

AN ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL will be held on **Monday 12th February 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)
5th February 2024

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA –WESTERLEIGH & COALPIT HEATH PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024

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 15th January 2024.
4. To RECEIVE reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish
Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council – District Councillors' Report

Monday 12th 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.

Cllr M Palmer - I contacted South Gloucestershire Council regarding the land clearance at the field opposite the Besom Lane junction in Westerleigh. The concerns raised have all been fully investigated and no breaches of planning have been identified. However, the owners have been instructed to remove the razor wire fencing, and the encroachment onto Highway/SGC land continues to be investigated. It is thought that the land is being tidied in preparation for sale rather than the immediate development/submission of a planning application.

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)

6. **PLANNING**

- To NOTE planning comments submitted since last meeting NONE
- To NOTE planning decisions made by South Gloucestershire Council since last meeting (see report)

- c) To discuss and COMMENT on any necessary Planning Applications or other Planning Matters:
 - i) [P24/00244/HH](#) Demolition of detached garage to facilitate erection of wrap around extension and raising of roofline including front and rear dormers to accommodate living space in the roof. | Oakleigh Mays Hill Frampton Cotterell South Gloucestershire BS36 2NS
 - ii) [P24/00261/F](#) | Raising of roofline and installation of doors and windows to agricultural building (retrospective). | Building Off Huckford Lane Winterbourne South Gloucestershire BS36 1AP

FINANCE

7. To APPROVE January 2024 payments made in accordance with FR 5.2.
(see report)
 8. To NOTE end of January 2024 Financial documents: Bank Statements & Reconciliation, receipts
(see report)
 9. To RECEIVE update information in relation to Bitterwell Lake outflow works and take a DECISION on any required action (see report)
 10. To RECEIVE an update on pest control at Bitterwell Lake & Chalet and take a DECISION on proposed annual pest control contract
 11. To consider and APPROVE funding for any grant applications
Citizens ADVICE South Glos £2000 request (see report)
 12. To NOTE the Clerk report on CPS contract meeting and possible future budget requirements
(see report)
 13. To APPROVE the appointment of an internal auditor for the 2023/2024 accounts & processes
 14. To receive any other report from the RFO including:
Annual ICO/DP registration renewal
15. To RECEIVE Parish Councillor Reports – written submissions, taken as read with questions taken as necessary

ITEMS REQUIRING A RESOLUTION

16. To discuss the latest information from South Gloucestershire Council, respond to questions asked and APPROVE the revised proposal for the Ruffet Road junction and Kendleshire triangle (as part of the A432 active travel corridor project) (see report)
17. To discuss matters and take a DECISION on required actions relating to road safety concerns/ safe crossing places at the following locations: Church Rd/ Badminton Rd bus stop, Henfield Rd, Beesmoor Rd (see report)
18. To discuss matters and take a DECISION on required actions arising from A432 Badminton Rd bridge closure: (see report)
 - (i) Speeding in Westerleigh
 - (ii) Speeding in Coalpit Heath –Henfield Rd, Ram Hill
 - (iii) Parking issues on Henfield Road
19. To consider and APPROVE the following policies for adoption:
 - (i) Document Retention Policy & Appendix (see report)
20. To RECEIVE information from Clerk regarding ongoing matters and take a DECISION on required action

21. To RECEIVE an update on issues at Bitterwell Lake Chalet and take a DECISION on required action
 - (i) Rat problem
 - (ii) Render issue
22. To discuss any required CONSULTATIONS and COMMENT as necessary:
 - (i) South Gloucestershire Local Plan Consultation – Available to view from 6th Dec [SCG consultation page https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/new-local-plan/](https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/new-local-plan/) Deadline 16th Feb 2024

ITEMS TO NOTE

23. To NOTE feedback from South Gloucestershire Council Highways regarding provision of lamp post speeding signs – Park Lane
24. Correspondence/Communication with Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath Parish Council:
From South Gloucestershire Council:
Local Climate and Nature Action Plan Conference invitation – 22nd Feb 7-9pm @ Coalpit Heath Village Hall
PT.7856 Bell Road, Coalpit Heath - Temporary Road Closure: effective from 28th February 2024, 3 days
Footpath between Broad Lane and Frog Lane, Coalpit Heath- [Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2019 LWE84, operative from 29th June 2023](#)

Road closures/ speed limit changes due to A432 bridge replacement (effective from 15th Feb 2024 for 18 months
PT.7882 Westerleigh Road, Coalpit Heath - Temporary 30 mph Speed Limit
PT.7883 Road closures - Coalsack Lane, Ruffet Road, Cooks Lane - Henfield Area
PT.7881 A432 Badminton Road, Downend - Temporary Road Closure
Other received items
-On behalf of Places for People - Invitation to briefing on proposals for the Land North of Lyde Green development site (identified in the Local Plan consultation) – declined
-On behalf of RWE Renewables – notification of drop-in consultation event @ Westerleigh Village Hall, 20th Feb 3-7pm re proposals for solar farm and battery energy storage scheme near Westerleigh (will also present at next Parish Council meeting on 11th March)
25. To NOTE items considered urgent by the Chairman
26. To CONSIDER any exempt items
27. Dates of future Parish council meetings

Mon 11 th March	Full Council	Henfield Hall, Ram Hill
Mon 25 th March	Finance & General Purposes Committee	Manor Hall, Red Brick Annex
Mon 8 th April	Full Council	Westerleigh Village Hall

(Full list at www.westerleighcoalpitheathparishcouncil.gov.uk/meeting-dates)