

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 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: Jon Lean, Tristan Clerk
Clerk : Andrea Wheal

No members of the public were in attendance

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-02/24	There was no public participation	

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

1.	Apologies for Absence	
1.1-02/24	Apologies were received from LA Cllr Young	
2.	Declarations of Interest Relating to Agenda Items	
2.1-02/24	There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
3.1-02/24	Cllr. Haigh proposed, Cllr. Livall seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of Tuesday 2 nd January 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes. All Agreed.	
4.	South Gloucestershire Councillors Report	
4.1-02/24	The written report from Cllr Clerk was received and noted. Appended to these minutes. The report comprises updates on the Council's budget and Parish planning applications.	
4.2-02/24	Planning application P23/01665/F. Two dwellings on land south of The Grange, Bagstone Road. Cllr Clerk confirmed that this application has been referred to the Development Management Committee for determination. The Parish Council objected to this application. Planning officer has recommended approval. Cllr Moody will aim to attend the site visit on Friday March 1 st .	Cllr Moody
4.3-02/24	Cllr Haigh queried whether the AMR had been updated in respect of the 5 year land supply. Cllr Clerk confirmed that it had and that the current five year supply is 5.86 years.	
4.4-02/24	Cllr Clerk confirmed that resident's comments are deleted from the planning portal once an application has been decided due to GDPR regulations. Cllr Haigh suggested that Parish Council comments, as a statutory consultee, should	Cllr Clerk

	not be deleted so that they remain as evidence to Parishioners of councillors inputs. Cllr Clerk will confirm the situation.	
	Cllr Clerk confirmed that it is not possible for members of the public to submit comments on the planning portal anonymously.	
4.5-02/24	Cllr Steer raised her concerns about SGC plans to introduce parking charges, especially with regard to Thornbury, due to the potential damage to footfall to businesses. Cllr Lean confirmed that there will be “an element of free parking”. The detail of this is yet to be finalised. Cllr Lean also confirmed that the high street pedestrianisation scheme in Thornbury was not funded by SGC council tax income, but with funds from WECA that would not have been available for other uses.	
4.6-02/24	Cllr Haigh queried whether SGC internal cost savings had been investigated as part of the budget setting process, as this has not been widely publicised. Cllr Lean confirmed that all options for cost savings had been explored.	
4.7-02/24	Cllr Livall observed that SGC was in a very difficult situation due to cost increases with no additional money from central government.	
5.	Clerk’s Report	
5.1-02/24	The Clerk’s timesheet was noted. Overtime continues to be accrued. The Clerk confirmed that there is no intention of claiming overtime payments this financial year.	
5.2-02/24	It was noted that the Clerk has booked 10 hours holiday in January 2024. 18 hours holiday remains to be taken by the end of the financial year.	
5.3-02/24	Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Livall seconded and it was RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £200 from Andy Willaims to carry out maintenance work at the Kidnapper Lane Field (Hedge cutting, scrub clearance and re-hanging of field gate). Clerk to instruct the works.	Clerk
5.4-02/24	Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Haigh seconded and it was RESOLVED to increase the Clerk’s contracted hours from 35 to 39 per calendar month in order to allow sufficient time to complete all tasks without the need for overtime payments. Commencing in April 2024. Clerk to amend standing order with bank for the April 2024 salary payment and prepare revised contract.	Clerk
5.5-02/24	Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Steer seconded and it was RESOLVED to appoint Celeste Roylance to undertake the Parish Council’s internal audit for the 2023/24 financial year. Fee will be £120, which is the same as last financial year.	Clerk
5.6-02/24	Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Livall seconded and it was RESOLVED to award a grant of £25 to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire. The Citizens Advice service is available to all residents of the parish if needed but relies on grant funding to be able to operate. £25 is all that remains in the budget this financial year.	Clerk
5.7-02/24	It was agreed to continue to hold the parish council meetings on the first Tuesday of the month for the next municipal year. There will be no meeting in August. It was agreed that the Tuesday evening has worked for all Cllrs for many years and it would be difficult to change the day at this time.	Clerk
5.8-02/24	The date for the Village Assembly will be Tuesday 28 th May, 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Main Hall). Groups to be invited are: School governors, LA Cllrs, church representatives, WI, Jubilee committee, Iron Acton & Rangeworthy football clubs, hall committee. Clerk to invite & publicise.	Clerk

6.	Planning Applications	
6.1-02/24	P24/00118/CLP. Tamarisk, Wotton Road - Installation of 1no. rear dormer. <i>Application for certificate of lawfulness.</i> Dormer does not exceed 50m3 so permission not reqd. NO COMMENT.	Clerk
6.2-02/24	P23/00377/F. Land Off Wotton Road/adjacent To Harford Close. <i>Amendment to planning application. Revised description, plans and documents.</i> The Parish Council OBJECTS. Comments submitted for the original application remain relevant with the following amendments: Updated public transport situation – no bus service Vehicle movements – in excess of 100. Speeding data not taken from site frontage area. Survey was completed 6 years ago so out of date. Flooding – expand Mains water pressure – add Access – previous agricultural access application. Lapsed. Opposed by Parish Council. SGC has previously stated that an access here is dangerous. Removal of trees	Clerk
7.	Planning Decisions	
7.1-02/24	The following planning decisions were noted: P23/02851/PIP. Land At Dalarna, Tanhouse Lane, Engine Common, Yate. <i>Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 4no. dwellings.</i> REFUSED	
8.	Financial Matters	
8.1-02/24	The updated receipts and payments account was noted.	
8.2-02/24	It was noted that £101.17 of CIL monies needs to be allocated/spent by the end of the financial year. Expenditure already agreed and instructed: £600 for carved bench refurbishment, £30 for hedgehog sign fixing. Expenditure to be agreed: £370 for roundabout repairs labour costs. Total: £1000. £101.17 remaining, part of which will go towards funding the jubilee bench.	
8.3-02/24	The Clerks expenses claim was noted. Total £27.74 - £22.79 for printer ink, £4.95 mileage payment.	
8.4-02/24	It was noted that the following budget categories have been exceeded this month: Miscellaneous expenses (Office supplies). £22 overspend. Cllr Steer proposed, Cllr Livall seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve a £70 virement from the recreation ground grass cutting budget to Miscellaneous expenses (Office supplies). This should leave enough within the Miscellaneous expenses to cover any further office expenses this financial year as well as leaving sufficient within the grass cutting budget.	Clerk
8.5-02/24	Cllr Haigh proposed, Cllr Moody seconded and it was RESOLVED to renew the Council's financial regulations without amendment. Clerk to look into required frequency of renewing regulations and policies.	Clerk
8.6-02/24	Cllr Livall proposed, Cllr Moody seconded and it was RESOLVED to amend the Council's general reserves policy. Para 5.3: <i>"The current level of General Reserves to be held by the Parish Council is set at equal to nine months of predicted expenditure."</i> Is to be replaced with: <i>"The current level of General Reserves to be held by the Parish Council is set to be between six and nine months of predicted expenditure. A figure towards the top end of this range will</i>	Clerk

be the preferred amount” Clerk to amend accordingly. Next review date February 2025.

9. Children’s Playground

9.1-02/24 The parts required to fix the roundabout have been received. A quotation of £370 for the labour required has been received from KLH Landscapes. This includes time already spent by KLH to try to source the parts required. Clerk

Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Steer seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to agree to accept the quotation from KLH Landscapes.

9.2-02/24 It was noted that that Andy O’Neill has completed the refurbishment of the carved bench. Clerk to contact Andy O’Neil regarding recommended ongoing maintenance and diary in an annual oil treatment. Clerk

9.3-02/24 It was noted that the Clerk has received the report from the annual play inspection. This will be discussed at the March meeting. An initial read suggests that there are numerous recommendations. Clerk

10. Recreation Ground & Pavilion

10.1-02/24 The quotes received for the grass cutting contract next financial year were discussed. Three quotations have been obtained. All are some way above this year’s rates. None allow for the cutting frequency across the recreation ground to be increased as was hoped for within the already agreed budget. Clerk

Cllr Haigh proposed, Cllr Moody seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint SGC for next year’s grass cutting contract and to set the frequency of cuts to accord with the agreed budget.

10.2-02/24 It was noted that the Clerk is monitoring the oil level. A delivery will be required within the next few months. The hope is to delay until next financial year. The current cost for 750 litres (same amount as last delivery) is £569.63. £800 is allowed for within the budget. Chipping Sodbury Fuels may be an alternative supplier. Clerk

10.3-02/24 The Clerk proposed various options for a new bench to be located next to the Jubilee Grove. All suggestions are manufactured from recycled plastic due to the environmental benefits and lack of ongoing maintenance requirements. The bench will be funded using CIL funds. Clerk to ascertain if the Marmax bench comes in a longer version. Decision to be taken next month. Clerk

10.4-02/24 It was noted that Elite Cleaning will not be increasing their charges for the pavilion cleaning next financial year in recognition of the reduced usage of the pavilion. Charges remain at £65 per clean.

10.5-02/24 Cllr Haigh reported that the snowdrops around the jubilee grove are not particularly visible. The tree ties and stakes should now be removed. Cllr Haigh has volunteered to remove the ties. Cllr Haigh

11. Woodland

11.1-02/24 It was noted that the hedgehog sign has been installed.

12. Co-option of Parish Councillor

12.1-02/24 It was noted a parishioner is still interested in the vacant councillor role but they have an existing on-going commitment on Tuesday evenings. It was agreed to contact the parishioner and confirm that the day of the week cannot be altered. Clerk

13. Highways issues

- 13.1-02/24 It was noted that all the scheduled works within the Parish have been completed by SGC's minor works team. This service will be available again next financial year.
- 13.2-02/24 It was agreed that the suggestion for the name of the new road serving the housing development would be put forward as "Home Ground" as taken from the original field name on the tithe map of 1845. Clerk to inform SGC. **Clerk**
- 13.3-02/24 Cllr Moody confirmed that a volunteer had come forwards for the speed watch initiative. They have been asked to contact the Clerk or the parishioner who has previously coordinated the initiative.
- 13.4-02/24 Cllr Moody has written a letter to Wessex Water regarding the sewage problems that many residents in the Parish are experiencing, especially those along Patch Elm Lane. Clerk to type up and send to Wessex Water. **Clerk**

14. Accounts for Payment

- 14.1-02/24 The following payments and invoices had been verified by the Clerk and were presented for payment -

Payee	Chq No		Net	VAT	TOTAL
Andrea Wheal	SO	Clerk's Salary - Jan	£464.80	£0.00	£464.80
e.on	DD	pavilion electricity - Dec	£36.18	£1.81	£37.99
PCC of Wickwar	1760	Parish News grant	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00
Elite Cleaning	1761	Pavilion clean - Nov	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
Wicksteed	1762	roundabout parts	£352.20	£70.44	£422.64
Andrea Wheal	1763	Clerk's expenses	£22.34	£5.40	£27.74
Elite Cleaning	1764	Pavilion clean - Dec	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
Rangeworthy Hall	1765	Room hire - police	£15.40	£0.00	£15.40
Play inspection co	1766	Annual Inspection playground	£119.00	£23.80	£142.80
			£1,264.92	£127.45	£1,249.57

- 14.2-02/24 Cllr Moody proposed, Cllr Haigh seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the above accounts be paid. Cllrs Livall and Moody witnessed the invoices and signed the cheques. All Agreed.

15. Local Plan Consultation Response

- 15.1-02/24 The following issues are to be highlighted as part of the Parish Council response to the South Gloucestershire Local Plan consultation:

- Distance from local services (school, public house and bus stops). Sites EPS-FC2 & EPS-FC11 are better placed in this respect. EPS-FC8 and the eastern part of EPS-FC3 are more likely to produce vehicle movements for access to the school, especially in poor weather.
- The eastern part of EPS-FC3 relates to the surrounding open agricultural landscapes from a landscape and visual perspective to a greater extent than the more westerly sites, which relate more strongly to the existing settlement from a visual perspective. It is also adjacent to a site of nature conservation interest with the potential for greater adverse impacts on biodiversity. A parishioner who attended the consultation event highlighted frequent sightings of deer, bats and owls across this area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPS-FC10 would need to be accessed through the housing area along The Grove, resulting in greater adverse impacts on residential amenity when compared to other options, which could be accessed directly from the existing main road network. • Any sites put forwards within Rangeworthy must be conditional on sewerage capacities being upgraded and flood risk being fully considered. The overriding concern of parishioners attending a Parish consultation session was flooding and sewage capacity issues. Cllr Lean reported that the Local Plan evidence base included a report from Wessex Water and that reference to planned works in Rangeworthy and Bagstone included re-lining works but no capacity increases. • Any decisions on the sites to be put forward must give strong weight to highway safety concerns. Sites EPS-FC2, EPS-FC8, EPS-FC11 and the western part of EPS-FC3 would all be accessed from the B4058, which is known to have an issue with speeding motorists. 	
15.5-02/24	Clerk will write up above comments for Parish Cllrs to comment on before submission to SGC.	Clerk
16.	Big Spring Clean	
16.1-02/24	It was agreed that the date of the Big Spring Clean will be April 6 th , between 10 & 12 noon. Clerk to publicise and obtain gloves and bags. Cllr Moody will represent the Parish at the event.	Clerk Cllr Moody
17.	Councillors Open Forum	
17.1-02/24	Cllr Haigh attended an “Age Friendly Communities” pop-up forum. Cllr Haigh felt that this was of limited value, particularly as there is no budget for initiatives. Cllr Lean requested Cllr Haigh provides feedback to him to pass on to the relevant people.	Cllr Haigh
17.2-02/24	Cllr Livall noted that there are plans for the upgrading of Kidnapper Lane to allow better access for Wessex Water vehicles and access to the proposed battery storage site. This is will be of benefit for the Parish owned field access.	
17.3-02/24	A Wickwar parish resident who lives near the edge of Rangeworthy has informed Cllr Moody that he runs a not-for-profit company that advises local communities and he would be available to advise the Parish should they wish to look to develop a neighbourhood plan. There would be no charge for this service.	

The meeting closed at 10.25 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 5th March 2024.

Signed

Date

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Budget for 2024/25 Approved by Cabinet

South Gloucestershire Council’s updated budget for 2024/25 and beyond has been published. A balanced budget has been reached for the next three financial years.

It contains additional investments in children’s services and focusing on the twin priorities of cost-of-living support for those in financial difficulty and addressing the climate crisis. It was approved by Cabinet yesterday and will be put before Full Council for approval on Wednesday 21st February.

The new budget will increase Council Tax by 4.99%, of which 2% will be specifically used to help meet the ever-growing need for adult social care. In balancing the budget last year, a target to raise new revenues was set at around £2 million. Accordingly, the council will introduce a £10 administration charge to apply for a Blue Badge, which are valid for three years, in line with most other councils in England. The subscription cost for green bin/garden waste collection service will also rise, from £30 to £60, so that it is no longer subsidised by all council taxpayers. Again, this will bring South Gloucestershire into line with neighbouring authorities.

The latest plans follow an extensive public consultation process during the Autumn that saw residents and stakeholders submit more than 50,000 comments on the original draft proposals. The central aim of the budget, which must legally be balanced, is to ensure that residents in the greatest need are supported with the cost of living, while maintaining essential and statutory services and taking action to respond to the climate and nature emergencies.

Headline investments include:

- An additional £1,055,000 for Children’s Services for 2024/25 to maintain and build on the progress made following the recent lifting of the Improvement Notice by Ofsted.
- Providing Free School Meal vouchers for one week at Easter and one week of Summer, helping approximately 6,500 young people.
- Debt and benefits advice to an additional 680 complex cases, bringing the total helped to approximately 2,000 people. This is anticipated to secure an additional £2.5m in financial outcomes for residents.
- A pilot scheme to help landlords reach current the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) for their properties, protecting both renters and the environment. This will help renters save money as well as improving the environmental performance of more homes in the district.
- A pilot scheme to expand youth services, namely the Youth Activities Offer (YAO), providing some additional support to secondary schools and expanding the Education Inclusion Project (EIP).
- Energy efficiency measures such as radiator panels, draught proofing, LED lightbulbs, kettles, and slow cookers for eligible residents, which will again help address the cost of living and climate challenges facing residents across South Gloucestershire.
- Continued support for Community Welcome Spaces
- Continued support for food banks and community pantries
- 1,000 warm packs.

The council has chosen to prioritise support for those most in need of cost-of-living support because of current uncertainty over whether the Household Support Fund, which is worth £2.8m for South Gloucestershire, will be continued after March 2024. The Fund, and its previous iterations, has been used to provide a significant amount of the Council’s cost-of-living support to date.

The financial settlement provided to the council from central government does mean that, in order to meet the £2 million income generation target set out in last year’s budget, a scheme of car parking charges will need to be implemented, in line with most local authorities across the country. The details of this will be

worked up over the coming weeks, with a phased implementation plan starting with council owned off-street car parks before progressing to on-street parking.

A scheme will be developed that balances the need for the council to balance the books with the needs of residents and businesses to maintain access to shopping facilities and footfall in local shops, for example. The specifics of these charges, for example where they will apply and how much they will be, are yet to be determined, but in light of community concerns about the potential impact of this, which was widely expressed in the consultation process, the scheme will include an element of free parking and the introduction of business permits where appropriate.

In order that these measures do not lead to drivers congesting local residential areas, there will also need to be new regulations to street parking in some areas to protect local residents, and a balance will be struck so that parking near to local shops is not blocked by all-day parking commuters.

No new proposals to reduce services are included in this budget as the council continues to implement the existing savings programmes in the coming financial year and monitor its impact upon its delivery of services. From 2014/15 to 2023/24 the council will have made savings of £84 million and £101 million by 2026/27.

Planning

Planning application P23/01665/F, a proposal to build two dwellings on land south of The Grange on Bagstone Road, has appeared on this week's Circulated Schedule. Whilst the officer's recommendation of approval is a finely balanced one, factoring in the NPPF's tilted balance as South Gloucestershire Council's defined settlement boundaries have been found by Planning Inspectors to be out-of-date, we shall be asking for the Development Management Committee to determine the application. This is due to outstanding concerns about the sustainability of the location (following the recent Wickwar appeal decision) and about the safety of the proposed accesses (directly onto a bend in the Bagstone Road). The Site Inspection would be on Friday 1st March (time tbc) with the Development Management Committee commencing at 11 a.m. on Thursday 14th March at the Kingswood Civic Centre.

At the Development Management Committee meeting on Thursday 18th January application P23/02851/PIP, a proposal to build 4 dwellings on land at Dalarna on Tanhouse Lane, was refused on the grounds that the location is unsustainable. This follows the refusal of a similar proposal at the site in a few years ago for the same reason (PK18/6731/F).