



Southam Parish Council

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Also Present: 14 members of the public and GCC/TBC Cllr Cheryl Agg

411. To receive apologies

Apologies received from Cllr R Torrington and Cllr Nigel Adcock (TBC).

412. To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation

There were no declarations or requests.

413. To receive and agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January 2026

The minutes were agreed by all councillors present as a true record of the meeting.

414. Matters arising not dealt with on the agenda

Communications Policy – Cllr Lennon advised Cllrs had subsequently met for an EGM on 29/01/26 and agreed to review all policies including SPC's Communication Policy.

National Grid/Cleeve Common - Cllr Torrington was not in attendance and is due to provide an update regarding PROW closures while the works are ongoing.

Licence Renewal Applications – Cllr Lennon advised there was no update regarding any licences from TBC and the licence agreement for the Cheltenham Tigers Rugby club is still to be reviewed.

Appointment of a new clerk - Cllr Lennon confirmed that SPC is looking to potentially pool candidates with Woodmancote Parish Council who are currently advertising for a Parish Clerk.

415. To receive reports from the Parish Councillors, SpeedWatch and Neighbourhood Watch

Traffic Data.

Bill Motion provided the following summary of January's traffic data:-

Southam Lane	Average of 2611 cars per day, going east, the average vehicle speed was 29.1mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 34.2 mph; the fastest speed events were at 60 mph
Old Road	Average of 1198 vehicles per day, going south; the average vehicle speed was 22.9 mph; 85% of all vehicles were slower than 27.6 mph; the fastest speed events were 45 mph
New Road	No data, road remains closed, battery not fitted.

Highways and Community Speedwatch Update – John Donovan confirmed that he passes all data on from Community Speedwatch to Gloucestershire Police.

John Donovan enquired whether SPC could consider funding the purchase of replacement batteries which are longer lasting for the two MVAS signs located in Southam Lane and New Road. Agreed that John Donovan and Bill Motion will investigate suitable batteries and

provide a costed proposal regarding their replacement.

Cllr Sissons advised that herself, Cllr Harris, Cllr Cheryl Agg and Bill Motion met with GCC Speedwatch Team who were shocked regarding the speed of traffic on B4632 to cross to the bus stop. Cllr Agg advised that GCC intends to review the speed limits on the B4632 from Winchcombe, through Woodmancote and Southam and on to Prestbury, and at junctions and then consider varying speed limits. Once they have reached decisions regarding the speed limits for the various sections they will put forward a Traffic Regulation Order which will go to public consultation. Once the consultation period is over and speed limits have been agreed updated signage will be erected, setting the speed limits in various locations.

General Road Issues - Cllr Agg advised that a piecemeal approach will be applied to the works required to Gravel Walk. Flooding in Kayte Lane - Cllr Agg reported upon flooding adjacent to building work currently being carried out for NHS Supported housing accommodation. Cllr Agg confirmed that she will be arranging for GCC to meet the developer to discuss the location of the attenuation works to the development.

A resident raised the issue of the large pothole in close proximity to the Land East of Kayte Lane travellers' site which is causing issues as drivers are having to take evasive action to avoid it. Cllr Agg advised that it's on the public highway and needs to be reported via Fix MyStreet. This has already been done.

Neighbourhood Watch – John Donovan confirmed that he passes on all Neighbourhood Watch information to Cllr Torrington to send out to mailing list and to update on SPC's website. He confirmed that Gloucestershire Police are advising residents to remain vigilant. He also advised that they recommended alarming sheds to protect the contents within them and ensure that vehicles are left secure. Cllr Lennon suggested that the new PCSO may wish to give a talk at a future SPC meeting re residents' security.

Cleeve Common Trust – Cllr Harris advised that CCT are publishing a couple of short films regarding the conservation of limestone.

Cllrs Torrington and Harris attended annual post Christmas gathering where a presentation was made by Simon Smith, the Nature Recovery Lead at Cotswold National Landscape (formerly the AONB). Simon spoke about 'the big picture' of nature recovery and how Cleeve Common features in this. Very interesting to see how Cleeve Common is an important part of supply of nature corridors that allow the transfer of animals and plant species north due to global warming. Really highlighted the importance of such areas.

They also provided a round up of the many operational duties carried out by the Rangers and volunteers, along with the community engagement activities aimed at bringing people to the Common.

Cllr Harris confirmed that the CCT's Bringing Big Chalk to life films are now live on their website and are designed to help partners tell the story of their shared vision, inspire action, and show what's possible when they work together across the chalk and limescale landscapes.

The full guide can be accessed online to see how and when to use each and how to acknowledge them. Quick overview:-

- The short film - its time to look beyond the scenery – together – A punchy overview, one minute visual made to inspire. Perfect for presentations, social media, or on your website to capture attention and share what Big Chalk stands for.
- The long film – A Big Solution: Six and half minutes of thoughtful, people focused storytelling. Ideal for funding conversations, inductions, or partner events – this film tells the story of Big Chalk through the voices of their partnership.

Both these films are hosted on the Big Chalk's website.

Cllr Harris also confirmed that on 09/03/26 two retired Gold Cup winning racehorses will be hacking on the common and then going to the Racecourse where the public can meet them.

Councillor Advocacy – Cllr Calam confirmed that she hasn't received a response and will email again.

Footpath Warden – Cllr Sissons provided the following updates:-

Bridleway at the end of Queenswood Grove – GCC PROW Officer asked us to walk ASM26 following a complaint from a member of the public about the path being narrow and overgrown. The bridleway is flooded to about half way up and there are low overhanging tree branches over the bridleway and a large bough fallen off a tree directly on the path. Cllr Sissons confirmed that these issues have been reported to GCC to arrange for the overhanging branches/bough to be removed and GCC to review works required to the culvert causing the flooding.

Bentley Way – Flooding issues again related to a blocked culvert and water running into B4632. This has been reported to GCC.

Village Hall

Village Hall Activities – Cllr Prince confirmed that there was a Jazz Night on 30th January which was successful and well attended.

Further events in February will be:-

Film Night on 13th February - Film is The Ballard of Wallace Island.

Cllr Prince confirmed that the issue raised regarding Fireworks being let off in Village Hall ground will be covered separately at the end of the meeting. Cllr Prince confirmed that she will address the matter with the Village Hall Committee. It was suggested future incidents should be reported to 111 as Anti-Social Behaviour. Cllr Agg advised that Gloucestershire Police PCSOs are very stretched at the moment but if it becomes a regular occurrence may be able to get a PCSO to drop by.

Cllr Prince – advised that there is an Open Coffee morning for Village Groups that regularly use the hall on 28/03/26.

Website/Communications – Cllr Lennon confirmed that Cllr Torrington continues to do regular updates on news items such as Neighbourhood Watch, licensing applications, etc. on the website along with email updates to 240 plus email addresses. Cllr Lennon confirmed that SPC wants to get as many residents as possible subscribing to updates as it's a great way to keep residents updated. Hopefully, the current circulated CIL survey will prompt more individuals to register for updates, Cllr Lennon also confirmed that Cllr Torrington is continuing to work to improve the website in collaboration with Parish Online.

A request was received from a member of the public to pass on their thanks to Cllr Torrington for his work on improving the operation and functionality of the website.

416. Matters to discuss

1. Newsletter update

It was confirmed that SPC is still looking for an editor and it is hoped that the CIL survey will come up with some potential volunteers.

2.Civic Award

Cllrs Lennon and Prince made a special presentation to Edna Smith in appreciation of her service as Editor of the Parish Newsletter for over 20 years.

3. Strategic & Local Plan Consultation – deadline 16.01.26

The consultation was completed and submitted. SPC will keep close tabs with respect to the progress of the Greenbelt Review.

4. Wychwood Festival 2026 New Licence application January '26

Cllr Lennon confirmed that he had submitted SPC's comments at the end of the previous week and advised that the most likely outcome will be a Licensing Committee hearing. A member of the public raised concerns that the organisers are already selling tickets for the proposed currently unlicensed additional day.

5. NPPF Consultation – deadline March '26

Cllr Fish is coordinating SPC's response for the deadline of the beginning of March. Cllr Fish asked Cllr's to respond to her by 13/02/26.

6. War Memorial

Cllr Sissons advised that she has received 2 quotations and is investigating whether TBC and the War Memorials Trust are able to offer any financial support. Cllr Sissons believes that SPC should apply for a grant before they commence any restoration work to the memorial as grants can be obtained for up to 50% of the costs. She explained that we will not know the extent of any works required until the memorial has been cleaned and consider seeking quotes for various wreath restraining options which reduce impact and wear on the stonework to the memorial. Cllr Sissons advised that the memorial is a Listed Monument and the last record of works being undertaken in 2005. It was agreed that she would pursue grant opportunities and then obtain a detailed quotation from War Memorials Conservation including an on-site visit as they had previously only undertaken a desktop appraisal using photographs provided. John Donovan provided the contact details for the stonemason that recently carried out work at The Church of the Ascension in Southam. Cllr Sissons agreed to contact this stonemason to see whether he was interested in quoting for the works.

7. Noverton Balancing Pond adoption and biodiversity

Cllr Fish confirmed that she is liaising with TBC who are due to adopt this area and other green spaces on the Noverton development. She has been in discussion with Adrian Clements at TBC who has provided details of their biodiversity officer to liaise regarding potential improved biodiversity proposals and tree planting to this area and one other area to the northern boundary of the development. He has also provided outline guidance regarding potential scope and limitations of works that TBC would be likely to authorize.

8. Travellers Pitches

Cllr Sissons raised the need to engage with TBC regarding progress with the provision of pitches. Cllr Lennon asked who had responsibility to develop a policy to demonstrate that steps are being taken to satisfy the need for pitches. Cllr Agg advised this lies with GCC. Cllr Agg explained that they can only progress if landowners offer land at viable prices for any new potential licensed sites to be made available.

Cllr Agg confirmed that regarding any enforcement notices with respect to the Kayte Lane site will sit with TBC's Enforcement Team now the deadline for any appeals has elapsed. Cllr Agg to enquire with TBC's Enforcement Team regarding current situation as the deadline for the occupants vacate the site is 19/09/26.

9. Connecting Communities

Cllrs Sissons and Prince attended and found it interesting with a number of very useful

discussions. Cllr Sissons confirmed that she is trying to organise a meeting with Anj Patel (TBC) regarding development of neighbourhood development plans and ensuring an evidence base is in place to outline infrastructure needs ahead of any future development proposals.

It was evident that many villages are lacking volunteers to run village hall events> Cllr Prince encouraged residents to become involved and run groups for residents, especially for children.

417. To receive and request reports from the County/Borough Councillors

Both Borough and County Councillor reports were received prior to the meeting are appended to the minutes.

Cllr Agg gave feedback on meeting she attended at the Racecourse regarding the 2026 Festival. She advised that the organisers were unaware of the current closure of New Road which would have serious implications on Race traffic if its reopening was delayed to after the festival. Cllr Agg confirmed that she has been in contact with Severn Trent and is waiting for them to get back re the progress and completion of the works and an update on the date the road will be reopening.

Cllr Agg was asked to look into the option for having signs placed on the B4632 warning drivers that there is no access to the racecourse from lanes leading down into Woodmancote, etc.

Cllr Agg confirmed that traffic control lights will be located on B4632 for race traffic and that a helpline numbers and postcards are being sent out to residents.

Cllr Agg suggested that the Village Hall Committee and SPC looked into potential funding opportunities from the Cheltenham Gold Cup Centenary Community Fund.

Cllr Agg advised that there are opportunities to apply to view the aircraft coming into the Heli-field the Festival period.

She also advised that they requested that racegoers walking to the Racecourse are asked to keep to the footpath.

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

A member of the public raised issues regarding not being able to log onto TBC planning portal. Cllr Fish advised she finds it best to search for public access planning portal is the best option for accessing planning applications.

Bill Motion raised an issue of the potential increase in wild camping compared to previous year taking into account the increased numbers proposed for the Wynwood Festival this year and the fact that all the camping slots appear to have already sold out.

Residents reported instances of children and a family group setting off fireworks in the village hall grounds. Residents asked if a reference could be made to this in the Parish Newsletter and in SPC's email updates making people aware of the fireworks and advising people that the land cannot be used for letting off fireworks.

A local resident stated that Ellenborough Park Hotel do give locals notice of fireworks displays, however the notifications were not sent to all of the village. It was agreed that SPC would send Ellenborough Park a reminder to notify clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk so that SPC can advise all residents on the email circulation list.

419. Planning Matters

Consultations

26/00039/PDAD – Cuckoo Farm Southam Lane, Southam Cheltenham – prior Approval (Class Q) Agricultural Barn conversion to provide 4 x Residential Dwellings (Deadline 17/02/26), Previous Application 25/00790/PDAD was refused on the basis that no structural report/ calculations had been provided with planning application. The application has now submitted these documents with this application. SPC will respond in the same manner to this application advising that they have no objection to the application but raising the same issues as in their previous response to 25/00790/PDAD as previous concerns are still relevant and submit their comments ahead of deadline.

Decision Notices

25/00817/FUL – Worthal House Southam Lane – Proposed front and rear extensions, roof alterations including front and rear dormers and alterations to the fenestration. - PERMIT

Planning Updates

25//00714/FUL – Erection of 20 residential dwellings – Land Rear of Dormans, Mill Lane Cllr Lennon confirmed that the application has been withdrawn by the applicant and that the SPC has enquired as to whether the Planning Department can share any further information regarding its withdrawal. As reported at previous meeting we are still awaiting further feedback from the Planning Officer responsible for this application. Cllr Fish has chased this matter further with the planning officer and is still awaiting a response.

420. Finance & Governance

1. The following payments were approved and the invoices signed by Cllr Lennon:

Payee	Net	VAT	Total	Power to Spend
Washington Printing	125.00	0	125.00	LGA 1972 s111
S Wood (Community Heartbeat)	64.95	12.99	77.94	Public Health Act 1936 s.234

2. The bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2026 (previously circulated) was approved and Cllr Fish initialed the reconciliation and bank statements.

3. The Budget vs Spend Report as at 31st January (previously circulated) was approved.

4. To appoint GAPTC as internal auditor for year 2025/26 and confirm that they are independent and competent - approved and confirmed.

421. Parish and CIL Survey

Cllr Lennon confirmed that the survey has been circulated and a number of responses have already been received. The deadline for the return of the surveys was confirmed as 28/02/2026.

422. Date of Next Meeting

10th March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Appendix - Borough Councillor's Report to Parish Council - Reporting Period: Jan - Feb

1. Committees and Working Groups

Oversight and Scrutiny Committee

The Oversight and Scrutiny Committee has met during the reporting period and considered a number of important items, including:

- The Executive Committee Forward Plan, providing visibility of forthcoming key decisions and policy areas.
- The future work programme of the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, to ensure scrutiny activity remains focused on priority areas.
- Recommendations relating to parking charges, which were discussed in detail.
- Lessons learned from the recent cyber incident, with emphasis on resilience, response, and future prevention.
- A presentation on communications, outlining current practices and proposed improvements to ensure clearer and more effective engagement with residents.

CNL Planning and Infrastructure Working Group

The CNL Planning and Infrastructure Working Group also met during this period. Items discussed included:

- Strategic Local Plans (SLPs) from two areas within the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL), focusing on planning approaches and cross-boundary implications.
- Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with discussion on the potential impact these changes may have on planning policy, decision-making, and development within protected landscapes.

Full Council

Full Council has met and considered the following key items:

- Members' Allowances, including a review of the current scheme.
- Treasury and Capital Management, focusing on the Council's financial position, borrowing, and investment strategy.
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme, including proposed changes and their potential impact on residents.

Licensing Committee

The Licensing Committee met to consider matters relating to both:

- Taxi licensing, and
- Licensed premises, ensuring compliance with licensing conditions and public safety requirements.

2. External Presentations and Engagement

- We both attended a Zoom presentation by the Golf Club to its members, where the club outlined its future plans and proposals.
- A Zoom presentation was given by UBICO, setting out its business plan and priorities for the coming year.
- A face-to-face presentation by Severn Trent was attended, focusing on water quality, current challenges, and future investment.

3. Local Engagement and Flood Resilience

Nigel met with Connor Truman, followed by a walkaround of Woodmancote to review local flood defences. This included discussion of:

- Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques, and
- Hard-engineered flood defences already in place or under consideration.

This visit led to a wider conversation around neighbourhood resilience, preparedness, and community-level responses to flooding and extreme weather events.

4. Strategic Planning Consultation

Nigel has asked whether the deadline for the recent SLP consultation could be extended. Initial responses have been positive, although no formal extension has yet been confirmed.

5. Casework

We have continued to be actively engaged with local casework, supporting residents and liaising with officers and relevant organisations to resolve issues as they arise.