



NOTICE OF FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7pm Oct 10th 2022 – Westerleigh Village hall

Please do not attend if you, or a person you have been in contact with have been ill in the last 5 days

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

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Apologies for absence Cllr Kelliher Cllr C Young
3. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 relating to this meeting
4. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish

Redundancies Touted to Address Budget Shortfall

Files published for the October meeting of South Gloucestershire Council's Conservative cabinet show that the council's budget gap is set to reach £29.3 million next year as the deteriorating financial situation is impacting its expenditure.

A key report attributes the shortfall to global events, rising inflation and increasing demand for services. Surging energy costs will add £2 million and inflation is expected to add another £10 – 15 million to running costs, with the nationally negotiated pay offer requiring the council to find an extra £6.4 million per annum. Rapidly growing demand on services, including adult social care, means that, despite South Gloucestershire Council adding an Adult Social Care Precept to council tax rises many years, the cost of delivering existing services is also likely to go up by £8.5 million every year. Additionally, capital costs – for building roads, schools and other one-off projects – have already escalated and may continue to grow if inflation is not brought under control.

The report, to be discussed by the council's Cabinet on Monday 10th October, flags that the council is having to look for possible service changes or reductions, some of which may result in redundancies at the council. Proposals for service reductions and income opportunities will be presented to Cabinet in December. A one per cent rise in Council Tax generates £1.6 million. Councils are allowed to increase rates by 1.99 per cent without holding a referendum and it is assumed that a further 1 per cent adult social care precept will be permissible for 2023/24. The report can be found at (<https://council.southglos.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&Mid=16022>).

More information on the proposals will be shared through the autumn, and residents are being asked to help shape the council's future plans. This will be through a public consultation period, starting in October, with more information on potential savings added in early December. The draft budget published that has been published does not pre-empt or assume the outcome of the funding settlement expected from the government later in the year, which could improve the outlook, but after the council has received that updated information, it will publish detailed four-year budget proposals for further public comment. Final budget decisions will be made by the Council in February 2023.

Cost of Living Assistance

Many residents, following the fallout from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent contentious "mini-budget", will be concerned about the cost of living this winter. There is funding available locally to help, as well as expertise and information to assist residents in applying to national schemes and funds.

Community Resilience Fund – The community resilience fund can those whose income or outgoings have been impacted. There is emergency and long term financial support available through this fund. Read more and apply for the community resilience fund at <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/community-resilience-fund>.

Pension Credit – Pension Credit gives residents extra money to help with their living costs if they are over State Pension age and on a low income. Pension Credit can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. Residents may be entitled to extra help if they are a carer, severely disabled, or responsible for a child or young person. Pension Credit is separate from the State Pension. Residents can get Pension Credit even if they have other income, savings or own their own home. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>.

For further information about other help available to support people who are struggling, including energy payment discounts, Universal Credit and pensioner cost of living payments. This can be found at <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Contact the council – If residents are struggling or are not sure if they are eligible for support, pop into one of the council's One Stop Shops in Yate, Kingswood or Patchway or give the customer contact team a call on 01454 868009 for advice. They can help people understand which grants they may be eligible for and help them apply. They have both emergency and long-term financial support available. Residents do not have to be on means-tested benefits to qualify for some of the support packages available during this time. For more information visit www.southglos.gov.uk/CostofLiving.

Planning Service Report Published

South Gloucestershire Council has published a report following a non-statutory, independent peer review of SGC's planning department back in May. Two recommendations within the report relate specifically to frustrations raised by town and parish councils during their brief 30 minute remote meeting with the inspectors. The first of these recommendations is that there are regular meetings between council officers and the Town & Parish Council Forum to allow its members to raise any pressing issues that have arisen. The second is that South Gloucestershire Council provide an annual programme of planning training for town and parish councils. This would allow town and parish councillors to gain a deeper understanding of key planning terms and policies as well as enabling them to engage more fully with the various issues for planning applications in their parish.

Latest on the Upcoming Bus Service Cuts

First Bus have published a web page summarising all the cuts and changes to services from Sunday 9th October. Timetables can be found at the bottom of the page –

<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/news-and-service-updates/updates/service-changes-bristol-and-south>.

Autumn Covid Booster

This month the NHS starts the next phase of the Covid-19 vaccination programme with those most vulnerable and the oldest receiving their jab first so that they are protected this winter. Residents do not need to contact their GP as the NHS will contact people when it is their turn. Find out more at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2022/08/nhs-to-roll-out-variant-busting-booster-jab-from-september-ahead-of-winter/>.

5. Pre-arranged items from members of Public
6. PLANNING:
 - (a) [Council to NOTE comments submitted since last meeting](#)
 - (b) [Council to NOTE planning decisions made by SGC since last meeting](#)
 - (c) Council to discuss/comment on any necessary Planning Applications or other Planning Matters including:
7. Parish Councillor Reports – written submissions, taken as read with questions taken as necessary
8. Council to APPROVE Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on September 12th 2022
9. Council to NOTE receipt of September 2022 payments & income documentation
10. Council to discuss and approve any BUS SERVICE related topics including Dan Norris meeting & WECA survey
11. Council to consider ways to help vulnerable people during winter crisis - cold weather/fuel poverty/cost of living
12. Council to NOTE Swift Sports Coaching report on summer holiday activities and Discuss/Approve matters arising
13. Council to receive update relating to the Housing Needs Survey for Westerleigh ward of this PC and APPROVE policy
14. Council to REVIEW and APPROVE updates to suite of PC policies
15. Council to Consider and Approve a resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge
16. Correspondence/Communication with Westerleigh Parish Council:

From SGC:

[Community Conversations briefing note](#)

List of warm venues idea from Mark Pullin Service Director of Community Development

[SGC Planning Peer Review report](#)

Other received items

 - WECA Transport Survey (received 28/9 deadline 4/10!)
17. Council to receive any other information from Clerk/Deputy Clerk regarding ongoing matters/required approvals
 - (a) Re-enrolment required by The Pensions Regulator completed 28.9.2022
 - (b) New equipment at WPF play area
 - (c) Budget setting process - Preparation of forecasts and draft budget for F & GP Oct 17th
 - (d) To report on condolence books and tributes following the death of Her Majesty The Queen.
 - (e) Use of Westerleigh Playing Field by The Edventure Project
18. Council to discuss situation regarding parking in Henfield Rd for Manor school field
19. Council to discuss/approve submissions for any required CONSULTATIONS
 - (a) [Decision to bring into force a Direction made under Article 4\(1\) of the Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) Order 2015 \('the GPDO'\)](#)

Open from 29 Sep 2022 to 21 Oct 2022 <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/A4DDDecision/consultationHome>
 - (b) [WECA Parish Council Bus Survey](#)
20. Council to NOTE, APPROVE any required GRANT APPLICATIONS
 - (a) Yate & District Heritage Centre
 - (b) Henfield Hall application for new doors - awaiting further documentation as insufficient paperwork given so far.
 - (c) St Peters Hospice
 - (d) Bitterwell fishery – restocking

21. Items considered urgent or exempt by the Chairman
Review of parking issues in Henfield Road during use of manor field
22. Dates of upcoming public Parish council meetings www.westerleighparishcouncil.org.uk/meeting-dates/
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| Finance Committee | October 17 th 2022 | 7pm Red Brick Annex, Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath |
| Full Parish Council meeting | November 14th 2022 | 7pm Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath |