



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllrs S Lennon (Chair), M Harris, K Fish, R Prince, P Sissons, R Torrington.

Also Present: David Holland Gloucestershire Police, 9 members of the public.

Before the items on the agenda Cllr Lennon provided the Parishioners with an update and gave the following statement

“As some Parishioners may be aware, unfortunately our clerk Gill Jennings has decided to leave her role as Clerk to SPC.

Firstly, on behalf of the councillors, I would like to thank Gill for all her hard work during her time as clerk.

She has made a significant contribution in many ways, including when the council was inoperative in mid-2023, Gill was instrumental in managing this difficult situation and keeping the PC going.

Gill has been the liaison with both County and Borough Councillors on behalf of SPC and her extensive knowledge of local government in Gloucestershire has been invaluable in assisting the councillors with their duties and a number of key issues, such as protection of the green belt.

We appreciate Gill's input, sharing her extensive experience and expertise.

We are sad to see Gill leave and will miss her guidance but would like to extend our thanks again and send her best wishes for the future.”

Cllr Lennon also provided updates on the following

We are intending to recruit a new clerk but without any success to date – Cllr Lennon invited Parishioners to advise if they know of anyone who is suitably qualified and may be interested in the role and asked them to contact the Council via the clerk's email address clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk.

Additionally, we are currently going through a handover with Gill to ensure that Council business continues, as seamlessly as possible, but please bear with us.

Cllr Lennon gave thanks to Cllr K Fish for volunteering to take the Minutes this evening.

364. To receive apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Calam.

365. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests.

366. To receive and agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2025

Cllr Lennon confirmed all 6 Councillors present at the July meeting had agreed to the amendments Cllr Sissons had proposed to the July minutes, specifically amends to minutes 344, 345 bullet 5, 348.1 and an additional point 348.6. All councillors present approved the draft August minutes subject to these amendments being incorporated in minute 355 and minor amends to minutes 357 and 360,

367. Discussion about safety concerns on B4632 with Dave Holland Glos. Constabulary

Reasons to revisit the effectiveness of the speed limits on the B4632:

- a. The speed limit on the A435 is being decreased and there may be a perception of the B4632 being a faster route
- b. The collection of data shows that some drivers think it is OK to drive at 80mph on this road
- c. Increase in traffic volumes since 2021 with the expansion of Bishops Cleeve, Winchcombe, Broadway and Cheltenham and worsening driver behaviour
- d. Increase in leisure cyclists and pedestrians
- e. Further decline in pavement safety
- f. Elderly residents with mobility problems should have right to cross safely to the bus stop
- g. Tourists and others should be able to access PROWs safely
- h. Pledge by GCC to take speed seriously through Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiative
- i. Difficult to get collision data due to changes in reporting structure since 2015 but there appears to be an increase, a recent collision at New Rd junction (Aug25).

Issues around bus stop location and residents having to cross the road to use it and crossing the road to get access to the public right of way.

Dave Holland explained that most issues raised are the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council. He said that the Police can input into ensuring speed limits are complied with more safely. He explained that they had looked for suitable locations to undertake speed enforcement but they had encountered difficulties finding suitable locations where it would be safe for the enforcement team to do so. They had previously looked into carrying out enforcement from the layby just past the New Road junction but had assessed it would cause problems in blocking access out of the layby. Dave Holland agreed to revisit and investigate further with the enforcement team and get back to Parish Council. Cllr Sissons confirmed that the layby being referred to is not an official layby and forms part of the original road and is owned by GCC who from time to time use it as a storage depot.

Dave Holland provided speed data obtained in 2023 and 2024 copies of which are attached. Dave Holland advised that it's the County Council's responsibility for speed limit setting and changes to them and explained that just changing speed limits doesn't necessarily resolve driver speeding. He said it would like to see 60 mile/ hour sections reduced to 50 mile/hour. He explained that when driving in high volumes of traffic driver behaviour changes and they are more likely to ignore vehicle activated speed signs.

Dave Holland provided information regarding the costs of installing average speed cameras and explained that they are £100k a set and a large volume of traffic and collision data needs to be available and taken into account before average speed cameras can be considered. The collision data provided is attached to the minutes. He explained that Police only record collision data where injuries have occurred and on the stretch of road being considered none of the incidents had identified the speed of the vehicles involved as contributing to the collision.

Dave Holland agreed to put survey boxes down and would try to have survey data available for the next Parish Council meeting.

He raised the option of speed limit reminder markings and other traffic calming measures being applied to the road surface as an option to encourage road users to reduce their speed but this would need to be discussed with Gloucestershire County Council. It was agreed that Parish Council would approach Jacob Cotterill – Local Highways Manager with a view to inviting him to the November Parish Council meeting to discuss road marking options, etc.

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

- Resident raised the issue of the junction to New Road being a tight bend and of a number of drivers hitting the kerb due to this. Dave Holland suggested that they report the issue to

Gloucestershire Highways Department.

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

Written reports were received before the meeting and are appended to the minutes.

370. Receive Parish Councillor reports

- **Website/ communications** – Cllr R Torrington – provided an update on E broadcast confirming that an initial email was sent out to residents and steps have been taken to make the website easier to access. He confirmed that at a future date a Neighbourhood Watch section may be set up. He also confirmed that information is also being updated onto the Parish Council's Facebook page.
- **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr R Prince reported village hall hearing loop is working and Kevin Wilcox is trying to organize more microphones for use with the loop. The Pub Night had to be cancelled due to unavailability of organisers.
- **Footpaths** – Cllr Sissons reported as follows:
 - ASM 6 & 7 paths off Lower Ratcliff Lawns. 23/3/2025 Neighbour complained about farmers are not reinstating paths following ploughing. GCC PROW Officer has written to landowner, but has not received a response. The paths have been walked back in with use, but we want landowner to ensure that paths are reinstated within two weeks going forward. GCC PROW Officer to write to the landowner again 28 September 2025.
 - ASM 6 path to Woodmancote. Good news. Landowner is laying slabs and gravel along the stretch adjacent to the GWSR line to west of Southam Paddocks. This usually becomes very muddy in winter. Stopped and had a chat with the landowner and thanked him.
 - ASM 7 New Road to footbridge. 20/8/2025 Neighbour complained that path was not walkable due to brambles, thistles, weeds. Footbridge passable. Strimmed the road side and around the stile. Trampled down the growth. GCC PROW Officer has agreed Cotswold Voluntary Warden can assist with clearance. Works team booked for 9 October 2025.
 - ASM 12 to CHP 11 path Southam to Prestbury. GCC have replaced the gate/chain at the end of the footbridge with a new metal gate.
 - ASM 13/14/15/16 - Land around Haymes Mushroom Farm. Damaged footbridge on ASM14 to be replaced. Other paths to be cleared. Cotswold Voluntary Warden have booked in works team for 9 October 2025.
 - ASM 25 - Path above Bentley Lane. GCC have set aside funding to replace a culvert. Date not agreed, but the work to be completed during October 2025.
 - ASM 26 - Bridleway on Cleeve Hill. Reported bough of tree down 27 May 2024. GCC PROW Officer wrote to landowner. Bough still down and blackthorn encroaching on bridleway making it impassable. GCC PROW Officer to contact landowner again. 28 September 2025.
 - ASM 45 - Path above Sunset Lane, tree has fallen on a stile into Nutterswood. Reported to GCC PROW Officer 27/5/2024. Donation requested from landowner to replace stile with a swing gate. No response. Submitted another photo 19 September 2025. GCC PROW Officer to contact landowner again. 28 September 2025.
 - ASM 118 - Path opposite Ellenborough Park Hotel. Tree bough before the swing

gate. Reported to landowner 11 September 2025 and cleared within 24 hours. Thank you message sent as this landowner is very responsive.

- ASM 112 - Mill Lane Prestbury – Cllr Fish confirmed that further works have been carried out to this stile with new posts and some of the rails being replaced.
- **CCT** – Cllr R Torrington and Cllr M Harris reported nothing to update on other than clearing and numbers of cattle grazing on the common.
- **Councillor Advocacy Scheme** – No update to report but Parish Council needs to research into progress regarding implementation of this scheme.

371. Planning Matters

Applications:

25/00630/FUL – The erection of a new dwelling and associated operational works De La Bere Stables, Southam Road – SPC comments uploaded on TBC planning portal early September. Application withdrawn but expected to be resubmitted.

24/00953/FUL – Erection of sports hall, first floor extension to existing sports club and spectator stand Newlands Park Southam Lane – SPC comments uploaded on TBC planning portal early September. Currently going to recommendation/committee stage.

National Grid – Compulsory Purchase Order to Secretary of State re: Cleeve Common – Cllr R Torrington confirmed that this matter is dealing dealt with by Cleeve Common Trust. Cllr P Sissons to notify Public Rights of Way Officer re public footpaths located within the area of the closure.

Decision Notices:

25/00524/FUL – The construction of a double car port. Rowan House Southam Lane - Permitted.

Appeal Land East of Kayte Lane – Dismissed – The Planning Inspector issued his decision on 19 September 2025 against both the refusal of planning permission and TBC's enforcement notice. This dismissal means that planning permission remains refused and the enforcement notice upheld. The decision applies to the lead case and eleven linked cases. The enforcement notice is now effective and must be complied with within the specified compliance period of 12 months. TBC will be monitoring the site throughout this period to assess progress towards compliance. If it becomes apparent during the compliance period that the notice will not be adhered to, TBC will take appropriate preparatory steps to ensure it is ready to take further action, if necessary

372. Finance & Governance

1. No September Bank Reconciliation is available at the time of the meeting for August / September. This is planned to be reviewed with the clerk on handover at the weekend. Cllr R Prince to be reviewing bank account and payments.

August/September Cashbook Report – The report issued with the meeting agenda was approved, including the October payments listed on the report.

August/September Budget Report – The report issued with the meeting agenda was approved.

2. Arrangements for Remembrance Day – application for road closure sent, no fee to pay, no need to marshal road closure – awaiting Royal British Legion confirmations and keep updated re progress.
3. Receive Communications Policy for consideration – Agreed to defer this item and share comments online and collection of potential amendments. Agreed Cllr R Torrington to co-ordinate. Councilors need to consider how the policy will effectively work in practice

based on the hours their Parish Clerk is employed for, to enable delegation and address fixed deadlines for responses..

4. Renew Licence Applications for Newlands – Status unknown. Cllr Lennon to follow up with TBC Licencing Team.
5. Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiative – Parish Clerk previously provided an initial list for review. Initial consideration by Councillors to issues with speed limits on B4632 and to look to reduce speed limits on Noverton Estate and residential areas of Southam village to 20 miles per hour.
6. Appointment of an interim Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) – Cllr S Lennon proposed Cllr R Prince and seconded by Cllr K Fish. All councillors agreed with the proposal.

373. Parish Survey 2025

- Councilors agreed Cllr P Sissons' Amendments
- Two quotes for revised survey to be obtained.
- Agreed distributions per dwelling and to seek access to information from Council Tax Register or Electoral Roll via Tewkesbury Borough Council and once information is available to sort out volunteers to distribute.

374. Date of Next Meeting

11th November 2025 - 7:30PM Southam Village Hall.