

Wickwar Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council – Minutes

A meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday 4th March 2020, at the Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

Attended:

Councillor S Isaac
Councillor A Carroll
Councillor C Maidment
Councillor G Fielding
Councillor A Pennington
Councillor M Harris
Ward Councillor and Councillor P Trull

Apologies:

None

Clerk:

Mrs R Davis

Public time (20 minutes)

A member of the recently-formed Wickwar Environmental Action Group (WEAG) attended to give a presentation about the group and its future plans. He reported that the WEAG will hold a lunch event on Saturday 25th April at the village hall to coincide with the annual village spring clean. The Clerk is working with WEAG to support the event. The Group's first project will be the restoration of the dew pond on the Wickwar Playing Fields Association site. Funding opportunities for the group were discussed including the local REMR fund.

A representative of the local Neighbourhood Watch attended. He continues to write updates for the Parish News magazine as and when appropriate. He asked if any interest had been expressed in taking on the co-ordinator role. No-one has come forward as yet.

1.03.20 To RECEIVE and DECIDE whether to accept apologies for absence and reasons given.

No apologies were received.

2.03.20 To NOTE and RECORD Declarations of Interests relevant to this meeting.

No interests were declared.

3.03.20 To AGREE whether the minutes of the last meeting should be signed as an accurate record of the meetings.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2020. They were duly signed.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

4.03.20 To RECEIVE the Clerk's Report on matters arising from previous minutes/ not covered elsewhere on the agenda. (Attached to minutes Appendix 1)

The report was noted.

5.03.20 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

No items required the public to be excluded.

6.03.20 Planning - For the Council to NOTE the following planning decisions

The following decisions were noted.

6.1.03.20 P19/19418/F - 113 Inglestone Road Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8PH: Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation.
Approve with Conditions.

6.2.03.20 P19/19419/F - 1 West End Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8LB
DESCRIPTION: Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side and rear and single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation.
Approve with conditions.

6.3.03.20 P19/13059/F Castle House Sodbury Road Wickwar Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire: Conversion of former care home to form 9no residential units, with car parking, bin and bike storage, and associated works. & P19/13060/LB Internal and external alterations to facilitate conversion of former care home to form 9no residential units.
Approve with conditions.

7.03.20 For the Council to NOTE the following delegated responses to planning applications received between meetings

7.1.03.20 P20/01908/F School Yard 2 High Street Wickwar South Gloucestershire GL12 8NE: Replacement of collapsed section of boundary wall.
Neutral response submitted.

8.03.20 Planning – For the Council to REVIEW and COMMENT on planning applications received before the meeting.

8.1.03.20 P20/00924/LB Dairy Cottage Hall End Farm Hall End Lane Wickwar Wotton Under Edge: Retention of internal and external alterations to include the installation of internal diving walls, creation of doorway between house and outbuilding and replacement of external wooden panelling.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to submit a neutral response.

8.2.02.20 P20/02741/F Land At Wickwar Road South Gloucestershire: Erection of a temporary rural workers dwelling, with associated works.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to object to the application on the grounds that the small holding is a hobby unit and not a viable agricultural business, and there are not enough animals onsite to warrant a temporary dwelling. Therefore Local Policy PSP41 should not apply.

9.03.20 Items for CONSIDERATION and DECISION

9.1.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE the proposed draft briefing note on the 2020/21 precept, for publication. (Tabled at the meeting)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve the draft briefing note and for the Clerk to include amended budget figures for 2019/20 before publishing this on the website.

9.2.03.20 To CONSIDER the fire risk assessments for the Town Hall and King George V Pavilion carried out on 04/02/20 and to APPROVE the actions identified. (circulated)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to take the following actions in response to the risk assessment findings:

- to arrange PAT testing of all Town Hall electrical equipment asap, and obtain estimates if cost is likely to exceed £300.
- to investigate options for providing fire safety training to Clockwinder and Councillors asap.
- to obtain quotations for three hard-wired linked smoke alarms for the Town Hall, for consideration at the April meeting.
- to obtain quotations for emergency lighting units for three areas specified in the Town Hall, for consideration at the April meeting.
- to obtain quotations for a hard-wired smoke alarm for the pavilion corridor, for consideration at the April meeting.
- to obtain quotations for emergency lighting units for the pavilion corridor, for consideration at the April meeting.

It was further proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to contact Holy Trinity Church to donate the excess fire extinguishers from the Town Hall for use in the church.

9.3.03.20 To CONSIDER the tree survey of the King George V Playing Field site carried out on 26/02/20 and to APPROVE the actions identified. (circulated)

The report was noted.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that Cllr Carroll will seek quotations for the work to monolith the diseased Horse Chestnut tree (T13 in the report), to be carried out in the autumn.

9.4.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE the proposed Council Risk Management Policy (including Financial Risk Management Policy) and risk register. (circulated)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve the Council's Risk Management Policy (including Financial Risk Management Policy) and risk register for 2020/21.

9.5.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE the proposed Small Grants Policy for 2020/21.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve the Small Grants Policy for 2020/21.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

9.6.03.20 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on quotations for new play equipment at the King George V Playing Field and APPROVE funding.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the quotation from GB Sports to supply and install a play house at a cost of £7,661.47, and to accept the quotation from Proludic Ltd for a Hip Hop see-saw and trampoline (revised total to be confirmed), as long as the total cost for all equipment does not exceed £18,000.

9.7.03.20 To APPROVE the amended wording of the Cemetery Regulations.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve the amended wording of the cemetery regulations as follows: 2. Parishioners who have moved from the village in excess of five years ago will not be considered for Burial (unless a burial or cremation plot has been pre-purchased).

9.8.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE a proposal to combine the Annual Spring Clean (25/04/20) with the launch event for the Wickwar Environment Group and to combine the publicity.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to run the Annual Spring Clean on 25/04/20 as a joint event with the Wickwar Environment Group and combine publicity where practical.

9.9.03.20 To CONSIDER South Gloucestershire Council's Protocol for marking the death of a senior national figure and take a DECISION on which parts of the protocol will be implemented in the parish.

Wickwar Parish Council already has a protocol in place for marking the death of a senior national figure, so it was not considered necessary to alter it.

9.10.03.20 To CONSIDER and AGREE actions required in relation to recent pot hole reports and ongoing problems with the condition of road surfaces within the parish.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Clerk will request a meeting between South Gloucestershire Highways representatives, the ward councillor and other interested councillors, to do a walk around the village to alert Highways to the problem areas for pot holes. Ward councillor Trull to provide contact names.

9.11.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE reviewing the online mapping provided by The Ramblers to determine whether there are historic rights of way in Wickwar Parish that should be reinstated/registered before 2026, by means of a working party.

It was agreed to arrange a date for a working party at the next meeting.

9.12.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE the formation of a working group to put forward proposals to the Council for the refurbishment of the Town Hall.

It was agreed to arrange a date for a working party at the next meeting.

9.13.03.20 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on the timetable for preparing new cremation plots and extending Wickwar Cemetery.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that preparations for new cremation plots in the existing open cemetery should commence at the end of the calendar year (December 2020).

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

9.14.03.20 To CONSIDER and APPROVE the planting of new trees on the King George V Playing Field and other Parish Council land by the Wickwar Environment Group.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to grant permission for trees to be planted by the Wickwar Environment Group on land at the King George V Playing Field Wickwar. Permission is subject to agreement with the Parish Clerk about the planting locations. It was further RESOLVED that the Parish Council will take on responsibility for the trees and include them in future inspections (next scheduled in 2022).

10.03.20 To RECEIVE a report from the Ward Councillor. (Attached to the minutes Appendix 2)

Updates on the Wickwar Conservation Area Advice Note, the Joint Local Transport Plan, the Joint Spatial Plan and the Wickwar Traffic Calming consultation were provided. No further progress has been made.

11.03.20 To RECEIVE verbal reports from Councillors who are Trustees or Committee members of the organisations listed below, and to take decisions are necessary:

11.1.03.20 King George V Playing Fields

Cllr Carroll reported that the felling of the ash tree adjacent to the play area, which is suffering from ash die-back, has been delayed by the wet weather. It has not been possible to access the site without damaging the Wickwar Playing Field trim trail. The work will be undertaken when the ground has dried out.

11.2.03.20 Wickwar Community Centre

Cllr Carroll reported that Tiddlypeeps pre-school has moved permanently to another site. The Committee will now consider the impact on income and what action should be taken, as well as advertising for another pre-school to take over the booking from September 2020. Cllr Carroll has contacted Tiddlypeeps to enquire about what they intend to do with the equipment that has been left on site.

11.3.03.20 Wickwar Town Hall.

No further update.

11.4.03.20 Wickwar Cemetery – no report.

12.03.20 To RECEIVE the play equipment inspection for February.

The report for February was received. The Clerk requested permission to seek quotations to repaint some of the equipment (slide, chinning bars, igloo) and resurface the area under the slide in time for the summer. The Clerk explained that this work could be funded through CIL and had been identified as a priority in the consultation on the play area which took place in summer 2019. Quotations will be considered at the next meeting.

13.03.20 To RECEIVE the register of correspondence received (list available at the meeting)

The register of correspondence was noted.

14.03.20 To RECEIVE the timetable for the end of financial year preparations.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

The timetable will be circulated to Councillors via email.

15.03.20 To note the date of the Annual Village Spring Clean (Saturday 25th April 10am – 12pm) and the Annual Meeting of the Parish (Wednesday 20th May 7pm).

The dates were duly noted.

16.03.20 To CONSIDER and take a DECISION on the VE Day grant application from Wickwar Social Club. (Circulated)

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to approve a grant for £250 to Wickwar Social Club for its VE Day village event.

17.03.20 Burial matters – none.

18.03.20 To NOTE the monthly bank reconciliation for January 2020, and the Councillor check of the bank reconciliation. Chairman to sign as a true record.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to accept the bank reconciliation for January 2020. It was duly signed.

18.02.20 To APPROVE accounts for payment and NOTE additional payments made in line with Financial Regulations. (These are listed in the attached payment schedule).

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the payments in the schedule should be paid.

19.02.20 To NOTE the budget monitoring report to 31st January 2020, prepared by the Clerk. Chairman to sign as a true record.

The report was noted.

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Wickwar Parish Council

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list **Start of year 01/04/19**

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Invoice date	Details
389	BACS20030 4CPC	£26.22	£0.00	£26.22	08/07/19	Charfield Parish Council - Attendance at Being a Good Councillor Training 04/07/19
372	BACS20030 4FOAHS	£1,555.70	£0.00	£1,555.70	24/01/20	Friends of Alexander Hosea Primary School - CIL grant for new storage shed
374D/DOCTOPU STH_20020 1		£16.10	£0.77	£15.33	01/02/20	Octopus Energy - D/D Town Hall electric Jan 2020
373D/DOCTOPU SPAV_2002 04		£27.54	£1.31	£26.23	04/02/20	Octopus Energy - D/D Pavilion electric Jan 20
371	BACS20021 0SLCC	£126.00	£21.00	£105.00	07/02/20	SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS - SLCC practitioner conference 26/02/20
PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS						
364	D/DTESCO_ 200224	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	08/02/20	TESCO MOBILE - Mobile Feb 20 bill
375	BACS20030 4BF	£237.96	£39.66	£198.30	12/02/20	BRISTOL FIRE - Fire extinguishersand fitting for pavilion
377	BACS20030 4SGC1	£221.83	£36.97	£184.86	12/02/20	South Gloucestershire Council - Jan -March 2020 2 bins + grass cutting
378	BACS20030 4SGC2	£393.41	£65.57	£327.84	12/02/20	South Gloucestershire Council - Jan - March 2020 KGV dog and litter bins (4)
379	BACS20030 4FRAMS1	£264.00	£44.00	£220.00	16/02/20	FRaMS Associates (PM) Ltd - Fire Risk assessment TH

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

380BACS20030£216.00 4FRAMS2	£36.00	£180.00	16/02/20	FRaMS Associates (PM) Ltd - Fire Risk assessment Pav
385 BACSREDA VISINK_Feb 20	£7.99	£1.33	£6.66 19/02/20	R E DAVIS - HP Ink Feb (reclaimed)
376 BACS20030 4DH	£270.00	£45.00	£225.00 24/02/20	D HOWSE - Removal of old goalposts KGV
381 BACS20030 4EIT	£48.00	£8.00	£40.00 24/02/20	Edge IT Systems Limited - EOY webinar 17/02/20
391 BACS20030 4DH1	£576.00	£96.00	£480.00 24/02/20	D HOWSE - KGV PLAY AREA GRASS CUTTING 2019
392 BACS20030 4DH2	£1,344.00	£224.00	£1,120.00 24/02/20	D HOWSE - CEMETERY GRASS CUTTING 2019
390 BACS20030 4WTC	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00 26/02/20	WOTTON TREE CONSULTANCY - TREE CONDITION SURVEY KGV FEB 2020
	£1,429.76	£0.00	£1,429.76	Confidential
Total	£7,120.51	£619.61	£6,500.90	

Signature
Date

Signature

Direct Debits paid in Dec 2019 (not appearing on payment schedule)

02/01/20 £1.50 Water Business, Pavilion water

Appendix 1 - Clerk's Report to the Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2020

- Please see progress against outstanding action points/ resolutions from previous meetings, below.

	Agenda Item	Action/ Description	Who	Progress
1.	03/04/19& 05/06/19 5.Clerk's report	Community infrastructure levy – Clerk to arrange meeting between Councillors and Greg Evans (South Gos) on a Weds evening.	Clerk	Awaiting outcome of working party meeting March/ April
2.	03/04/19 &05/06/19 5. Clerk's report	Cemetery noticeboard - Confirm cost of oak noticeboard with K Bateman and organise a plaque to read: Handmade in Wickwar by Kevin Bateman 2019	Councillor A Carroll/ Clerk	Ongoing
3.	03/07/19 13k, wildflowers	Research possible verges for reduced cutting/ wildflowers and bring proposals to a future meeting.	Clerk/ Councillor s Carroll & Trull	Clerk to put on Spring agenda
4.	04/09/19 13a. KGV Consultation	Research CCTV provision at an isolated site like the Playing Field to get an idea of cost and issues.	Clerk	Put on April agenda
5.	04/10/19 11c	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to	Clerk	Will be ordered

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

	Agenda Item	Action/ Description	Who	Progress
	KGV speed bumps	approve funding for five speed bumps, one warning sign and post, plus fitting. Order speed bumps and arrange fitting.		March 2020, fitted April 2020
6.	04/10/19 11g climate change	Develop proposal for an environmental policy on climate change to be considered by the Council.	Councillor Trull	Clerk to put on April agenda
7.	06/11/19 12b Town Hall Equality Act	It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Trull and Harris would investigate solutions to make the town hall compliant with the Equalities Act, reporting back to the Council by April 2020.	Cllr Trull Cllr Harris	Put on April agenda.
8.	06/11/19 12e Health and safety/ risk management	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the clerk will draft a health and safety policy and carry out risk assessments of the Council's activities with support from Cllr Maidment. It was further RESOLVED to obtain three estimates for independent fire risk assessments and electrical testing of the town hall and pavilion.	Clerk Cllr Maidment	Outstanding actions – complete risk assessments for Town Hall and Cemetery, prepare Health and Safety Policy (April agenda)
9.	04/12/19 10a King George V Playing Field	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to invite the South Gloucestershire Council Tree Officer to a future meeting to discuss the Council's response to ash die back.	Cllr Carroll	Invite again.
10.	04/12/19 12c Legionella risk assessment	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to seek the opinion of a plumber with regard to work required to the cold water storage tanks. Three estimates to be obtained for any work required. It was further RESOLVED to approach T Gardner to remove the blind end pipe.	Clerk	Plumber engaged to review and remove blind end in March. Report back progress on April agenda.
11.	04/12/19 12e - land rear of 42 High Street	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate the possibility of Wickwar Parish Council registering the land with the Land Registry.	Clerk	Postponed to April agenda.
12	08/01/20 8.4 risk assessment actions for KGV	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the following mitigating actions, identified in the KGV risk assessment documents, be taken: (outstanding actions) • Install sign in the car park to warn that vehicles are parked at own risk (funding approved); • Obtain quotations for replacement fixed litter bin for the car park; • Clerk to complete a lone working risk assessment for all employees by Spring 2020; • Arrange repair/ replacement of stiff extractor fan switch in the pavilion (funding approved); • Apply hot water warning stickers to two	Clerk	Due for completion: March 2020

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

	Agenda Item	Action/ Description	Who	Progress
		water heaters in the pavilion		
13.	08/01/20 8.5 update to Code of Conduct	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to retain the Council's existing Code of Conduct and to add in a new section about harassment for the SGC Code of Conduct. To be approved at a future meeting.	Clerk	Approve at May AMPC
14.	08/01/20 8.8 CIL working party meeting	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to set a date for a working party after the budget working party meeting has taken place, to consider the proposals in detail.	Clerk	Set date for March/ April
15.	08/01/20 8.9 Football Club lease agreement	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Clerk draft a new agreement in consultation with Cllr Fielding and Cllr Carroll, to be considered at a future meeting.	Clerk/ Cllr Fielding/ Cllr Carroll	Met 31/01, put draft agreement May agenda.
16.	05/02/20 8.14 Buthay Lane car parking	It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED to grant permission for Bromford Housing Association Ltd to erect signs on the Parish Council-owned grass area of the Buthay Lane to read 'Parking for Buthay residents only', or similar.	Clerk	Bromford contacted. Follow up end of March 2020.

2. The diseased ash tree adjacent to the KGV play area is scheduled for felling once the weather improves. The ground is too wet to access the WPFA field without causing damage.
3. The Clerk has been investigating the charitable status of the KGV Playing Field. The Charity Commission seems to have confirmed that the Parish Council is sole trustee. This means that separate trust meetings should be held. Due to workload the Clerk will now report to the April meeting with a proposal for KGV committee.
4. Electrical installation safety checks of the Town Hall and Pavilion are scheduled for 05/03/20.
5. The Clerk has been in contact with Wickwar Social Club regarding a possible application to close the High Street for a VE Day street party on 08/05/20. The Clerk has advised that the Parish Council cannot complete an application due to the resource implications of doing so, but has suggested the Social Club investigates using the pavement area outside the Town Hall or applies to close Back Lane.
6. The Clerk and Cllr Carroll have prepared a specification for grass cutting of the (i) play area/cemetery and (ii) playing field. Quotations are being sought for the three-year period April 2020 – Oct 2022. These will be considered at the April meeting.
7. The Clerk has been in communication with the Wickwar Environment Group. The group is planning a launch event on Saturday 25/04/20 to follow the Village Spring Clean. The Clerk is working with

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

the WEG to arrange this (on the agenda). The Clerk is arranging an informal meeting between the WEG and Cllrs to discuss their proposals, ahead of a presentation to a Council meeting (May onwards). The group is preparing an application for VE Day grant funding from the Parish Council, to be considered at the April meeting.

8. The Clerk has met with Cllr Fielding and Cllr Carroll to discuss the format and invitation list for the Annual Parish Meeting on 20/05/20. The meeting will be an opportunity to launch the updated Parish Council Small Grants policy and attract new applicants, as well as show-case the many village organisations. It has been suggested that refreshments are served. The Clerk will bring proposals to the April meeting.
9. The Clerk attended the SLCC Practitioner conference (first day) on 26/02/20. Made contact with Vision ICT to discuss a quotation for a new website and identified a supplier who can assist with the extension of the cemetery (CDS – Cemetery Development Services). The Clerk Identified a need for further training to ensure documents uploaded to the website are accessible. SLCC offer webinar training on this which the Clerk would like permission to book.

Appendix 2- Councillor Pat Trull – Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge

Report March 2020

South Gloucestershire Libraries named among nation's best for digital services

South Gloucestershire Council is in the top 10 of unitary authorities for the loan of library material in electronic format, which includes ebooks, emagazines and eaudio.

National figures show that libraries across the district are embracing digital technology to enable more people to access the services on offer.

The introduction of an Open Access system in 2017 means we have more libraries open for over 60 hours per week than almost every other authority in the UK, finishing third out 205 authorities across the country for 2018-19.

It also means our libraries can be open more days per year including bank holidays, which provides people with flexibility and options on how and when they access the services.

During February South Gloucestershire Council libraries will be carrying out a survey of users to gather their feedback.

To discover the digital services available please visit www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources or for more information pop into any South Gloucestershire library.

South Gloucestershire libraries offer a collection of over 168,000 items on library shelves to borrow with users also able to access over 2.5 million items online.

This includes access to free eBooks, eAudiobooks and a choice of over 80 digital magazines. Library users can also use library computers to research and trace their family tree, as well as access 15 million academic research articles and gain free access to online consumer guides.

What is Open Access?

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Most of our libraries are now open longer thanks to Open Access technology. This enables registered Open Access members to use the library outside of staffed hours, in most cases seven days a week.

Each year the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) www.cipfa.org/ publish the statistics for library services.

A summary of how South Gloucestershire Libraries rate is listed below for 2018/19 :

- Issue of eBooks - 2 out of 43 (41,941)
- Issues of eMagazines - 9 out of 39 (33,719)
- Issues of eAudio - 10 out of 42 (17,551)
- Number of hours of PC use - 12 out of 39 (105,922)
- Book issues - 15 out of 42 (866,366)
- Audio visual issues (hardcopy) - 8 out of 44 (38,316)
- Active borrowers (used within 12 months) - 12 out of 41 (38,649)
- Number of libraries open 60+ hours per week (inc Open Access) - 3 out of 205 UK authorities

Schools presented with Mental Wellbeing Awards during Children's Mental Health week

Three schools in South Gloucestershire have been presented with awards for nurturing a positive culture which supports good mental health and wellbeing in children and staff.

The Mental Wellbeing Awards are part of the Health in Schools programme, which was developed by South Gloucestershire Council's Public Health and Wellbeing team.

The awards are designed to evaluate the schools' ethos and environment as well as the mental health support provided for students, the teaching and learning around wellbeing, staff development and work with parents and carers.

Schools are provided with training, resources and networking opportunities to share examples of best practice as part of the scheme. A 'whole school' approach is encouraged to improve the mental health of everyone connected with the school.

Longwell Green Primary School, New Horizons Learning Centre in Kingswood and Sir Bernard Lovell Academy in Oldland Common during Children's Mental Health Week (3 to 9 February) to present the awards.

"The Council's number one priority is to improve educational standards and supportive schools will give our young people the best possible chance to achieve their full potential."

Meanwhile, South Gloucestershire Libraries have launched the 'Reading Well' programme, which is a national book on prescription scheme that provides helpful reading to support children's mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Every child in South Gloucestershire has received a leaflet with the list of books which help children understand their feelings and emotions in a range of situations.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date

Conrad Hutton, Headteacher of Trinity CE VC Primary School, said: “The Reading Well for children book list is fantastic. The collection means we have a range of age-appropriate books that allow us to explore issues with pupils, their families, classes and even the whole school in an accessible and sensitive way.”

All of the books are available from South Gloucestershire Libraries and can be reserved at www.librarieswest.org.uk. Find your nearest library at www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

The Planning Portal News

Ombudsman to protect new-build buyers from poor work

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick has confirmed that a New Homes Ombudsman will soon protect homebuyers from ‘shoddy building work’.

Currently, new-build homebuyers don’t have recourse to challenging poor service or workmanship by developers. The government wants the ombudsman to be established in law “as soon as possible” to address this.

It would assist homebuyers with a number of issues, such as poor brickwork or faulty wiring, and would have statutory powers to award compensation, to ban ‘rogue’ developers from building, and order developers to fix inadequate work.

Where there is a dispute with developers, the government explained that the ombudsman would act “swiftly and independently” to resolve it. The government said it doesn’t want people to face long waits and costly court cases trying to sort out problems with their new homes.

Developers would be subject to the disciplinary authority of the ombudsman by law.

Jenrick said: “It’s completely unacceptable that so many people struggle to get answers when they find issues with their dream new home.

“That’s why the ombudsman will stop rogue developers getting away with shoddy building work and raise the game of housebuilders across the sector.

Homebuyers will be able to access help when they need it, so disputes can be resolved faster and people can get the compensation they deserve.”

In June 2019, the government launched a consultation on redress for purchasers of new-build homes, and on the New Homes Ombudsman. The consultation sought views on the detail of the proposed legislation and how it could be delivered. Jenrick's confirmation of a New Homes Ombudsman comes in response to that consultation.

24 February 2020

Laura Edgar, The Planner

Signed.....Chairman.....Date