



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllrs J Calam, M Harris, K Fish, R Prince, P Sissons, R Torrington

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 17 members of the public, County/Borough Councillor Cheryl Agg

340. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lennon

341. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests

342. To receive and agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June 2025

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

343. **Presentation of Civic Award**

Cllr Prince (Chairing) presented a civic award for outstanding voluntary work to resident Gordon Sullivan “she said I am delighted to present this Civic Award on behalf of Southam Parish Council to Gordon Sullivan, in recognition for all the hard work, love and dedication he has put in to maintaining Southam War Memorial and surrounding grounds so beautifully for over 30 years. Thank you on behalf of the Parish Council and residents of Southam, we really appreciate all that you have done and will strive as a community to continue to maintain the War Memorial surrounds to the same high standard”

Mr Sullivan stated that he had first been approached to get involved by Chris Cooper and once he had taken it on, in latter times with the help of his son, he found it an interesting project for many years.

344. **Hayfield Homes to present proposals for a development in Mill Lane, Noverton**

Hayfield Homes presented themselves as an exemplary developer with a track record of producing high quality and eco-friendly homes. An explanation of the proposed development of 20 homes (12 market/8 affordable) on a 4 acre site was given. Although the site was SLA and outside the urban development boundary of Prestbury, it was not on greenbelt. It was a smaller development than the previous failed Gleeson development. They claimed a presumption in favour of development due to TBC only having a 3.1 year supply of housing in their current LP.

The community offer on site was a public open space with viewing platform to enjoy the views. A new footway along the B4632 verge to join the PROW. Hayfield Homes stated that they might want to look at extending the 30mph limit zone on the B4632.

Houses in traditional brickwork, timber and cladding in a farmstead setting to fit the landscape. New road access opposite the Hayes, and an access track to Gravel Pit Lane.

Hayfield Homes anticipated submitting a full planning application to Tewkesbury Borough Council at the end of July 2025 and the Parish Council would be a consultee and submit comments.

Responses to questions:

- Land outside the 4 acres site (red line) is in other ownership and could be developed

- Affordable means market product price/shared ownership (social rent 80%) (affordable rent 70%)
- Land is on higher ground than other property/road levels and will be screened by trees

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

- Noise monitoring Newlands & Racecourse – awaiting licence details
- Expression of Interest in transfer of TBC assets via devolution – awaiting meeting
- Evesham Road A435 closure and mitigation of congestion – GCC have said that temporary traffic lights cannot be used due to the high speeds on the B4632 and likely back up of traffic
- B4632 – TRO in layby to prevent overnight parking – looking into this
- Strategic Local Plan – Completion date not yet agreed. Concern was raised about the impact on development applications.

Borough & County Councillor report:

- **Full Council** – This included a refresh of the Borough Plan and questions raised around grass cutting standards across the borough.

- **Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Climate Change & Ecology Committee** – Continuing work on transparency, accountability, and environmental action.

- **Licensing Monitoring** – Following up on concerns about local music events affecting residents in Southam and Woodmancote, particularly around noise levels and ongoing licensing conditions.

County Council (Gloucestershire County Council)

Transport & Infrastructure

- **Bus Routes** – Reviewing existing services and community feedback regarding connectivity and reliability.
- **Cycleway Project** – Regular updates and meetings on the major infrastructure project improving the A435 cycle path between Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve. Continue to request temporary traffic lights at the junction of the B4632

Highways & Road Safety

- **Speeding Concerns** – Reports of excessive speeds on the B4632 and traffic build-up through Woodmancote into Southam are being actively investigated.

Council Committees & Training

- Attended **Environment Scrutiny Committee** and **School Transport Appeals Panel**.
- Completed training sessions on **Commons and Rights of Way, Climate Literacy, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**.
- Contributed to the **Local Growth Plan** review to ensure sustainable development aligns with our community's needs.

Casework Update - June into July has seen a significant increase in both new and ongoing casework, reflecting the broad range of issues affecting residents across the ward.

346. Adjournment for public participation on items on the agenda (if about another subject residents should write to the clerk (clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk) 15 minutes

- Resident pointed out that temporary traffic lights could be manned as on race days

- Resident mentioned that home owners in Ratcliff Lawns have been offered the purchase of plots of land on their boundary. A meeting will take place – Council to be kept informed of outcome in case there is a plot which can be brought into the public realm

347. Receive Parish Councillor reports

- Village Hall Committee – no report
- Footpaths – Cllr Sissons reported as follows:

New:

- ASM12 at Hyde Brook - willow bough and branches blocking the footpath. Reported to landowner and it was cleared the following day.

Old outstanding:

- ASM2 - Ash tree on Highways land on Southam Lane near Kayte Lane junction. Difficult getting Highways to respond, but PROW officer taking up with Highways. Neighbour has recently had one of their own trees pollarded and tree surgeon agreed that the ash tree on Highways land looks to have ash die back.
- ASM6 and 7 Ratcliff Lawns - no response from the landowner to GCC. GCC PROW officer to send RPA letter this week.
- ASM13, 14, 15, 16 - footpaths around the Mushroom Farm. GCC have agreed Cotswold Wardens can clear. Awaiting permission from landowner to replace a footbridge on the ASM16. GCC agreed funding, access permission needed.
- ASM25 - Land above Bentley Lane - GCC believe a blocked culvert is causing the water issue on Bentley Lane/B4632 in winter. GCC have agreed funding and are hoping to complete the works over the summer. No date agreed yet.
- CCT – No report
- Website – Cllr Torrington reported that he has disabled the old website and has added new content to the new website. Cllr Fish is maintaining the Facebook page.
- Councillor Advocacy Scheme - No report

348. Village Matters

1. War Memorial – received an update from the Gardening Club regarding taking on planting and maintenance. Gill Donovan to discuss this with the Gardening Club Committee on 31 July 2025 and revert back. A proposal to replace the grass around the war memorial with astroturf and put out potted plants was rejected. Should volunteers not be forthcoming to assist with planting, a suggestion would be to turf the current flowerbed and the Council's contractor would maintain it.
2. Planning - LEKL update following Planning Inspector's visit Thursday 29th May – decision likely by the end of this month
3. B4632 - Speed data and consider next steps – speed data for June shared with Council. Speeds of up to 80 mph but majority of drivers are within limit. **Data collection will continue. Meeting set up with Dave Holland, Road Safety & Traffic Management Officer of Glos Constabulary on 14th October.**
4. Requests for highway mirrors at the junction of Mill Lane/Mill St. and bottom of Wayward Lad close/replacement of bollards (awaiting advice from GCC) GCC will not install – general consensus was that the public can install utilising private property.
5. Agree to participate in GCC Safer Roads initiative with aim of reducing speed in the parish overall – **Parish Council will participate – Clerk to draw up list of possible changes**
6. Neighbourhood Watch - John Donovan asked for support in distributing Neighbourhood Watch information to parishioners. It was agreed that a section would be included on the website and the email distribution list and Facebook could be used to direct parishioners to new Neighbourhood Watch updates.

349. Planning Matters

Application:

24/01020/FUL The change of use of the previous Malvern View Care Home (C2 use class) to a rural hotel (C1 use class) amended plans – **No further comments**

Decision:

Appeal Ref: APP/G1630/W/25/3360736 Green Orchard, Kayte Lane, Southam, Cheltenham GL52 3PD – partly dismissed

350. Finance & Governance

1. To agree payments in July – list not available, **clerk authorised to make payments in interim**

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

The bank reconciliation was checked by Cllr Fish and agreed at £15131.11. Payments to date £3367.42 and Receipts £15345 were agreed as within budget

350. Parish Survey 2025

Agree cost of publication (£70) and appoint volunteers to distribute. Collection address?

Cllrs. wanted a questions about contact preferences and details of social media added.

351. Date of Next Meeting

12th August 2025 with no meeting in September