

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2023 LISTER ROOM, RANGEWORTHY MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present

Councillors: Miss. W. Moody Miss. L. Haigh Mrs. M.J. Steer Mr. K. Livall Mr. D. Moore
Mrs. P.J. Evans (Clerk)
Cllrs. C. Young and Cllr. T. Clark (South Gloucestershire Councillors)

No members of the public were present.

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.

A.01.23 | There was no public participation.

Action

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

1. Apologies for Absence

01.01.23 | There were no apologies for absence. Cllr. Lean was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement.

2. Declarations of Interest Relating to Agenda Items

02.01.23 | There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

03.01.23 | Cllr. Steer proposed, Cllr. Haigh seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of Tuesday 6th December 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The Chairman signed the minutes. **All Agreed.**

4. South Gloucestershire Councillors Report

04.01.23 | SGC Councillors had previously circulated a copy of their monthly report. The report contained information on forthcoming bus fare caps; sewerage overflows; community food fund and the phase 2 consultation of the 2023-2024 SGC budget.

05.01.23 | Cllrs. discussed the introduction of bus fare caps of £2 for all single journeys January-March 2023. However, this did not address the ongoing driver shortage.

06.01.23 | Cllrs. also discussed the issue of sewage overflows and noted at the December meeting of SGC, Cllr. Lean proposed a motion calling on the Government to grant water companies and local councils' powers to stop new developments putting additional pressure on overburdened water infrastructure, causing raw sewage to discharge into rivers during periods of heavy rain. During a meeting with Wessex Water, Cllrs were told it would help if Central Government enacted a particular piece of legislation which would stop developers from installing inadequate drainage systems. The current SGC administration refused to agree to write to Central Government asking them to do this. Our SGC Councillors also requested SGC write to Wessex Water to ensure the From and Ladden Brook were classified as 'high priority sites' and required to demonstrate no adverse ecological impact by storm overflows by 2035. Again, the current administration refused to do this.

07.01.23 | There was discussion between Councillors regarding the implementation of the national photographic Voter ID for the May 2023 elections. It was felt this disenfranchised a certain section of the population who did not ordinarily possess photographic identification. However, it was noted that a workaround for this issue would be for residents to apply for a postal vote. It was also noted that for those residents who did not possess photographic identification, the Local Authority must provide it free of charge.

5. Clerk's Report

08.01.23 | The Clerk's report was noted – copy appended to these Minutes.

09.01.23 | In addition, an advertisement for Commemorative King Charles mugs had been received via the Clerks & Councils Direct publication. To purchase 72 mugs would cost £584 (inc VAT). Cllr. Moody would attend the forthcoming meeting arranged by the Jubilee Committee to discuss the Coronation in May advise of the offer from the Parish Council to purchase commemorative mugs for the children of the primary school, or make a donation towards the days' events. Cllr. Moody would also mention the Parish Council's idea for a replacement postal box.

6. Planning Matters

10.01.23 | The following planning application had been received after the issuing of the agenda. Parish Councillors **RESOLVED** to respond as follows -

11.01.23 | P22/07173/RVC | Land at Wotton Road, Rangeworthy, BS37 7NA | Variation of condition 6 attached to permission PT17/3260/O to alter the wording of the condition. Erection of 8 no. dwellings (outline) with access and layout to be determined. All other matters reserved | To OBJECT to the variation of the wording of condition 6 attached to planning permission PT17/3260/O. Condition 6 specifically states that “no development shall occur on the site until the revised pedestrian crossing has been installed on Wotton Road and the existing crossing removed”. The B4059 Wotton Road is an extremely busy B-road and the SGC Transportation Development Control officer in his email of 19th December 2017 acknowledged that “although unmeasured, observed speeds would appear to be in excess of the posted speed limit [30mph]”. The pedestrian crossing point currently installed is part of the safe, walk-to-school route for pupils of the village primary school who live on New Road. It is therefore crucial for the safety of pedestrians (adult and children alike), that a safe place to cross the B4059 remains in place at all times. Additionally, it is essential that the vehicular access to the site be properly established before any development commences as pupils of the village primary school who live on Harford Place traverse the western footpath to access the school. It is acknowledged by SGC that Conditional 6 attached to this planning permission is “in the interests of highway safety and accords with Policy CS8 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy (Adopted) December 2013 and the National Planning Framework to ensure appropriate pedestrian facilities are implemented in a timely way”. To permit the altering of the wording of Condition 6 would, in the opinion of Rangeworthy Parish Council, be contrary to Policy CS8 and conflict with the interest of highway safety. A safe pedestrian crossing point MUST be maintained at all times along this stretch of the B4059.

7. Planning Decisions

12.01.23 | P22/06064/F | Oakfield Farm, Green Lane, Rangeworthy, GL12 8BD | Erection of a general-purpose agricultural building for storage of agricultural machinery and fodder and housing of livestock | APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS.

8. Financial Matters

- 13.01.23 Due to the Christmas holidays, no up-to-date bank statements had been received.
- 14.01.23 A copy of the receipts and payments account as of 20th December 2022 had been circulated for Cllrs. information.
- 15.01.23 Cllr. Livall proposed, Cllr. Moody seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Reserves Policy (as circulated by the Clerk) which would sit alongside and compliment the Parish Council's adopted Financial Regulations. **All Agreed.**
- 16.01.23 Cllr. Haigh proposed, Cllr. Moody seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the 2023-2024 budget figures as circulated by the Clerk. **All Agreed.**
- 17.01.23 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the CIL spending spreadsheet as of December 2022. This showed CIL reserves of £37,732.83. An amount of £4,054.21 needed to be spent by the end of financial year 2023-2024.
- 18.01.23 Following consideration of the 2023-2024 budget figures, Cllr. Haigh proposed, Cllr. Moody seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to request a Precept amount of £13,000 for financial year 2023-2024. This would be the same level as the previous financial year. **All Agreed.**
- 19.01.23 Cllr. Moody proposed, Cllr. Steer seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs. C. Roylance as the Independent Internal Auditor for the 2022-2023 Annual Return. **All Agreed.**

9. Children's Playground

- 20.01.23 All in order. The annual safety inspection that should have taken place in December 2022 had been delayed due to illness.

10. Recreation Ground & Pavilion

- 21.01.23 Water2Business had advised of a £13.00 rebate on the next water bill. This rebate was due to the recent acquisition of Bristol Water by Pennon Group plc.
- 22.01.23 The SGC Street Cleaning & Maintenance Team had completed repair work to the footbridge of the Permissive Footpath – cost £79.95 plus VAT. SGC would be invoicing the Parish Council.

11. Woodland

- 23.01.23 The eight heritage variety fruit trees were planted by the SGC Street Cleaning and Maintenance Team on 9th December 2022. Tree guards and stakes had been purchased from Landcare at a cost of £40. Cllrs. also noted the Team had fixed the pedestrian entrance gate to the woodland.

12. Verge Adjacent Pool Farm

- 24.01.23 SGC had contacted the Parish Council regarding the "Thank You NHS" signs that had been installed in the verge. Who, or exactly when this had been done was unknown to the Parish Council although it was noted they had appeared during the COVID-19 pandemic. SGC had confirmed there was no licence in place to permit the erection of this sign. Cllr. Moody proposed, Cllr. Moore seconded and it was **RESOLVE** to respond to SGC confirming the Parish Council had no knowledge of this sign, and as the verge belonged to SGC they should deal with it as they saw fit. **All Agreed.**
- 25.01.23 Cllrs. noted the report provided by the Clerk regarding the obtaining of a licence to maintain the verge. The next step was to submit a detailed plan to SGC

highlighting where the Parish Council wished to establish the wildflower border and any additional ongoing maintenance works.

26.01.23 Cllr. Steer proposed, Cllr. Haigh seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to hire a turf-cutter (up to a maximum of £75 plus VAT). **All Agreed.**

27.01.23 Cllr. Livall proposed, Cllr. Moody seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make or purchase two signs (up to a maximum of £20 plus VAT) to erect on the verge explaining the Parish Council's environmental plans. It was felt that A4 or A3 size would be sufficient. **All Agreed.**

13. **B4058 – Speeding**

28.01.23 Nothing further to report. The response and commitment had been disappointing. Cllr. Moore would chase once more those residents who had expressed an interest.

14. **Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP)**

29.01.23 Cllr. Steer had circulated a copy of her report. An LNAP would set out information, and provide guidance and a template for the Parish Council to identify priorities and the actions required to protect and increase nature in the parish. Rangeworthy Parish Council already had some key sites which could be used as the basis for developing wider plans. These sites include the Woodland, Recreation Ground (including the Jubilee Grove) and the Kidnapper Lane field. Green Lane had been identified as a key site for flora when surveyed by a group from Bristol Naturalists Society a few years ago. Rangeworthy also had a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) produced by SGC some years ago. The key things to take this idea forward would be to raise awareness of the serious nature of the threats to biodiversity in rural areas, and encourage residents to think more seriously about what they can do to enhance nature in and around their own properties, as well as a workforce of willing volunteers to help undertake projects within the parish. This idea would be developed by the Parish Council.

15. **Accounts for Payment**

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

31.01.23	Payee	Chq No		Net	VAT	TOTAL
	Mrs. P. Evans	SO	Clerk's Salary - Dec	£455.55	£0.00	£455.55
	Elite Cleaning (SW)	1694	Pavilion Cleans	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
	Eon	DD	Pavilion Electricity	£29.63	£1.48	£31.11
	South Glos Council	1695	Grounds Maintenance	£52.94	£10.59	£63.53
	South Glos Council	1695	Footbridge Repairs	£79.95	£15.99	£95.94
	Mrs. P. Evans	1696	Tree Guards/Stakes	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
				<u>£723.07</u>	<u>£41.06</u>	<u>£764.13</u>

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

16. **Councillors Open Forum**

33.01.23 The Parish Council noted the date for the forthcoming Local Elections as Thursday 4th May 2023. This date to be noted in the next edition of the Parish Magazine, although no further information was available.

34.01.23	It was noted that 2 or 3 replacement tiles were required for the bus shelter. Clerk to check the tile profile and see if they can be purchased.	Clerk
35.01.23	Cllrs. observed that in parts of north Bristol, the electric scooters provided as part of the WECA initiative appeared to be dumped haphazardly rather than returned to their charging points. It was noted these scooters do not have the range to reach Rangeworthy.	
36.01.23	The 2023 Big Spring Clean date was agreed as Saturday 25 th March	

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

The next Meeting of Rangeworthy Parish Council would be held in the Lister Room of the Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

Signed

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Date

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RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk’s Report – Agenda Item 5
Activities up to 3rd January 2023**

The SGC Street Cleaning and Maintenance Team had successfully completed all of the jobs requested by the Parish Council, plus some additional tasks. It is fair to say that the work had been completed to a very satisfactory standard and the team had been more than obliging particularly with planting the heritage fruit trees and repairs to the permissive path bridge. The layby hedge had been trimmed back and the “no parking overnight” sign is now completely visible.

SGC had released further data relating to the 2021 Census on the Labour market and travel to work.

Matters Arising – 28.12.22 - The Clerk had begun investigating the cost implications of purchasing commemorative Coronation mugs for all the children at the primary school. There did not appear to be any providers at the moment with approved designs. However, it would be fair to say that an individual mug would cost in the region of £10. There are 70 children at the primary school, therefore an estimated cost could be included in the budget of £700.