



Dodington Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **Planning & Transport Committee** held in the Council Chambers at Dodington Parish Hall on **Monday 2nd December 2024** at **7.30pm**.

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Evans, David Fitt, Bob Graham, Christine Howard (Chair of meeting), Paul Hulbert, Adrian Hutton, Oliver Lodge, and Jean Thomas,

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Hannah Saunders (Clerk for meeting)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Sandra Jee, Sarah Hurley, Chris Zapata.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. MINUTES OF AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 28th OCTOBER 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes, as printed and circulated, be confirmed as a true record. Cllr Christine Howard signed a copy of the minutes.

Matters arising – not covered during course of agenda: -

- Clerk confirmed that the tree work had been carried out successfully up at the Burial Ground.
- The new Velux blinds had been fitted.
- PSO (Liz Hazelby) and Clerk are still working closely with SGC to try and get tender documents onto Contract Finder for the QEII project.
- Clerk wasn't successful in applying for grant from National Grid – as after completing 90% of the form was told project wasn't eligible.
- Clerk is due a meeting with CPS (grounds maintenance contractor) regarding some of the adhoc shrub beds that have been missed.
- All tree work in Wapley has been completed (as discussed at CL&E the previous week) and finally Clerk is still working on the Green up the Highstreet project (outside Heron Way Shops).

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications to consider.

Minutes from the meeting held with representatives of RWE regarding Mousewell Solar Farm meeting on 6th November 2024 had been received and circulated – Clerk informed members that they would be sending out further updates later in the week.

6. CONSULTATIONS

SGC Car Park Charges Consultation

After careful consideration member **RESOLVED** that it was important for DPC to respond – regarding the car parks in Yate area – that would ultimately affect residents the most.

Full Copy of response can be found Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

The Cotwold National Landscape Management Plan was duly noted – but it was agreed not to comment.

7. FLOODING NOVEMBER 24TH 2024

Clerk gave members a brief update on the situation following the flooding on 24th November 2024 – and where officers have been signposting residents (SGC Community Safety Team). Copy of letter from SGC to all affected residents can be found Appendix 2 attached to these minutes.

Cllr Paul Hulbert had looked into the email received from MP regarding a parishioners concerns – and had drafted a response – which members were happy for Clerk to email to Claire Youngs office. Cllr Paul Hulbert was thanked for the level of detail he had gone into regarding this matter.

Following the flooding – Clerk checked when the Parish Council last reviewed Emergency Plan – nearly 8 years previously they had been consulted on a 'Community Emergency Plan' but had felt that the responsibility for this sort of document lay with the Local Authority who had a statutory duty to have such a plan. It was also felt at the time – that staff didn't have the capacity.

Whilst members are still of same view – they **RESOLVED** that it was important to revisit the process – and that the best way forward was for a working group to convene in the New Year – working with neighbouring parishes, SGC and emergency services. It was agreed that Cllrs Paul Hulbert and Oliver Lodge along with 2 officers sit on this group.

Members wanted to give a donation to the Emergency Fund that had been set up to help local residents affected – and it was **RESOLVED** to donate £1000 from underspent grant funds. Clerk to donate directly to Yate Parish (not via Just Giving) to avoid costs – and to ensure that donation could be gift aided.

8. PARISH HALL

Clerk informed members that they would have to defer item about roof – as report wasn't quite completed. The contractor said it would be available for F&GP the following week.

During recent Storm (Bert) the car park barrier had sustained damage – and had been taken down for safety and was requiring repairs (so no barrier currently). School had stated that perhaps if there are severe winds forecast in future – need to try and keep barrier down – Clerk had explained that at weekends – this could prove difficult – as there are no staff on site – so no one to operate the barrier – and there are always users in the hall.

9. SHIREWAY

Clerk updated members regarding land adjacent to Shireway Community Centre. Having revisited the valuation that DJP carried out in 2022 – it could be concluded that the auction guide price was fairly accurate.

Clerk had spoken with SGC – both property services and planning since the last meeting.....and it had been suggested that Dodington PC investigate at Change of Use further. This could be done via a pre planning application (which it was agreed Clerk should investigate) or by a direct planning application.

Clerk confirmed that the consultation postcard was being printed – but wouldn't be put in envelope with Burial Ground survey – just in case there were any changes following forthcoming Auction on 11th December 2024.

10. FINANCE MATTERS

Members viewed the YTD spend for committee against Budget and EMR figures to end of October 2024 – all in order.

Members then discussed and reviewed 2nd draft of Budget for the Planning and Transport Committee for forthcoming year 25 – 26.

The Chair of committee had been through the budget line by line with Clerk – which was a useful exercise, and the budget was presented.

Taking on the views of the committee back in October – the 2nd draft reflected an increase in the budget – but this was between the conservative increase that had been tabled and the higher increase that had been suggested previously.

After due consideration it was **RESOLVED** to recommend an increase in budget of £8,000 (27%) to Full Council in January 2025.

Meeting went into Confidential Session (SO 3e) and discussion regarding item is minuted confidentially.

11. STAFFING MATTERS

Open session resumed.

12. ITEMS TO REPORT

Cllr Paul Hulbert reported that the conservation group had had a very successful planting session on Saturday – and that as per email to office – there were some spare plants that had been placed at entrance to Wapley (shireway) for people to take (as they had too many).

Cllr Richard Evans reported that the Footpath sign up by St Peter's Church had been broken.

Finally Cllr Paul Hulbert showed members an old portrait of Lilliput Court that had been donated to the council by a resident who's mother had lived in one of the bungalows.

The date of the next Planning Committee meeting – Monday 10TH February 2024.

As there was no further business – the meeting was closed at 21.15pm.

Signed Committee Chair

Date

APPENDIX 1

Response to SGC regarding Car Parking Charges.

After due consideration it was RESOLVED that the parish council should respond to this consultation – in relation to the car parks in and around Yate – as these were the ones that they were most familiar with and that would have the biggest impact on residents.

Whilst members appreciate that SGC need to increase their revenue – they feel that proposals as they are currently are confusing and not very fair.

It was felt that half an hour's free parking was insufficient; and this should be increased to an hour. (Half an hour's free parking is pointless you can call into the chemist to collect a prescription and end up waiting over half an hour). To recoup lost revenue, the parking charges for those parking for a longer term could be increased.

Members were concerned about the use of QR codes, as there have been articles in the papers about scammers using dummy QR codes, to obtain bank details, which are then used fraudulently.

It details that free parking will be in allotted bays only however it is felt that this could be confusing and that ALL short-term spaces (be they half hour or this extended to an hour) should be free. This would remove any confusion, reducing the risk of people being fined when they're making a genuine mistake.

Members would suggest that by doing this it would reduce any bad publicity for South Glos Council on what is a controversial proposal.