

CLERK'S REPORT – 24th September 2024

5. Parish Council Matters

Staffing – Recruitment of Assistant/Trainee Clerk – The Clerk is expecting to present a Job description and Advertisement for review and approval at the meeting. If approved the recruitment process can begin with adverts placed with ALCA and the Bath Echo. It was agreed:- an additional Officer is sought either qualified or as trainee, on 30 hours per month. Once recruited the existing Clerk will reduce his hours from 45 to 30 per month. If the new officer is unqualified they will be expected to undertake the CiLCA qualification, which the Council will fund. The Objective in either circumstance of qualified or trainee is that the new Officer will have the necessary knowledge, experience and qualifications to take the Council through the next Elections in 2027.

6. Financial Matters

Notice of Conclusion of Audit – The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been received.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2023/24

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Conclusion of Audit Notice has been posted on Parish Council Noticeboards and on the website. Their Invoice is also presented for Payment Approval.

HSBC New Bank Mandate, HSBC Payment Authorisation changes and Review and Adoption of Financial Regulations please see RFO Report.

7. General Parish Matters

Individual Councillor responsibilities as listed on website to confirm.

Mr. P. BeazleyLong (Chair) pbeazleylong@southstokepc.org

Communications Parish Notes. Newsletter, BANES Parish Liaison, Bath Preservation Trust Meetings and liaison, Planning Enforcement

Mr. M. Knowlton (Vice-Chair) mknowlton@southstokepc.org

Midford Highways and Midford Liaison

Ms. A. Page apage@southstokepc.org

Strategic planning and Local planning, Financial monitoring, Midford liaison

Mr. G. Passmore gpassmore@southstokepc.org

Sulis Down matters, Bathavon Area Forum

Mr A. Peters apeters@southstokepc.org

Village Hall liaison, Stoke Area Highways, Wessex Water

Ms. A. Ward award@southstokepc.org

Strategic planning and Local planning, Bath Preservation Trust Meetings and liaison, Allotments, Footpaths & Open Spaces, Churchyard

Mr. J. Woodings jwoodings@southstokepc.org

Strategic planning and Local planning, Cycle Paths, and Sustrans liaison, Police liaison

Clerk to the Parish Council: 07485 033897 clerk@southstokepc.org

Geoff Davis – For all other matters

Request for Defibrillator in Midford – Midford residents have requested a defibrillator. Cllr. Mark Knowlton to present.

Midford Parish Council Notice Board – The Midford Parish Council noticeboard has been removed because the wall on which it was located has been demolished. The Clerk is suggesting it is sited on the opposite side of the road, on posts, next to the Grit Bin.

Allotments – Uncultivated Plots – Cllr. Anne Ward would like to discuss and agree any action on this matter.

Police liaison and Neighbourhood Watch – Report from the PCSO.

Website and IT Upgrades – There are some outstanding issues for one or two e-mail accounts. The Clerk is also investigating acquiring a .Gov.UK Domain for the website and e-mails. There is a £100 grant available, so the total cost of doing so should be minimal. Use of a SouthStokePC.gov.uk is recommended best practice as it is far more secure and professional.

CLERK'S REPORT – 24th September 2024

Noticeboard for Sulis Down - the Clerk is in discussion with Vistry regarding a noticeboard in the Play area, which they have suggested they will pay for.

Litter bins – Sulis Down and Parish Litter and Sweeping – Sulis Down are yet to be discussed with Vistry.

Footpaths and Open Spaces

Grove Path Field Gate - Barbed Wire – The extent of the barbed wire and its fixing has been agreed by B&NES PROW as compliant with the rules and safe as it is 1.5 metres from the Wicket Gate.

Footpaths – Footpath review 2024 – Cllr. Anne Ward has completed this review.

9. Highway Matters

- A36 Limpley Stoke – closure for carriageway repairs and stabilisation

Serious issues on Tucking Mill Lane – Resident Clare Fox is expected to attend the meeting and report on the issues being encountered. Monkton Combe Parish council have reported all of these and they were pursued at the Parishes Liaison meeting on Weds. 18th Sept. Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley is also pursuing the matters vigorously with B&NES Highways and National Highways.

- Midford Road/Village – Midford Residents have requested Radar Speed Signage. Cllr. Mark Knowlton will present.

13. Dates for Future Meetings – To confirm dates for next meetings:-

Tuesday 26th November 2024 – 7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 21st January 2025 – 7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting – Budget & Precept

Tuesday 25th March 2025 – 7:00 p.m. - Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – 7:30 p.m. – Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 20th May 2025 – 7:00 p.m. – Annual Parish Council Meeting