

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Meon Hall Meonstoke.

PRESENT Chair Sue Walker, Steve Clark, Bruce Horn, Rowena Hyder, Jane McCormick and John Shaw. In attendance: Juliet Brooks (Clerk), 4 parishioners, and representatives from Sovereign Housing Association and Drew Smith Contractors.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Vice Chairman Patrick Rowe, Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC and Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC.
2. **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
None
3. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
 - 3.1 Receive presentation by Sovereign Housing Association - Sarah Price from Sovereign gave a presentation and distributed plans for the proposed extension to Bridgemede. Comments made concerned the size of the windows, the gardens and the number of parking places which Sarah undertook to take into consideration. It is hoped that the materials used will complement the existing buildings at Bridgemede but this will be down to the planning department. Sarah also commented on the need to relocate dormice and slow worms on the site.
 - 3.2 To allow participation by members of the public – one matter was raised: the management of the grounds maintenance contract at the recreation ground. James Morrice currently organises the lengthman project on behalf of the parish, and he kindly offered to liaise with the same contractor ISS to manage the grounds maintenance. His kind offer was gratefully accepted by Council. The Clerk agreed to obtain a detailed invoice from ISS for the works that have been invoiced for 2014.
ACTION: Clerk
4. **REPORTS** None
5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (03/12/14)**
The minutes were approved.
6. **CHAIR'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (not elsewhere on the agenda) None
7. **COUNCIL MATTERS**
The resignation of the Clerk was noted, such months' notice to conclude on 31st January 2015.
8. **FINANCE**
 - 8.1 **The financial statement** - the Clerk reported balances of £2009.15 in the Community Account and £10354.63 in the Scottish Widows Account.
 - 8.2 Council approved payment of bills – chq

200682	Meon Hall – Hall hire 2015	214.50
200683	ISS – rec. ground mowing 2014	1867.50
200684	Flower Pot Men – mowing	135.00
200685	J Brooks – December'14 sal + exp	359.73
200686	HMCE – PAYE Oct Nov & Dec '14	79.80
 - 8.3 **Bank mandate** - the Clerk had reported to Council on the forms which have 'gone missing' in the bank's 'system', and the need to start again to change the mandate. The Clerk handed out Forms and received signatures.
ACTION: Clerk
 - 8.4 **2015 / 2016 budget and precept** – Council discussed the draft prepared by Nick Riley, past Chairman of the PC. Council, whilst mindful of its obligations for prudence, are also fully supportive of the services and facilities it provides for the community. Council unanimously agreed to apply for a precept of £13500 (£10800 for 2014/15). Nick Riley was thanked for his efforts on behalf of the community.
ACTION: Clerk
9. **TENNIS GROUP PROPOSAL**

The Chair reported that the tennis group are proceeding with completion of the relevant forms.

10. **PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN**

A draft plan was sent to Hampshire EP by Rowena Hyder and has been approved subject to agreement with the Meon Hall. The Chair and Rowena agreed to meet the Hall committee to discuss the Plan.

ACTION: RH/SW

11. **PLANNING**

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

11.1.1 Canberra House High Street SDNP/14/04910/TCA (no comment) - ongoing

11.2 **To consider new applications:** Patrick Rowe reported that SDNP has failed to supply any planning application documents for over a month which has not made the Planning Committee's job easy.

11.2.1 Land adjacent to Hawks Nest Pound Lane SDNP/14/05664/FUL – the planning committee had agreed not to comment.

11.2.2 The Garden House Chapel Road SDNP/14/05776/HOUS - the planning committee had agreed not to comment, but following representations at the meeting from a parishioner, agreed to look at this application again.

ACTION: PR/JS/JM

11.2.3 Hill Rise High Street SDNP/14/05895/HOUS) to be considered by the planning committee.

11.2.4 Chapel House Chapel Road SDNP/14/06452/HOUS)

ACTION: PR/JS/JM

11.3 **Other planning matters**

11.3.1 **Affordable housing:** *see 3.1 above*

11.3.2 **Enforcement:** Steynes Farm is still ongoing. The view of the PC has again been noted and Norma Botger has contacted Julie Pinnock WCC Head of Development Management Planning requesting closure. John Shaw has again 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 had been asked to provide a detailed note on this matter which goes back a long way, as Councillors had queried the way in which enforcement matters had been handled by Council: there was an application for a certificate of lawfulness for the caravan on the site. The PC objected as this would constitute unlawful development in the countryside. WCC also objected, and the application was turned down. The mobile home continued to be occupied, and the matter was referred to the enforcement department - enforcement dept notification dated 04 March 2008 refers. The occupiers of the mobile home continued to fail to comply with enforcement dept. notices, proceedings were initiated - enforcement dept notification dated 02 July 2008 refers. The PC regularly received and still receives (if there is an enforcement case in this parish) these notifications. They were regularly sent to all Councillors for information. These notifications were noted at PC meetings but never minuted - neither the Chairman nor the planning committee ever requested them be minuted, and no Councillor ever queried the minutes on this matter.

11.3.3 **Allotments** – Councillor's Bodgter's intervention on behalf of the Parish Council has sadly achieved nothing and there has been no progress on the allotments.

ACTION: PR

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 Repair to the chain link fence at the MUGA. The contract has been let and the contractor chased to begin work. Stuart Dunbar Dempsey has also been chased to approve Open Space Form D.

12.2.2 Stiles to adjacent fields - Steve Clark undertook to obtain suitable signage.

ACTION: SC

12.3 **Meon Hall**

Council agreed to the request by the Meon Hall trustees to amend / update the licence agreement with the Parish Council.

ACTION: SW

12.4 **Lengthsman** Details of the next visit have been circulated to Councillors.

12.5 **Flooding**

12.5.1 To date there has been no formal response from Greene King. On chasing verbally it would appear that GK believe that the wall of the pub is the boundary on to the PCC land and that it is probably the PCC's responsibility to ensure that there is free flow of the Winterbourne to the Eastern branch of the main river just below the pub but this has not been confirmed formally.

The rainfall in December has been significantly less than for December 2013 and hopefully this will reflect in no further increase in the local ground water level and hence less Winterbourne activity. This hope is reflected in local ground water levels which although higher than this time last year have dropped slightly recently –reflecting the much lower rainfall in December 2014 (55mm. to date cf. November 2014 (165mm). Hopefully the risk of flooding is receding.

- 12.5.2 Council again discussed its options over flooding. The Chair emphasized the need for a parish strategy for approaching flooding.
- 12.6 **Tree warden** One of the largest trees in the Rectory spinney has been pruned, leaving only the trunk standing. The WCC tree officer was informed and reported that this was lawful felling as the tree is diseased.
- 12.7 **Hedges / verges** Rowena Hyder circulated to Council the current list of paths agreed to be cut by The Countryside Service at Hampshire County Council. Council agreed to submit this list 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) is continuing to cause concern. Rowena Hyder undertook to monitor the situation. **ACTION: RH**
- 12.9.2 Proposed dedicated bridleway rights on sections of the MVT – a letter was sent to Harry Goodchild Hampshire Countryside Services regarding the designation of Bridleway to Restricted Byway. The decision date was 16 December 2014 and Council has so far have not received a reply. **ACTION: RH**
- 12.10 **Highway matters**
- 12.10.1 Flooding: The recent flooding of the A32 has been reported to HCC Highways and the local highways engineer has visited. Further investigations are planned to establish the causes and rectify them.
- 12.10.2 Drain Cleaning: It has been accepted the drain clearances in December were substandard and further clearance work will be undertaken shortly. To date only the drain by No 3 The Porches has been properly cleared right through to the river.
- 12.10.3 Grit Bins: All the grit bins have been inspected. Some of the bins are only crusted on the top layer and it should be possible to break up this crust with a fork so that the grit is usable when the roads are icy. John Shaw requested advising volunteer gritters accordingly and report back if there are further problems. **ACTION: JS**
- 12.11 **PACT / HALC / WDALC**
PACT Following a meeting with affected parishes late last year, the PCC and senior officers have recognised that, while traffic management is of a specialist nature, the attendant noise is detrimental to residents wellbeing and the economy of the SDNP and this situation is a good example of when national and local policing needs to connect to allow the police to safeguard community wellbeing. Police have agreed to present a strategic approach to deal with the matter and this will be progressed via our community police officer Stuart Gilmour.
13. **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** The Meon Hall is available on Weds. 15th, 22nd & 29th April 2015. The Chair agreed to invite Barbara Holyome from South Downs National Park to address the Assembly, and confirm the date with the Meon Hall bookings secretary. **ACTION: SW**
14. **COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTRATION** The Bucks Head Pub has now been registered – copy letter circulated to all Councillors.
15. **CORRESPONDENCE** None
16. **WEBSITE UPDATE** Steve Clark reported that contact has been made with a parishioner and they will meet to discuss the matter further. **ACTION: SC**
17. **CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS** None
18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING ~ Wednesday 7 January 2015 ~ 7.30pm**