



AN ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL will be held on **Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.00pm** at **Westerleigh Village Hall** and the following business will be transacted. All Councillors are summoned to attend.

Rachel Davis

Rachel Davis (Clerk to Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council)
4th December 2023

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

AGENDA – WESTERLEIGH & COALPIT HEATH PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER 2023

1. To NOTE apologies for absence
2. To RECEIVE Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting, as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and the Localism Act 2011
3. To APPROVE *Minutes* of Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2023
4. To RECEIVE reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish

Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council – District Councillors' Report

Monday 11th December 2023

Autumn Statement Fails to Deliver on Sustainable Services

The recent Autumn Statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer provided no significant light at the end of the tunnel for South Gloucestershire Council's financial situation.

SGC's budget for next year, which is currently out for public consultation, presents a balanced set of accounts in the short term, but the latest set of Government announcements proposed nothing significant to help reduce the pressure on council budgets or make them sustainable in the years to come. Continued inflationary pressure will mean no respite for council services already under extreme strain, with the prospect, as costs continue to rise faster than funding, of further cutbacks of the support that local people rely upon.

Cllr Claire Young, Leader of Council, said: "We were waiting and hoping that the Government would have taken this opportunity to help councils help local people facing an ongoing cost of living crisis, prices that are still rising at twice the target inflation rate, high interest rates on mortgages, stagnant wages for many and as we collectively need to tackle the climate emergency.

"Instead, we got no help to provide the social care people need. No help to support our underfunded schools. No help on wage and price inflation. No help to repair our roads and boost sustainable public transport options. Through our budget consultation we are having community conversations with local people so they can see the impact of this underfunding on what we are able to provide as a council and help us set our priorities for next year.

"Through our community conversations with residents, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, we are also talking about a shared vision for the future of South Gloucestershire that we can set out in a new Council Plan next year. The Government has taken some, limited positive steps. In acting to unfreeze Local Housing Allowance rates, there is some help to afford rising rents. We will also now be able to set our planning fees at a level to cover our costs on processing major developments.

"Overall, however, there was next to nothing in this Autumn Statement that suggests the Government understands the major issues we face in South Gloucestershire or that they are prepared to help us do anything to help."

More information about the councils 2023/24 Budget consultation process and details of the online and in-person opportunities to take part can be found at www.southglos.gov.uk/south-glos-budget-2024. A detailed assessment of the Autumn Statement by the Local Government Association can be found at <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/autumn-statement-2023-day-briefing>.

Local Plan Phase 3 Consultation to Commence

South Gloucestershire Council has published its draft Local Plan Phase 3 consultation document ahead of a Cabinet meeting on Monday 13th November. The council will be asking for feedback from residents before final decisions are made on its content. If the proposals to Cabinet are approved this final phase of public consultation would commence on Wednesday 6th December and close on Wednesday 7th February. It is vital that residents, town/parish councils and community groups use this opportunity to register their views, support those parts of the plan they feel are correct, and suggest where the final plan can be improved. The council will be publishing details a series of community engagement events on the local plan to allow town/parish councillors and residents to ask officers questions about the emerging strategy and the next stages in the local plan process.

The draft plan sets out how South Gloucestershire could meet its expected housing demand without embarking on large-scale building projects to create entirely new freestanding communities in the countryside. Development should instead be focussed on the urban fringe and, where appropriate, to have small schemes in rural communities. And where necessary, improvements will need to be made to existing services for new and existing residents.

The updated Local Plan Delivery Programme timetable envisages that the final draft of Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in October 2024. It will, following a public examination at the start of 2025, ultimately be assessed by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure it meets its legal requirements. Following the publication of the Inspector's Report the aim would be for the council to formally adopt the Local Plan in the Autumn of 2025.

Alongside the updated draft Local Plan, new policies on a range of issues managed through the council's planning process are also being published. These include draft policies on:

- Providing space for renewable energy generation
- Supporting the council's commitment to net zero covering: renewable and low carbon energy systems, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, embodied carbon, energy management in new development, community energy
- Provision for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities
- Affordable Homes policy
- Economy and jobs policy
- Town centres policy

The draft consultation document, without the maps and active links to the evidence base, can already be found in the cabinet papers at <https://council.southglos.gov.uk/documents/s149021/Appendix%20A%20-%20New%20Local%20Plan%20-%20Phase%203.pdf>. When the Local Plan consultation goes live on 6th December it will include all the relevant maps as well as the evidence base the proposals are based upon. - <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-phase-3-towards-a-preferred-strategy/>

5. To RECEIVE questions and comments from members of the public present with respect to business on the agenda (in accordance with Standing Orders 3 e-3 i)

- Coalpit Heath Cricket Club
- Westerleigh Football Club

6. **PLANNING**

- a) To NOTE planning comments submitted since last meeting
- b) To NOTE planning decisions made by South Gloucestershire Council since last meeting
- c) To discuss and COMMENT on any necessary Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:
 - (i) [P23/03226/F](#) | Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated works. | The Old Stables Boxhedge Farm Lane Coalpit Heath Bristol South Gloucestershire BS36 2UW
 - (ii) [P23/03290/F](#) | Demolition of existing building. Erection of 10 no. new commercial units (flexible Class E(g), Class B2 and Class B8 use) and associated access, parking, landscaping, and other associated works. Land At 81 North Road Yate South Gloucestershire
 - (iii) [P23/03279/F](#) | Demolition of existing outbuildings. Erection of single storey dwelling and ancillary parking. The Retreat 216 Badminton Road Coalpit Heath Bristol South Gloucestershire BS36 2QB
 - (iv) [P23/03352/F](#) | Demolition of existing glasshouses and ancillary structures and removal of mobile home. Erection of 2 no. bungalows and ancillary works. | Land At Wentwood Nurseries Ram Hill Coalpit Heath Bristol South Gloucestershire BS36 2TZ

FINANCE

7. To APPROVE November payments made in accordance with FR 5.2.
 8. To NOTE receipt of end of November 2023 Financial documents: Bank Statements, receipts lists, Bank Reconciliation
 9. To receive any other report from the RFO including:
Increase to youth provision figure in 24/25 draft budget
Grant applications approved
 10. To APPROVE three-year Localism Contract with South Gloucestershire Council (2024/25 – 2026/27) for bin emptying and verge cutting
 11. To DISCUSS Council Tax Base figures and effect on Budget for 2024/2025 and APPROVE the Budget
 12. To APPROVE 2024/25 PRECEPT and AUTHORISE S41 (Precept Request) submission by RFO
 13. To review and APPROVE list of regular Direct Debits
 14. To review Grant Application process and APPROVE amendments to Financial Regulations
 15. To RECEIVE additional information in relation to quotation for Bitterwell Lake outflow works and take a DECISION on required action
16. To RECEIVE Parish Councillor Reports – written submissions, taken as read with questions taken as necessary

ITEMS REQUIRING A RESOLUTION

17. To consider and take a DECISION on a request from Coalpit Heath Cricket Club to increase usage of the Westerleigh Playing Field pitch for the 2024 cricket season.
18. To consider and take a DECISION on a request from Westerleigh Football Club to use the Westerleigh Playing Field pitch for the 2024/2025 football season.
19. To discuss matters and take a DECISION on required actions arising from A432 Badminton Rd bridge closure:
 - (i) Speeding in Westerleigh
 - (ii) Speeding in Coalpit Heath –Henfield Rd, Ram Hill
20. To discuss matters and take a DECISION on required actions arising from parking issues on Henfield Road
21. To take a DECISION on proposals to install two additional dual use litter bins - Blackberry Park, Newman Close (Westerleigh)
22. To take a DECISION on proposal to install footpath signage on Blackberry Park for the Parisis Path
23. To consider and APPROVE the following policies for adoption:
 - (i) Data Protection Policy (including updated privacy notices)
 - (ii) Freedom of Information Policy
24. To RECEIVE information from Clerk regarding ongoing matters and take a DECISION on required action
 - (i) Mafeking Hall defibrillator
 - (ii) Bin signage
25. To RECEIVE an update on issues at Bitterwell Lake Chalet and take a DECISION on required action
 - (i) Rat problem
 - (ii) Render issue
26. To discuss any required CONSULTATIONS and COMMENT as necessary:
 - (i) South Gloucestershire Local Plan Consultation – <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-phase-3-towards-a-preferred-strategy/> Deadline 7th Feb 2024
 - (ii) South Gloucestershire Council consultation on VCSE funding from April 2024 - [VCSE Grants 2024 - South Gloucestershire Online Consultations \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk/publications/south-glos-vcse-grants-2024/) Deadline 23rd Jan 2024

- (iii) South Gloucestershire Council Library service changes <https://librarysavings.commonplace.is/> – Deadline 10th January 2024
- (iv) South Gloucestershire Council Waste and recycling https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/waste_less/consultationHome - Deadline 7th January 2024
- (v) South Gloucestershire Council Late night street lighting <https://streetlight.commonplace.is/> - Deadline 10th January 2024

ITEMS TO NOTE

- 27. Frampton Cotterell Youth Service quarterly update (Q2 July – Sept 2023) from FACE
- 28. Correspondence/Communication with Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council:
From South Gloucestershire Council:
 New Local Climate & Nature Action Plan Officer-27th Nov 2023
 New Build Resident Satisfaction Engagement Report [Report](#) – 21st Nov 2023
Other received items
 Email from the Edventure Project – thanking WCHPC for use of Newman's Field & Westerleigh Playing Field
- 29. To NOTE items considered urgent by the Chairman
- 30. To CONSIDER any exempt items
- 31. Dates of future Parish council meetings

Mon 8 th January	Environment & Leisure Committee	Red Brick Annex, Manor Hall
Mon 15 th January	Full Council	Newman Room, Manor Hall