

## **MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023, HELD IN BIBURY VILLAGE HALL**

**In attendance:** Cllrs Craig Chapman, Simon Brownless, Ann Haigh, Michelle Holt, John Phillips, Mike Pini, Brian Skarda, District Cllr David Fowles, County Cllr Lisa Spivey, Nicolas Trudgian and Ruth Wollen.

### **1. To receive the report from The Chairman of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman Cllr Craig Chapman read out the following report: -

#### **a. Councillors**

From May 2022 the following Councillors comprised the Parish Council with the roles indicated, bodies they represented and status at the time of the Parish Council election in May 2023:

- Cllr Simon Brownless – Role - Internal Checker and Representative of Bibury United Charities
- Cllr Craig Chapman – Elected Chairman in May 2022 / role – Highways
- Cllr Neil Clegg – Former Deputy Chairman (role discontinued in May 2022) / resigned December 2022
- Cllr Ann Haigh – Role – Village Life
- Cllr John Phillips
- Cllr Victoria Summerley - Village Hall Representative / did not stand for re-election in May 2023
- Cllr Richard Williams – Lead on the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Representative of Bibury United Charities / Resigned March 2023

In view of the resignations of Councillors Williams and Clegg and whilst Councillor Summerley did not stand 4 of the existing Councillors stood for election with 5 new candidates, 9 in total for 7 roles. The result of the election was that all 4 of the existing Councillors were re-elected and were joined by three new Councillors:

- Cllr Michelle Holt
- Cllr Mike Pini
- Cllr Brian Skarda

#### **b. Highways / Related Activities**

This lead on this role was undertaken by Cllr Craig Chapman and actions implemented / also outstanding included:

- Resurfacing of sections of the B4425 up to the Pike
- Temporary flood alleviation works on the road up to The Pike with more permanent works planned

- Revision to the signage at the bottom / top of Hawkers Hill to simplify / reduce the number of signs whilst a new sign (in conjunction with the National Trust) was added to direct drivers, wishing to visit Arlington Row, downhill with the intention of preventing turning into / use of Hawkers Hill. Further works to insert a double tier of granite sets around the island at the top of Hawkers Hill and resurface at the bottom are deferred to 2023
- Clearing the overgrown pavement between Arlington Fields and The Pike
- Arlington Row – action in progress to provide signage to prevent parking in the turning area at end of Arlington Row Cottages
- Replacement of the wood footbridge by Rack Isle (along Water Lane by the Doll's House garden)
- Pavement between The Twig coffee shop and Arlington Mill, opposite Arlington Lodge cleared of overhanging foliage
- Repairs to wall alongside The Street / River Coln
- Resurfacing of the footbridge across the River Coln (opposite the Post Office) resulting substantially from action by Brian Skarda (now Councillor).

### c. Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

This is an on-going process which the Parish Council has facilitated / supported and which TRO Limited are undertaking. The overall process is / has been as follows:

1. An Informal Consultation – On the basis of an initial set of proposals an informal consultation with residents via a letter drop (to include detail of the TRO process and reasoning for the proposals) to residents directly impacted by the proposals took place in April 2022. The initial intention was that responses were due by 26th May but due to the volume of concerns this was extended to 10th June, whilst it was not agreed that the process could be communicated more widely (to encompass properties not directly impacted)

2. A Statutory Consultation then took place (fire, police, parish council, county councillor, LHM, ambulance etc.)

3. REVISED PROPOSALS - The result of the feedback received from the Informal / Statutory Consultations was a substantial revision of the proposals. In summary amendments following consultation are as follows:

3.1 B4425 Western Extent – proposed double yellow replaced by single yellow lines (on left driving towards Bibury) whilst proposed double yellow lines on right are maintained. A comment from the Parish Council regarding concerns expressed by the owners of Kingsbury House was accepted so that the yellow lines will be extended on both sides of the road from Arlington Field, heading towards Cirencester to where the bus stop, notice board, and bench are situated.

3.2 Car Park and Bridge – proposed no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) to be removed. Proposed limited waiting 8am-8pm, 3 hours. Proposed disabled parking bays removed.

3.3 Ablington Road – no change. Proposed double yellow lines maintained.

3.4 The Street – Amended to include disabled parking bays close to road bridge. Limited waiting removed. Proposed loading area outside Post Office retained.

3.5 Cemetery Lane and Church Road – Double yellow lines in Cemetery Lane retained. All other restrictions in Church Road removed to include proposed disabled parking close to Church.

3.6 Salt Way - no change. Proposed double yellow lines maintained.

4. A Notice of Proposal (Public Consultation) process will now commence on 25th May 2023 closing on 16th June 2023:

- a. Notices and plans will be placed on street furniture in readiness for the consultation start date.
- b. The process will be advertised in Village Life with details on where to find the current proposals.
- c. The proposals will be indicated on the GCC and Parish Council website.

5. A report will then be written outlining the process and making a recommendation on how to proceed to be sent to the Council for sign off.

6. If approved, Detailed Designs will be drawn up and sent to the site team who will install the various measures and the Order is made.

d. Community / APNR Camera

The Council have applied for a free APNR camera under Gloucestershire County Council's Speed Awareness Initiative. GCC have approved this request but it needs final approval from the Police. The camera only provides registration numbers on vehicles exceeding the programmed parameters. The Council can then provide the top 10 registration numbers to the police (once a month), the police then write to the offenders (if the same vehicle comes up several times then the police will take further action).

Location of the camera is to be agreed (assumed on the B4425 coming into Arlington from The Pike) and a meeting is organised for Wednesday 17th May with David Holland (Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer, Criminal Justice Department, Gloucestershire Constabulary) to discuss it's location which Cllr Craig Chapman and The Clerk Irena Litton will attend with other PC Councillors as available.

e. Planning Applications – Building Works / Trees / Licenses

26 applications were reviewed with:

- 24 being supported (two with stipulations regarding noise)
- There were 2 objections (Glebe House – security measures and the development of Stonebank, Abington)

f. Flooding - Flood Warden / Emergency Planning

Reports / proposals were presented by Mr Phil and Mrs Wendy Challinor as Flood Wardens. As indicated above, proposals are under consideration relating the flood prevention measures relevant to Arlington Row. Further action is required to follow-up on actions proposed for Emergency Planning.

#### g. District and County Council Participation

Reports were presented during the year by District Cllr Ray Theodoulou and County Cllr Lisa Spivey. The sad passing of Cllr Theodoulou was acknowledged by a minutes silence at the March 2023 meeting and District Councillor Stephen Andrews provided a report in his stead.

#### h. Other Village Initiatives

Other initiatives progressed by the Parish Council included:

- Replacement of Notice Board opposite Hawkers Hill – the original notice board suffered wind damage and as a consequence was removed for repair. Unfortunately the institution that had built the original board was unable to undertake the repair such that a new board has been ordered / received and will re-instated shortly
- Bus Stops by Arlington Fields/Quarry – in progress with new area tarmacked and kerb modified to indicate / facilitate crossing
- Lighting of the car-park at Arlington Row
- An informal twinning (termed a Friendship Community Relationship) has been put in place between Bibury Parish Council and the Arlington Heights Civic Association of Virginia, USA. Opportunity to celebrate this was achieved during the recent Coronation celebrations with a dinner and activity around the street party / fete
- Actions to maintain the Playground / Playing Field
- Grants were provided towards the Coronation Celebrations and Bibury Village Show.

## **2. To receive the reports from the District and County Councillors.**

**District Cllr David Fowles** paid a personal tribute to Ray Theodoulou, who was a great friend and mentor.

Having only just been elected and not yet had any District Councils meeting to attend, he briefed those present with the new make-up for the Cotswold District Council comprising of Liberal Democrats with 22, Conservatives with 9, Greens with 2 and 1 Independent. Cllr Fowles will sit on the Planning Committee.

Cllr Fowles gave a brief on his background and personal connections to the area and finished by praising Cllr Chapman on presenting such a good Chairman's report.

**County Cllr Lisa Spivey** read out her report.

**County Councillor for the South Cerney Division, Gloucestershire County Council Annual Report 2022/2023**

In the last year I have attended all Full Council meetings and continued to sit on the Adult Social Care and Communities committee which I also vice-chair, and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee which gives me an excellent insight into the overall performance of the Council and highlights areas of concern. All those committees sit 6 times a year.

I have also been involved in 2 joint scrutiny meetings with ASCC and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee which were looking specifically at the crisis in emergency care over the winter period which saw our category 2 (life threatening or seriously injured) ambulance response times go from the 18minutes guidelines to over 4 hours.

I am also currently sitting on a task and finish working group looking at Bus services in the county and how we could improve them.

As a member of the Corporate scrutiny committee I took part in a whole day scrutiny session in January where we interrogated the Council's proposed budget for this financial year. The budget set this year was £560million. This was presented as a growth budget but in reality a vast amount of the "growth" was inflationary costs and in year staff pay award costs (due to the fact that the 22/23 staff pay award was budgeted at 2% and the settlement was 6.1%).

It made for a sobering day, as over two thirds of the Council's entire budget is taken up by just 2 directorates – Adult Social care and Children's Care. This means that everything else the council has to do and deliver all has to be squeezed into a scant one third of the overall budget. Until these demand led services are under control, this means that many of the things that you contact me about, mostly in Highways - the appalling state of our roads, the inability to get speed limits reduced and the clearing of verges etc- are simply not possible to deliver due to lack of resources.

I also feel acutely that for the County Council based in Gloucester, the Cotswolds and this division in particular being on the very southern part of the County doesn't get the attention it should. This is something that I do my very best to reverse and I ensure that I always bring up questions and issues relevant to our part of the county.

Over the last year, I have continued to focus on the 4 main issues which are the local issues residents contact me about most frequently.

They are:

1. Highway Maintenance issues
2. Road safety, especially speeding
3. River pollution
4. GP waiting times/access to healthcare services

Most parishes have a very good system of logging highway maintenance issues and have a working relationship with the Local Highways manager, Richard Gray. In the last year, I have had regular meetings with Richard (every few weeks) to keep abreast of these issues and to assist in seeing action on them.

I have actively encouraged residents and PCs to make use of the very easy to use “report it” function of the County Council website. This tool ensures that any road defects are logged in the system and will be dealt with (eventually!).

Despite motions and questions brought to Full Council, I continue to be frustrated by the lack of proper highway maintenance, including pavements and footpaths, which I do not think is delivering for residents. Residents email me on a near daily basis, telling me about road repairs either not carried out or shoddy repairs, uncut vegetation which creates safety issues, fallen down signs, abandoned road works signs cluttering the verge, debris filling gullies, potholes wrecking tyres- the list goes on.

It is clear that the Local Highways managers are not able to do all the work they would like to do and are financially constrained each year. This could be eased if the contractor, was doing a consistently good standard of work and if the maintenance schedule was overhauled.

I have tried to use my Highways Local funding to best effect, doing some patching work on some villages, helping with speed surveys, and contributing towards making walking and cycling safer and easier. I will be doing the same again in this coming year.

The adoption of a policy on ANPR systems has also been painfully slow, and the Traffic Regulation Order team are way behind on dealing with requests due to staff shortages.

In many cases in this rural part of the County, we are just given a flat “no” when asked to look at speed reductions through our villages because we do not tick the boxes by national criteria which would necessitate a speed reduction.

This is disappointing because the speed reduction would not only make our villages safer, it would also improve health and wellbeing for residents.

The new PCC has made tackling speeding a priority and has been very supportive of community speed watch initiatives and the police have been out and about with their speed guns, but they can’t be everywhere and so we need to affect a culture change where speeding is seen as unacceptable.

The legal dumping of raw sewage into our local rivers and waterways is a scandal which is gathering national attention. According to recent figures there were over 2000 incidents of raw sewage being poured out into Cotswold rivers in 2021 and there are no rivers deemed to be healthy in the whole of England. This must stop and I have been actively campaigning on this issue.

I will continue to campaign for this practise to be disallowed, for water companies to be made to increase infrastructure funding and for the Environment Agency to be built back up to be equipped to deal with this terrible situation.

The Council continues to support post pandemic recovery in communities via the Build Back Better fund which is open until 2025, please get in touch if you have a project you think appropriate for funding.

Brexit and the pandemic has had a very big impact on care home staffing, and this remains an issue for concern, with the closure of 4 care homes in the County. This is true of nearly all areas of healthcare, especially dentistry which we brought a motion about in March's Council meeting.

Children's services finally moved out of Special measures after the inspection in February 2022 but continues to Require Improvement and is an enormous drain on the Council's finances largely due to out of county placements and the requirement to use agency staff to fill social worker roles.

As ever, if there are particular issues you would like to discuss, I am available on the phone or email.

Best wishes,

Lisa

Tel: 01285 653405

Email: [lisa.spivey@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.spivey@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 8.20pm**