potential overlooking of the neighbouring property from the 2-storey rear extension.

Additionally, the proposed roof materials and white render to the walls, are not in keeping with other properties in this part of Southam Lane and may look out of place set in amongst the adjoining brick/stone faced properties.

25/001060/FUL De La Bere Stables removal of conditions to refer to amended plans

Objection The council previously supported the development but raised concerns regarding protecting against future changes to the design. Since that application was approved, the proposed building has been moved South to become more evident, and this more recent application seeks to increase the footprint significantly.

This would result in the building moving closer to the footpath and being more readily seen by walkers using the adjacent fields. The impact within the greenbelt would be much greater, albeit that the recent NPPF changes appear to remove the previous requirement that new development in green/graybelt should not be larger than the buildings it replaces.

The larger development also has a greater impact on the setting of the adjacent Listed Ellenborough Park Hotel.

Additionally, more of the existing landscaping will need to be removed, increasing visibility and reducing biodiversity opportunities.

APP/G1630/W/25/3360736 Application ref: 24/00106/CONDIS Green Orchard

Objection to discharge of the conditions. The development of the site has exceeded the planning permission.

295. Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council

24/01010/TPO as requested by Cleeve Common Trust, to actively manage the woodland along the boundary with Cleeve Common to ensure public safety – **Consent**

24/01048/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to ancillary accommodation (C3) with occasional short-term holiday let and addition of a window on the eastern elevation. Garden Cottage, Cockbury Court, Winchcombe - **Permit**

296. Finance & Governance

1. To approve payments in March

The following payments were agreed:

Payments March	Total	Net	Vat
M Prince Plants for Planter	15.97	15.97	0
Administration	489.86	489.86	0
Swarco Maintenance Contract			
MVAS	677.4	564.5	112.9
HMRC	105	105	0
Village Hall - meetings jan - march	60	60	0

Ashtons planning advice fee 900 750 150

An interim transfer from Deposit to Redwood Bank of £10,000 was also approved

2. To approve the February bank reconciliation and February budget report

Cllr Torrington checked the bank statements and vouchers and proposed the bank reconciliation of the current account £2191.38 and Redwood account £10,000 as correct **this was agreed by unanimous vote.**

The budget report was circulated. Expenditure to date £14352.95 and Income £14725 was noted to be within budget.

3. Review payments by direct debit – **It was agreed that the only current instruction was to the ICO**

4. Review internal controls and confirm they are still relevant – **the internal controls were agreed as adequate**

5. Confirm that the 2022 version of the Standing Orders is still relevant – **this version was confirmed as relevant**

6. Confirm the 2023 version of the Code of Conduct still relevant – **this version was confirmed as relevant**

7. Planning fees – **agreed under item 286.1 at £750 plus vat and the balance of fees paid to date £4100 as opposed to donations of £3483.23**

8. Confirm renewal of subscription to GAPTC £284.53 payable in April – **the renewal was agreed**

297. Discuss joined up work with Prestbury Parish Council on slowing speed on the B4632

An initiative of Prestbury Parish Council. There was discussion about the difficulties in accessing the road from side roads and danger to pedestrians navigating footpaths, access to the bus stop and it was agreed that cars are travelling in excess of the current speed limit therefore reducing the speed would be helpful. Clerk to write to Woodmancote and Prestbury seeking a joint meeting.

298. To consider applications for Co-option to the Council

Candidate Karen Fish was co-opted by unanimous vote. Karen has previously served as a councillor and is based in Noverton.

298. Date of Next Meeting

8th April 2025 Annual Parish Meeting and Ordinary Meeting