

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 2nd April 2024
LISTER ROOM, RANGEWORTHY MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present

Parish Cllrs: Miss W Moody (chair), Miss L Haigh, Mr K Livall, Mrs M J Steer
LA Cllrs: Cllr Clark, Cllr lean
Clerk: Andrea Wheal

One member of the public was in attendance for the public question time session.

Public Question Time

Prior to the start of the formal meeting of the Parish Council, as detailed in the agenda, members of the public were invited to raise any matters concerning the Parish.

		Action
A-04/24	A parishioner requested information regarding the plans for Iron Acton FC to start playing at Rangeworthy recreation ground. Cllr Moody confirmed that Iron Acton want to base themselves at Rangeworthy and outlined associated plans for upgrading of the pavilion, surfacing of the entrance track and providing reinforced grass parking at the field. It was confirmed that Iron Acton FC plan on raising the funds required via sports/FA grant funding, topped up with S106 and CIL money. It was confirmed that any planned rails around the pitch would be around the southern pitch so as not to impact on any PROWs. The parishioner expressed concerns about parking causing difficulties for the pub and roads, but it was reiterated on-site parking would form part of any proposals.	

The formal meeting of the Council then commenced as follows:-

1.	Apologies for Absence	
1.1-04/24	No apologies for absence were received.	
2.	Declarations of Interest Relating to Agenda Items	
2.1-04/24	There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
3.1-04/24	Cllr. Livall proposed, Cllr. Steer seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of Tuesday 5 th March 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes. All Agreed.	
4.	South Gloucestershire Councillors Report	
4.1-04/24	The written report from Cllr Clerk was received and noted. Appended to these minutes. The report comprises updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of planning application P23/01665/F (two dwellings on land south of The Grange on Bagstone Road)• The planning committee date for planning application P23/02881/O. (Outline proposal, four self-build dwellings, land southeast of Westways).	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News regarding a successful prosecution by SGC for the obstruction of a public right of way near Thornbury. • The issue of a formal notice by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, due to the government having serious concerns about WECA's compliance with the Best Value Duty. 	
4.2-04/24	Approval of planning application P23/01665/F (two dwellings on land south of The Grange on Bagstone Road). Cllr Haigh expressed great disappointment that the planning officer had not added any conditions relating to ground investigations/possible ground contamination. Cllr Haigh expressed concern that there would be negative impacts on the adjacent parish woodland. Cllr Livall confirmed his disappointment at the application being approved. Cllr Livall and Cllr Haigh both expressed frustration at the lack of acknowledgement of local feelings and the opinions of the Parish Council.	
4.3-04/24	P23/02881/O. (Outline proposal, four self-build dwellings, land southeast of Westways).Cllr Moody confirmed that she would be attending the site visit.	
4.4-04/24	In relation to planning enforcement, Cllr Haigh queried how many successful prosecutions there had been relating to breach of planning approvals and conditions. Cllr Clark confirmed that applicants are always given time/opportunity to put right breaches and so therefore very few get to the prosecution stage.	
4.5-04/24	Cllr Haigh queried why it takes between 4.5 and 5 months (SGC reported figures) to process blue badge applications. Cllr Lean confirmed that it is down to a lack of resource. Cllr Lean confirmed he would raise the concerns at the District level as it was agreed that the wait is unacceptable.	
5.	Clerk's Report	
5.1-04/24	The Clerk's timesheet was noted.	
5.2-04/24	Forwarding of emails to Cllrs about SGC cabinet meetings & scrutiny committees. Cllr Clark confirmed that there is always a public speaking session at these meetings where concerns will always be directly addressed. Cllr Lean confirmed that all meeting dates and agendas are online and meetings are webcast. Cllrs confirmed that they do not wish to have general emails forwarded on from SGC unless there are issues specific to the parish.	Clerk
5.3-04/24	It was noted that the Clerk has placed an order for a free framed copy of the King's portrait. This will be displayed in the village hall. Exact location to be decided when the portrait arrives.	
5.4-04/24	It was noted that there will be a "village agent" covering Rangeworthy. This is a scheme by the West of England Rural Network (WERN). There is a request for a parish representative to join the Steering Group. No Cllrs are available to join the steering group. Clerk to inform the project manager for the scheme (Dick Whittington) and invite him to speak at the village assembly in May.	Clerk
5.5-04/24	It was noted that the Clerk is away on holiday from Saturday 13th April until Sunday 28th April.	
5.6-04/24	It was noted that no tenders have been received for the use of the Kidnapper Lane Field. Clerk to extend date and publicise in next parish news.	Clerk
6.	Planning Consultations	

6.1-04/24	P23/02881/O Land Southeast Of Westways. Erection of 4 no. new self-build dwellings with associated works (Outline). The committee site visit is on 5th April at 12pm. Cllr Moody is attending. The Development Management Committee date to decide this application is on Thursday 11 th April at 11 a.m.	Clerk
7.	Planning Decisions	
7.1-04/24	The following planning decisions were noted: P23/01665/F. Land At The Grange, Bagstone Road, GL12 8BD, Erection of 2no. detached dwellings, with the creation of access and associated works. Approved with Conditions. P24/00351/CLP. 1A Berrows Mead. Alterations to existing rear dormers to be enlarged into full width dormer. Approved (Certificate of Lawfulness).	
7.2-04/24	It was noted that, following the Parish Council's second report of further possible breaches of planning conditions relating to application P19/13683/RM, the enforcement officer has again visited site. He has again reported that there is no breach of planning control.	
8.	Finance report	
8.1-04/24	The updated receipts and payments accounts for 2023/24 & 2024/25 were noted.	
8.2-04/24	In respect of the recently ended FY 2023/24 it was noted that seven budget categories were under-spent by more than £10. (Clerk salary, hall costs, misc/office supplies, pavilion maintenance, pavilion utilities, recreation ground grass cutting, woodland grass cutting). Clerk salary and hall cost underspends are accounted for by payments slipping into the current 25/25 financial year. Grass cutting underspends accounted for by SGC not cutting as frequently as expected due to weather and staff absences. Pavilion utilities underspend due to Govt help with winter fuel costs. Four budget categories had income in excess of predictions. Old Post Office rent income has increased because of rent arrears being paid. Bank interest rates were higher for the FY than expected.	
8.3-04/24	It was noted that actual income was taken into account when setting the 2024/25 budget/precept. Under-spends were not taken into account as the period of budget setting was too far in advance of year-end to make assumptions about remaining costs differing from budget predictions. These under-spends will go into general reserves and are predicted to assist with keeping the increase in precept for 2025/26 much lower than for the financial year about to start.	
8.4-04/24	CIL spending. It was noted that once KLH has repaired the roundabout and invoiced for the works, all CIL money that was to be spent by the end of FY 2023/24 would have been used. The balance of £331.83 for the roundabout repairs will be funded by the following tranche of CIL funds. (To be spent by the end of the current, 2024/25 FY). £7538.87 then remains to be spent by the end of FY 2024/25. Some of this will be required to fund the swing repairs. If the access track project can be progressed in time, then the remainder could go towards any shortfall after S106 monies allocated to this project have been spent. In total, after roundabout repair costs are allowed for, £34,971.56 of CIL funds remain.	
8.5-04/24	It was noted that the VAT reclaim for 2022/23 expenditure has been submitted. This is later than usual so missed the 23/24 accounts. Two tranches of VAT reclaim money are therefore expected in FY 2024/25 (22/23 & 23/24 VAT payments).	
8.6-04/24	S106 funds. It was noted that there is the opportunity to re-apply for S106 sports funding (£24521.48 capital, £7421.82 revenue). The previous application for	Clerk

outdoor gym equipment was turned down. SGC has re-confirmed that outdoor gyms are not considered to fit the sports category. SGC has confirmed that the money could be put towards the pavilion works. The Clerk will need to agree with SGC how the application is worded, bearing in mind the uncertainty over what part of the works might be funded by this money. Cllr Haigh proposed, Cllr Steer seconded and it was RESOLVED to apply for this pot of S106 funds to go towards the pavilion project.

8.7-04/24

The following payments and invoices had been verified by the Clerk and were presented for payment:

Payee	Chq No	Description	Net	VAT	TOTAL
Andrea Wheal	SO	Clerk's salary March	£464.80	£0.00	£464.80
e.on.	DD	pavilion electricity	£52.03	£2.60	£54.63
Marmax products	1773	jubilee bench	£433.00	£86.80	£519.80
Water 2 Business	DD	pavilion water	£51.15	£0.00	£51.15
Andrea Wheal	1774	Clerk's SLCC training	£20.00	£4.00	£24.00
Andrea Wheal	1774	Clerk's SLCC training	£20.00	£4.00	£24.00
Andrea Wheal	1774	Clerk's holiday pay 23/24	£132.80	£0.00	£132.80
RO Williams	1775	Kidnapper Lane hedges	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
Rangeworthy Hall	1776	Grant towards hall costs	£780.00	£0.00	£780.00
Elite Cleaning	1777	Pavilion cleans - March	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
			£2,218.78	£150.40	£2,369.18

It was noted that the e.on payment appears in the 2023/24 accounts as this transaction moved through the parish bank account in March. All other payments appear in the 2024/25 accounts

8.8-04/24

Cllr Livall proposed, Cllr Steer seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the above accounts be paid. Cllrs moody and Steer witnessed the invoices and signed the cheques. All Agreed.

Clerk

8.9-04/24

It was noted that the standing order for the Clerk's March 23 salary did not go through until April 2nd because of the easter bank holidays. This now appears in the 2024/25 accounts. This has resulted in an underspend in the 2023/24 accounts but moves an additional payment into the 2024/25 FY. A virement is therefore required to allow for this additional, 13th salary payment. This is covered by the equivalent 2023/24 underspend. Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Steer seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve a £465 virement from general reserves to Clerk's salary budget.

Clerk

9.

Children's Playground

9.1-04/24

It was noted that KLH landscapes carried out the roundabout repairs on April 2nd.

9.2-04/24

It was noted that the Clerk has started to make enquiries about replacing the chains and seat on this swing, as recommended in the annual playground inspection. Although the seat is from Sutcliffe Play, this company has stated that the frame and chains are not theirs. The size of the D shackles at the top of the frame and the frame height needs to be checked against the Sutcliffe version to see if their parts will fit.

Clerk

9.3-04/24

It was noted that the contract for the annual playground inspection has been renewed with the usual company ready for the January 2025 inspection. The cost will be £125 against the budgeted amount £126.

10.

Recreation Ground & Pavilion

10.1-04/24

It was noted that the jubilee bench has arrived and is stored in the pavilion. KLH landscapes has been asked to provide a quotation for installation. This is still

Clerk

	awaited. Cllr Haigh suggests the bench is located to the north-west of the jubilee grove. Bench location to allow a gang-mower width behind and avoid being under the canopy of the trees. Location to be marked out on site.	
10.2-04/24	It was noted that the Clerk has contacted Wessex Water again about locating the septic tank. They are now saying they cannot help with this as we have no sewerage contract with them. Cllr Livall is carrying out further investigations using rodding irons. It is suspected that there are blockages in the system.	
10.3-04/24	<p>It was noted that the clerk has been looking into the access track reinforcement project and has had a telephone update with Chris Sweet regarding the pavilion project. Update was given as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron Acton FC has found an architectural firm who have agreed to draw up the scheme to a level sufficient for grant application funding, but who will delay invoicing until after some funding has been secured. • Chris Sweet has a contact at Anderson Waste. He is going to see if they can assist with locating the septic tank • Current thoughts are that, whether the septic tank can be located or not, the project might best allow for a new one as the existing one is likely to be in poor condition/not up to current standards. • An initial quote has been received from Geosynthetics. (£15,215.35). This covers the supply of the grids and geosynthetic reinforcement/separation layers only. For the track to take the loading of small construction site deliveries, the small oil tanker and relatively frequent car traffic their advice is that the grass grids would need to be laid on a road base construction. In order to determine the nature of this construction a CBR rating for the ground should be ascertained. This will enable any company supplying grass grids to provide recommendations on depths/make-up of the road base. These works may need planning permission due to the scope/engineering nature, although the finished result may not look very different to the current situation. The Clerk has a contact who is a civil engineer and his company may be able to provide a quotation for detailing up the most cost-effective scheme. 	Clerk
11.	Woodland	
11.1-04/24	Clerk to contact Daisy Finnier (Local Climate & Nature Action Plan Officer for SGC) to see if she could meet Cllrs on site to advise on wildflower planting in the Autumn.	Clerk
12.	Co-option of Parish Councillor	
12.1-04/24	It was noted that a further appeal has been made on Facebook to try to fill the vacant position. The Clerk will advertise again in the next Parish News.	Clerk
13.	Highways & PROWs	
13.1-04/24	It was agreed that the stolen speed buddy will not be replaced at this time from the same source. Cllr Moody has a relative that could make a replacement made from board rather than aluminium and will see if this can be arranged.	Cllr Moody
13.2-04/24	Hawkdean Walks. A parishioner has raised the possibility of resurrecting this initiative (which was not a PC initiative). These happened in the past and started as night walks for local youth groups. A local parishioner developed this concept to produce route maps and guide books for the routes. The Parish Council offered the use of the recreation ground and pavilion for a base and refreshment	Clerk

facilities. Over the years the concept lapsed. The original organiser does not wish to resurrect.

14. Local Plan progress/consultation

14.1-04/24 Nothing to report

15. Big Spring Clean

15.1-04/24 It was noted that this is all confirmed for next Saturday, April 6th, 10-12 noon.

16. Village Assembly

16.1-04/24 This will take place on Tuesday 28th May at 7pm. It was noted that the following organisations have accepted their invite: WI, Jubilee Committee, School Chair of Governors, Rangeworthy Church. The following have yet to respond: Iron Acton FC, Rangeworthy FC, District Cllrs. The Clerk will continue to publicise the event. Clerk to invite Dick Whittington (WERN Project Manager) to present the village agent project.

Clerk

17. Councillors Open Forum

17.1-04/24 Cllr Haigh attended the Frome Valley Engagement Forum. Notes issued separately.

17.2-04/24 Cllr Haigh will be participating in a civil emergency planning exercise.

17.3-04/24 Cllr Steer commented that many local initiatives and organisations are directed at and run by the older generations and raised the suggestion that the Parish Council would be keen to promote initiatives for younger generations where/if these arise. It was noted that all organisations struggle for volunteers and most volunteers are from the older generation.

17.4-04/24 Cllr Livall observed that the Village Hall committee is also short of volunteers and that this will be a significant issue in the near future.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

The next Meeting of Rangeworthy Parish Council will be held in the Lister Room of the Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th May 2024.

Signed

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Date

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Rangeworthy Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Tuesday 2nd April 2024

Planning

Planning application P23/01665/F (a proposal to build two dwellings on land south of The Grange on Bagstone Road) was approved with conditions at the meeting of South Gloucestershire Council’s Development Management Committee on the 14th March. The vote was 4 votes for, 3 against with 2 abstentions.

Planning application P23/02881/O, an outline proposal to construct four self-build dwellings on land to the southeast of Westways on Wotton Road, will be determined by the Development Management Committee on Thursday 11th April at 11 a.m. A Sites Inspection meeting being held on the deferred date of Friday 5th April (estimated arrival time is midday). The parish council will have 5 minutes to address the committee and can attend either in person or online. If the parish council representative wishes to attend online they should notify Paul Johnson (Paul.Johnson@southglos.gov.uk) in SGC’s Democratic Services team so that the meeting link can be sent out in advance of the meeting.

Successful Prosecution for Obstructing Public Right of Way

A Thornbury resident has been ordered to pay a total of £8,155.60 in fines and costs after South Gloucestershire Council prosecuted him for the wilful obstruction of a public right of way. Mark Skuse, of Lower Morton in Thornbury, appeared at Bristol Magistrates Court on Monday 18th March after South Gloucestershire Council’s Public Rights of Way team prosecuted him for blocking two public footpaths that crossed his land. He was found guilty of obstructing the public right of way, contrary to Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980, and handed a £5,000 fine, along with £1,155.60 in costs and a £2,000 victim surcharge.

The court heard that a report was sent to the council from a member of the public in February 2023 stating that the public footpaths had been blocked for several months (the property was purchased by Skuse in June 2021). The council’s Public Rights of Way team investigated and found that Skuse had blocked two public footpaths that crossed his land with Herras fencing and had put up a number of notices saying that the paths were temporarily closed. A temporary closure had not in fact been applied for. The team sent a letter to Skuse in May 2023 informing him that this was an offence; it was, however, ignored and no attempt was made at any time to engage with the council regarding the offences. The council was left with no option other than to issue a court summons to Skuse for the unlawful obstructions.

Mark King, Service Director of Place Operations at South Gloucestershire Council said: “We’re pleased with this result, which is the first time the council has had to resort to a prosecution of this type. There are 783 miles (1257km) of public rights of ways across South Gloucestershire and we have a responsibility for making sure that they are usable, safe, legal and enjoyable, in partnership with town and parish councils, landowners and the public.

“Hopefully this will act as a deterrent for anyone breaking the law with regards to accessing land. Public rights of way are a legally protected right for the public to pass, giving access to the countryside and urban areas. They are classed as Highways and their obstruction without lawful authority is an offence that can result in up to 51 weeks in prison or an unlimited fine, or both.”

To report a suspected issue to the council’s Public Rights of Way team email rightsofway@southglos.gov.uk or telephone 01454 868004. More information can be found at www.southglos.gov.uk/prow.

Best Value Notice Issued Against West of England Combined Authority

Last week the *Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities* issued a Best Value Notice to the West of England Combined Authority. It is a formal notice that the government has serious concerns about WECA's compliance with the Best Value Duty (as required by the Local Government Act 1999). The Best Value Duty is a statutory obligation that requires authorities and combined authorities to "*make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness*".

The Best Value Notice has identified the following issues:

- *The poor state of professional relationships between the West of England Combined Authority Mayor and the representatives of the constituent members of the Authority which is impacting partnership working and potentially limiting the authority's ability to optimise strategic opportunities.*
- *The Authority's constitution needs review and clarification to work in a more effective and agile way.*
- *The function and purpose of the Authority has not been collectively understood and the roles, responsibilities and 'powers' of a combined authority are not fully grasped, resulting in confusion between strategic governance and day to day transactional activity.*
- *The Authority lacks a clear, shared narrative regarding the West of England and how it will operate for the benefit of the wider region.*

To address these specific issues WECA is required to:

- *Reset the culture and relationships between the West of England Combined Authority Mayor and representatives of the constituent members of the Authority. In doing this, take advantage of external support in facilitating coaching and development for the political leadership of the West of England Combined Authority and the Unitary Authorities.*
- *Through strong partnership working, develop and agree strategic priorities for the West of England which will benefit local residents in the wider region. Review and update the Authority's constitution to enable more effective decision-making and scrutiny processes, making representations to the Department on any proposed changes.*
- *Engage with the Department on a range of ongoing issues with the aim to enhance the operation and structure of the West of England Combined Authority.*
- *Establish an independent improvement panel to support the authority in delivering the necessary improvements detailed in this notice, engaging with the Department in determining its timing, scope, membership, and terms of reference.*

The BVN will remain in place for 12 months, after which time, should the government deem it necessary to continue to seek assurance through such a Notice, the Notice will be reissued. It may be withdrawn or escalated at any point based on the available evidence.

Notes from Frome Valley Community Engagement Meeting

24th March 2024

Chair: Gary Weeks

Avon Fire & Rescue

No representative present – report to be forwarded with minutes.
Yate Fire Station has a new appliance.

Avon & Somerset Police – PC Jacquie McCormack & PC Finbar Simmons

Winterbourne & Frampton Cotterell experienced a spate of criminal damage in December – 12 cars were damaged in one night. There have been a few burglaries, mainly from outbuildings of garden tools and electric devices such as leaf blowers n.b. most recently in March. There have also been thefts from unlocked cars.

Police have combined with other agencies to give a talk about knife crime called “The Blunt Truth” to schools.

A rogue trader has been cold calling on homes in the Yate area regarding roof repairs.

“Streetsafe” is a police app which can be downloaded and used to flag areas considered to be unsafe or dangerous.

Action: Lyn to ask Clerk to mention locking car doors in Parish News report and warn of rogue traders.

Neighbourhood Updates and Discussion

Mark King, SGC Service Director of Place Delivery (Streetcare, etc.) gave an update on the mitigation works for the A432 bridge closure. This bridge is a “post tension structure” which is extremely complex to demolish. First, the utilities will need to be re-routed under the M4 which is expected to happen in June. The bridge will be kept open for cyclists and pedestrians until it is demolished late summer which will entail closing the motorway. It could be another two years before a new bridge is in place.

SGC's 25 year contract with Suez ends in 2025 and negotiations with a replacement contractor will be based on three weekly black bin collections from 2027.

New “Find Information” website – Hazel Everett

url www.southglos.gov/iag (information, advice and guidance) has 356 pages and 65 links from other SGC pages. There are many ways to search for help and some results can be displayed in “map view”. There is also a translation function using Google Search which means the results can be delivered in a foreign language. Attendees were asked to promote the website to their communities.

Lyn Haigh – March 2024