

Parish Council of Hillesley and Tresham

Maple House, Cranham, Gloucestershire GL4 8HS

Minutes of a meeting of the full Parish Council held at Talbot Court Farm Barn, Tresham on Wednesday 11 October 2017.

Present: Cllr J Knowles, Cllr A Clarke, Cllr D Darlow, Cllr I Lock

In attendance: The Parish Clerk and one member of the public

Public Participation: The Chairman had received a complaint about the methods SDC are using for renewal of garden waste collection and that these discriminated against the elderly. The Clerk informed the Council that SDC had sent out a message late that afternoon saying that they would now accept renewals over the phone for those without an internet connection. Chairman to inform the complainant.

1. To consider apologies for absence - apologies were accepted from Cllr Richard Graham, Cllr Angela Doughty, GCC Cllr Mark Reeves and SDC Cllr John Cordwell
2. To consider declarations of interest in agenda items – Cllrs Darlow, Knowles and Lock all declared a pecuniary interest in item 7d so this matter will be held over until a future meeting
3. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting on 13 September 2017 – approved and signed by the Chairman
4. To receive and note the Clerk's report – The Clerk has updated the Parish Council Website and published past minutes. She has also added Council meetings to the calendar along with relevant documents so that they are readily available to councillors and parishioners. She will continue working on this.
The clerk has been unable to access the bank account but is working on changing the authorised access arrangements and will liaise with the former clerk to ensure that financial information is available at the next meeting.
5. To note correspondence and documents received for those items not on the agenda
 - a. Parish Cluster Meeting invitation to councillors to attend on 6 November – Cllr Darlow to attend. Cllr Lock to review the options paper.
 - b. Data Protection renewal – will be brought to next meeting for agreement
 - c. A request to allow a new poly tunnel on the allotments – it was agreed this was permitted
 - d. Invitation to attend annual awards for the Door – no attendees
 - e. Public Access Launch of new planning system – Clerk and councillors need to re-register their interest to continue to receive alerts
 - f. Notification that car parking charges are to rise in Stroud District – noted
 - g. Hillesley Happenings published – Clerk agreed to add to the website
 - h. Payphone adoption contract – it was agreed that the Parish Council had not agreed to adopt the payphone and had no wish to do so as it was not a suitable location for a defibrillator – Clerk to inform BT.
6. Planning applications: to note decisions and consider applications
 - a. Decisions received – none at date of agenda
 - b. Applications to be dealt with under delegated powers – none at date of agenda
 - c. Consultation on new applications – S.17/2187/P3Q – change of use of attached agricultural buildings to create a residential 4 bedroom dwelling and associated amenity space, access and parking – The parish Council neither approve nor object to this application. It does not require consent so SDC were not accepting comments.

- d. To note the new method by which SDC will be notifying Councils of new planning applications - noted

7. Finance

- a. To approve payments: approved
 - i. Linda Spratling - £7.68
 - ii. HMRC – £1.92
 - b. To consider budget for financial year starting April 2018
 - c. To consider Council Action Plan for the year (and possibly beyond) and projects which may make use of reserves and whether a working group should meet to discuss before next meeting – Cllr Darlow to convene a working group of all councillors before the November meeting to discuss planned programme and whether any larger project should be budgeted for eg car parking
 - d. To consider rates for allotment rents for year from April 2018 – deferred to future meeting
 - e. To consider Clerk’s hours and pay for the year from April 2018 – agreed to budget for inflationary increase and review if major projects anticipated which would require more hours.
8. To receive an update on the situation regarding the Baptist Church Burial Ground and agree whether the Council would like to make a formal application to take it over – there has been no progress and no formal announcement yet – Councillors would like to know more about who is responsible for hedges/fence etc. Clerk to source advice and circulate.
9. To receive an update from Councillor Darlow on the state of the bus shelter
10. To receive an update on progress regarding defibrillators in the Parish – Peter Whitbread had been looking into defibrillators and recommended that the purchase and future maintenance was done via the Community Heartbeat Trust. Possible suitable locations were discussed but none yet agreed. Possibility of using the Church porch but the issue of lighting to allow use at night was raised as a concern. Suitable location must have electricity and be accessible at all times and preferably not an easy target for vandalism. The pub wall was discussed but concerns about whether it would be allowed on the wall of a listed building. Cllr Darlow to investigate if this would be a problem. Locations in Tresham included the Church and phone box but it was unclear if there was electricity and lighting. Cllr Graham to be asked to investigate when he is well again.
11. To receive reports from GCC Cllr Mark Reeves and SDC Cllr John Cordwell – received (attached as appendix to these minutes)
12. The next meeting to be held at Hopkins Hall, Hillesley on Wednesday 8 November 2017 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 20.55

I certify that the above minutes are a correct record of the above meeting

Signed:..... date:

Dates of future meetings: 13 Dec 2017, 10 January 2018, 14 February 2018, 14 March 2017

Appendix to minutes 11 October 2017

Report on County Council Matters to Hillesley & Tresham Parish Council 11th October 2017

Highways Contract

Proposals for the future delivery of highway services endorsed by the Highways Cabinet Panel were agreed by the County Council Cabinet meeting on 27th September.

The decision will mean around 45 staff transferring back to Council employment from Amey, including public rights of way and traffic regulation order staff, area highway representatives and customer contact centre staff. In addition, the Council will transfer in or recruit design and engineering expertise.

As I mentioned last month the remainder of the highway work will be undertaken through three separate contract procurements. The contracts will be designed so that if part of a contractor's performance was unsatisfactory it would be possible to take that part away from them and not have to retender the whole contract.

County Council meeting, 13th September

There were six motions on the agenda and an overall time limit of two hours to discuss them introduced some time ago by the Conservative administration:

- Care Staff and the National Minimum Wage (NMW): a Lib Dem motion requesting a review of the employment practices of care providers used by the County Council to ensure all care staff are paid at or above the NMW rates. After some discussion, this was referred to the Health & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Public sector pay: a Labour motion. After some debate and word changing it was resolved unanimously to ask the Government to ensure that local government pay increases are fully funded by the Government in order that services are not affected by the lifting of the pay cap.
- Gloucestershire flood and community resilience: a Labour motion requesting a review on what further works are required ten years after the 2007 floods and whether the council is still following best practice. Whilst this motion was originally scheduled to take around 30 minutes the debate went on for over an hour with many Conservative members speaking, despite two procedural proposals (Labour and Lib Dem) that the motion be put, thus running out of the two-hour time limit. It ended with a Conservative cabinet member, apparently chosen by the Chairman to speak last, proposing that the matter be referred to the Environment Scrutiny Committee. Although denied, this had all the appearance of a deliberate filibuster to prevent the other motions being discussed.

I invite you to watch the webcast on the GCC website and judge for yourselves.

The motions that fell were:

- Adoption and promotion of electric vehicles, proposed by a Green councillor and seconded by a Lib Dem. The intention was that wherever possible when GCC vehicles are replaced this is with electric or low emission vehicles.
- Votes at 16: a self-explanatory Lib Dem motion.
- regarding the increase in the State Pension age for women: a Labour motion to slow down the rate of increase so that people can better prepare for it.

Reference of County Council motions to Committees

You will see that this happened twice at the September County Council meeting. Referral of a motion on footway repairs last December to the Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee has yet to be discussed by that committee. I have voiced my concern that such referrals are being used as a means of indefinitely delaying consideration of a motion.

Extra Cabinet meeting, 18th September

Following the negative outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services in February, the council was required to submit an Improvement Plan to Ofsted that addresses the recommendations and findings of their report by 19th September. The Cabinet meeting approved the plan.

Report from Stroud District Councillor Mark Reeves to the Parish Council Meeting at Hillesley and Tresham 11 October 2017

Since the last Parish Council meeting there has been an Audit and Standard Committee meeting on 12 September. The agenda was mainly taken up by a routine review of financial planning and accounting audits. In addition there was review of Stroud District Council operating procedures in the area of procurement contract placement, contract enforcement and value for money. This is an area that I increasingly challenging as we move into an era of squeezed spending and possible limits on recruitment at the Council. It is also an area that I can compare my private industry experience with current and evolving Council procedures.

The next Stroud District Meeting is the Development Control Committee on 10 October. There are no items of local interest on the agenda and other than an acknowledgement by the planning office, I have not yet received a decision on our call-in request for the Pennwood Lodge development. At the moment no decision has been made on the application.

The Civic Timetable is listed below for information.

Mark Reeves

Stroud District Councillor for Kingswood Ward including Hillesley and Tresham
09 October 2017

Agenda Item 7

CIVIC TIMETABLE FOR 2017/18 AS AT 10 MAY 2017

All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber	Community Services & Licensing	Environment	Housing	Strategy & Resources	COUNCIL	Audit & Standards	Development Control
	Thu 7pm	Thu 7pm	Tue 7pm	Thu 7pm	Thu 7pm	Tue 7pm	Tue 6pm
May 2017					18 (AGM)		
June 2017	15	29	20	13 (Tuesday)			06
July 2017				13	20	04	18
Aug 2017							
Sep 2017	07	14	26			12	5
Oct 2017				12	19		10
Nov 2017						28	21
Dec 2017	07 (Budget)	14 (Budget)	12 (Budget)				
Jan 2018				18 (Budget)	25 (Budget)		09
Feb 2018	01	08	20		22 (Council Tax)	06	13
Mar 2018	28 (Wednesday)		27				20
Apr 2018		05		12	26	10	24
May 2018					17 (AGM)		

Council AGM
18 May 2017

Agenda Item 7