

## **CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Meon Hall Meonstoke.

**PRESENT** Chair Sue Walker, Vice Chairman Patrick Rowe, Steve Clark, Bruce Horn, Rowena Hyder, Jane McCormick and John Shaw. In attendance: Juliet Brooks (Clerk), Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC, and 4 parishioners.

The Chair welcomed the new Councillor, Jane McCormick, to the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC
2. **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**  
None
3. **COUNCIL MATTERS**
  - 3.1 New Councillor: Acceptance of Office & Register of Interests Forms received from Jane McCormick. Jane agreed to serve on the planning committee in place of Sue Walker.
  - 3.2 Chairman: Acceptance of Office Form received from Sue Walker.
4. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** Two matters were raised:
  - 4.1 A parishioner raised concerns about 'The Countryside Service's proposal to dedicate bridleways rights on sections of the Meon Valley Trail which are currently not recorded as a public right of way. This affects the line running through West Meon, Warnford, Exton, Corhampton & Meonstoke. HCC also proposes to formalise the access points by dedicating them as either public bridleways or public footpaths. The concern raised pertained to the reclassification to bridleway which would exclude carriage drivers rather than a restricted byway which would keep the status quo.
  - 4.2 Za Rowe reported on the maps circulated with details of the affordable housing plans. Councillors considered that the most recent plan is the best and commented on various matters including car parking and access to the rear gardens. Za undertook to report Council's views to Sovereign Housing, who are hoping to submit a planning application shortly.
5. **REPORTS**
  - 5.1 Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC reported on matters including:
    - . Primary School places
    - . HCC budget savings
    - . the winter roads maintenance scheme
    - . the lengthsman scheme, and
    - . cuts to the bus service.
  - 5.2 The Clerk had contacted Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC to request that if she is unable to attend a Parish Council meeting, she submit a written report to Council. The report received and circulated to Council, however, had little relevance to C&MPC.
6. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (05/11/14)**  
The minutes were approved.
7. **CHAIR'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (not elsewhere on the agenda) None
8. **TENNIS GROUP PROPOSAL**  
The Chair reported that the tennis group are proceeding with completion of the relevant forms.
9. **PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN**  
Rowena Hyder reported to Council who discussed the revised draft plan circulated, and comments from the Meon Hall management committee. The Chair and Rowena agreed to meet the Hall committee to discuss the Plan.  
*ACTION: RH/SW*

## 10. FINANCE

- 10.1 **The financial statement**- the Clerk reported balances of £4665.68 in the Community Account and £10354.63 in the Scottish Widows Account.
- 10.2 Council approved **payment of bills** – chq
- |        |                                  |         |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 200677 | Flower Pot Men – mowing          | 180.00  |
| 200678 | WCC dog bin emptying             | 100.00  |
| 200679 | Meon Hall donation               | 1000.00 |
| 200680 | Information Commissioner         | 35.00   |
| 200680 | J Brooks – November'14 sal + exp | 334.73  |
- 10.3 **Bank mandate** - the Clerk agreed to sort out the paperwork with Patrick Rowe. *ACTION: Clerk*
- 10.4 **Internal auditor** - a quote from a professional auditor has been circulated. A parishioner has also kindly volunteered to do the job. The Clerk has met him and discussed the procedures involved. The role does not have to be filled by a paid professional but can be by a volunteer on an honorary basis. Council expressed its thanks to the volunteer and gratefully accepted his kind offer. *ACTION: Clerk*
- 10.5 **2015 / 2016 budget and precept**– Council discussed the draft prepared by the Clerk and undertook to comment to the Clerk by 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Mr R Walker was co-opted to attend the HCC budget meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December as the Clerk was unable to attend. *ACTION: Clerk*  
Future commitments for the budget were mentioned – e.g community bus replacement, storage for records, web site improvement, miscellaneous items such as repairs, legal fees etc. All Councillors were asked to think of likely costs for the next 5 years. *ACTION: All for next meeting*

## 11. PLANNING

### 11.1 To note current planning applications and decisions received:

- 11.1.1 Holly Cottage High Street Meonstoke SDNP/14/04831/LIS (no comment) – application approved
- 11.1.2 Canberra House High Street SDNP/14/04910/TCA (no comment) - ongoing

### 11.2 To consider new applications: The following have been listed but no plans have yet been received:

- 11.2.1 SDNP/14/05664/FUL Land adjacent to Hawks Nest Pound Lane
- 11.2.2 SDNP/14/05776/HOUS The Garden House Chapel Road
- 11.2.3 SDNP/14/05895/HOUS Hill Rise High Street

### 11.3 Other planning matters

- 11.3.1 **Affordable housing:** It was confirmed that Council and parishioners will be able to raise queries with Sovereign Housing when they address the next Parish Council Meeting on 7 January 2014. The Clerk agreed to publicise this on the notice Boards. *ACTION: Clerk*
- 11.3.2 **Enforcement:** Steynes Farm is still ongoing. The responsibility has never been transferred to SDNP (but they have been kept informed) and WCC are now considering the matter. John Shaw has confirmed that the PC view since 2012 remains the same "Do Nothing" with the proviso that the occupants cannot build anything permanent on the site. The Clerk agreed to provide a detailed note on this to Councillors.

*ACTION: Clerk for next meeting* 11.3.3 **Allotments**–there has been no progress with WCC despite chasing by our solicitor and WCC

Councillor Norma Bodtger.

*ACTION: Clerk for next meeting*

- 11.3.4 South Downs National Park – Bruce Horn reported on the meeting held on 12 November 2014, in particular the new CIL levy.

## 12. PARISH MATTERS

### 12.1 Playground

Steve Clark reported that he understood that the Hampshire Playing Fields Association will be making a grant of £1,500 toward playground improvements but no formal note from them to confirm this has yet been received. *ACTION: SC*

### 12.2 Recreation ground

- 12.2.1 The Clerk has obtained quotations for repair to the chain link fence at the MUGA. WCC Open Space Fund Officer has indicated that this could be funded from Open Space monies, but Council decided to apply for a grant from the Hampshire Playing Fields Association. The Clerk was instructed to proceed immediately to arrange for the repair, given the safety implications of taking no action, even though no grant was yet in place. *ACTION: Clerk*

12.2.2 The problem with stiles to adjacent fields has been resolved. Steve Clark undertook to erect suitable signage. *ACTION: SC*

12.3 **Meon Hall** Council discussed the request by the Meon Hall trustees to amend / update the licence agreement with the Parish Council. This is a complex legal matter and specialist legal advice will be needed. The Clerk followed up a recommended lawyer but there is a cost to this which has not been budgeted for. Chair and the Chairman of the Meon Hall Committee will pursue this. *ACTION: SW*

12.4 **Lengthsman** Details of the next visit have been circulated to Councillors. The PC will be asked to contribute funds to the scheme in the light of HCC cutbacks. This needs to be provided for in future years budgets if the environment is to be kept as tidy as it has been to date.

#### 12.5 **Flooding**

12.5.1 John Shaw reported that from the recent seminar he attended, it would appear that help to prevent flooding at the Bucks Head through local emergency support, personnel, including the Fire Brigade, could be available. From the seminar it would appear the PC should have a flood action plan specifically for the Bucks Head. The tenant has indicated that the owners, Greene King, have not informed him about possible actions he could take if the water level starts to rise. John Shaw reported that he has tried to contact Greene King but has not yet been successful. *ACTION: JS*

12.5.2 Council noted that the east branch of the river is at a very high and the winterbourne is beginning to fill but is not yet flowing. Bruce Horn agreed to discuss flooding when he next meets representatives from the Environment Agency. *ACTION: BH*

12.5.3 Council discussed its options over flooding. The Chair emphasised the need for a parish strategy for approaching flooding. *Action SW/JS*

12.6 **Tree warden** No report

12.7 **Hedges / verges** The Countryside Service at Hampshire County Council is reviewing the current list of paths to be cut. Rowena Hyder agreed to update the list in the parish and advise HCC accordingly. *ACTION: RH*

12.8 **Rural transport** Council noted that the Meon Valley Bus will need to be replaced within the next year and that the MV Bus Committee will be seeking support on the financing from Parish Council. Council is considering this as the Parish budget is currently being reviewed.

#### 12.9 **Footpaths**

12.9.1 Meon Valley Trail (MVT) 'improvements' continue to cause concern. Rowena Hyder undertook to monitor the situation. *ACTION: RH*

12.9.2 Proposed dedicated bridleway rights on sections of the MVT – Council considered the proposals circulated. Rowena undertook to make enquiries as to why HCC wish to make this dedication, and to request that this does not happen until answers are forthcoming. *ACTION: RH/Clerk*

#### 12.10 **Highway matters**

12.10.1 The recent flooding of the A32 has been reported to HCC Highways but to date there has been no action. *ACTION: JS*

12.10.2 HCC has also been requested to clear the local drains/gullies of all leaves etc. HCC Highways has a detailed list of all drains and gullies. *ACTION: JS*

12.10.3 Grit bins: A parishioner has kindly inspected the condition of the grit bins which were barely used last year. The damaged bin outside Pound Cottages has been replaced but some of the contents of others are rock solid. John Shaw agreed to chase. *ACTION:*

#### *JS* 12.10.4 **PACT / HALC / WDALC**

PACT; Re anti social motor cycling A32:

The Chair met with other affected MV parishes, operational chief inspector for Winchester, operational chief inspector for traffic and police and crime commissioner 26th November. Police to work with parishes to achieve creative solutions. Our link will be through PC Gilmour who reports to the chief inspector for Winchester (the recent restructuring of police now means their areas are aligned to Council boundaries which may be an improvement in respect of professing local issues). *ACTION: SW*

#### .13. **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

13.1 The Clerk was asked to check suitable dates when the Hall is available and report back.

*ACTION: Clerk*

Council discussed options for a speaker. It was agreed to ask a Councillor from South Downs National Park, Barbara Holyome to attend with an appropriate officer to address the question 'What does being in the SDNP mean for our community' *ACTION: SW*

14. **COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTRATION** WCC has been chased for a response and has confirmed

that 'we are on track to have made a decision by 16 December'.

*ACTION: Clerk*

15. **CORRESPONDENCE** None
16. **WEBSITE UPDATE** Steve Clark reported that contact has been made with a parishioner but they have yet to meet to discuss the matter further.  
*ACTION: SC*
17. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** None
18. **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS** None
19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING ~ Wednesday 7 January 2015~ 7.30pm**

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