

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 2 July 2014 at 7.30pm in the Meon Hall Meonstoke.

PRESENT Chairman John Shaw, Steve Clark, Bruce Horn, Rowena Hyder, Patrick Rowe and Sue Walker.
In attendance: Juliet Brooks (Clerk), Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC, Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC and 6 parishioners.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Nick Riley,
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 04 June 2014 were approved and signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING** None

4. **TENNIS GROUP PROPOSAL** Council and parishioners discussed this matter at length. The Clerk reported that she had discussed the participation of Councillor Walker in Council's discussions on this matter with the WCC Solicitor. The City Solicitor advised that, whilst Councillor Walker was free to participate in discussions while the public were participating, as Councillor Walker had a personal and prejudicial interest in Council's discussions it was advised she should not participate in any vote, and that she should leave the room during any discussions closed to the public.

- i) Steve Clark reported that Nick Riley had met with members of Meonstoke Football Club who are amenable to moving the football pitch to make space for a tennis court.

Whilst it would not be possible to play competitive cricket on the recreation ground due to lack of space should the tennis court be built, it would still be possible to play 'social' cricket.

Both the cricket interests and the Football Club are content with the proposals.

Council agreed to the location of the proposed court.

- ii) Council agreed that the money in the Open Space Fund would be available to the tennis group with the proviso that some of the Open Space Fund remains for other projects. The sum agreed was for Fund money in the range of £25,000 > £28,000 which would include the contribution from Exton Parish Meeting.

- iii) The matter of a formal lease from the Parish Council was discussed. Council confirmed that a peppercorn rent would be charged.

- iv) The Clerk stated that she had discussed this matter with Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey whose comments in some aspects appeared to be at odds with those reported by a member of the tennis group. The Clerk declined to give further details until she had clarified this with the WCC Open Space Fund Officer. The Clerk undertook to report back to Council and to the tennis group. *ACTION: Clerk*

The Clerk also undertook to invite Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey to the PC September Meeting. *ACTION: Clerk*

5. **REPORTS** i) Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC reported on matters including

- the re-election of Roy Perry as leader of Hampshire County Council
- HCC transport consultation, and
- HCC furniture recycling scheme.

Roger took questions on broadband, and the matter of parking at the Stores.

- ii) Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC reported on matters including

- the election of Rob Humby as leader of Winchester City Council
- St Andrews Green – lease for land for allotments
- St Andrews Green – condition of entrance verges, and
- Steynes Farm.

Norma told Council that whilst she is not always free to attend PC Meeting, she is always available on email.

6. **FINANCE** a) The Clerk presented the financial statement and reported balances of £3688.70 in the Community Account and £10333.93 in the Scottish Widows Account.

b) Council approved payment of bills – chq	200653	CPRE annual sub	36.00
	200654	Flower Pot Men	135.00
	200655	WCC dog bin emptying	100.00
	200656	Meon Valley First Responders grant	250.00
	200657	Ian Gilchrist – Neighbourhood Watch	25.00

200658	The Bridge Magazine donation	30.00
200659	CAB donation	25.00
200660	Meon Hall mowing grant	100.00
200661	HM Customs & Excise – PAYE	61.20
200662	J Brooks – June'14 sal + exp	378.33

c) The Clerk undertook to arrange to update the mandate for cheque signatures with Barclays Bank.

ACTION: Clerk

d) Councillor Walker stated that in her view Rupert Walker should not act as Independent Auditor for the Council. The Clerk said that she had received advice that it was permissible for Mr Walker to act in this capacity, she would seek further clarification from the City Solicitor and the Audit Commission.

ACTION: Clerk

7. **PLANNING** i) Annex Stoke Down New Road SDNP/14/00027/LDE (no c) – ongoing

ii) Meonstoke Village Stores SDNP/14/01542 (s) - approved

iii) Prospect Cottage Stocks Lane SDNP/14/02151/HOUS (no c) – approved

iv) Warners Cottage Beacon Hill Road SDNP/14/02354/FUL (no c) – ongoing

New application: Meonvale Farm Stocks Lane SDNP/14/02903/FUL – Council agreed no comment.

Other: 1) Affordable housing – ongoing – Za Rowe updated Council regarding Sovereign Housing and reported that Debbie Rhodes WCC has informed her that, before any vacant affordable home in Bridgemoor is let or re-let, the allocations officers will contact the Parish Council so that they can advise both the people with local connections with housing needs and the allocations officers so that their needs are considered before they are let. This is good news.

2) Enforcement – Steynes Farm mobile home, etc. – the Chairman had contacted WCC Enforcement department and confirmed that the Parish Council agreed to take no further action in this matter. The PC hopes that WCC will now settle this extremely long-running case.

ACTION: JS

3) Allotments i) Patrick Rowe reported that although WCC had agreed to clear the site, including trees and stumps, and fence it, nothing has yet been done.

ii) Patrick also reported that WCC has produced a lease, and sent it to the PC appointed solicitor. Council confirmed its view that a lease should not be signed until WCC has fulfilled its agreed obligations, detailed above.

ACTION: PR

iii) Nick Riley is investigating the installation of a standpipe on site.

ACTION: NR

iv) The Clerk had agreed to circulate a draft tenancy agreement to Councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

4) Proposed development at Exton Park SDNP/14/01916/FUL – refused.

5) Mr R.Howard expressed concern over the handling of his complaints over his planning application on Prospect Cottage, Stocks Lane by WCC planning department, and handed details to Councillor Norma Bodtger WCC.

8. a) **PLAYGROUND** Steve Clark presented plans for updating the equipment at the playground. Council agreed to support the scheme in principle provided additional play funds are forthcoming from Exton's Open Space Fund. Council authorised Steve to proceed up to the available Open Space Fund balances, and to prioritise within the budget available. Steve agreed to confirm with Exton Parish Meeting.

ACTION: SC

b) **RECREATION GROUND** i) Steve Clark reported that that the embedded concrete blocks, which previously secured adult gym equipment, are now covered with a low bank of earth, which has been seeded.

ii) Most of the remaining part of the renovation scheme has now been achieved. The WCC Open Space Fund Officer will release funds upon receipt of the invoices.

ACTION: SC/Clerk

iii) Steve reported upon the success of the free rounders sessions.

iv) James Morrice had reported that the chain link fence at the MUGA is in need of repair. The Clerk had contacted the contractor who had repaired the playground fence but he declined to quote. Further contractors will be contacted.

ACTION: NR/JS/Clerk

v) The Clerk reported that a football group has applied to use the recreation ground during the 2014/15 season. The Clerk agreed to send the request to Nick Riley and James Morrice for comment.

ACTION: Clerk

vi) Council has received reports of very bad language being used by members of the Meonstoke Football Club whilst playing at the rec. The Chairman agreed to contact the Club about this.

ACTION: JS/NR

c) **MEON HALL** James Morrice thanked Council for its support with its offer of a £1000 grant towards the Meon Hall's application to WCC to help with ceiling work.

d) **LENGTHSMAN UPDATE** James Morrice gave a written report to Council on the programme for the next visit.

e) **FLOODING** The Chairman reported on the email received from the Environment Agency concerning actions undertaken by the Agency regarding annual maintenance and clearance work as recommended in the Halcrow Reports in 2003/2006 for both the main river and the Winterbourne. Council expressed concern with the response from the Agency, and with the accuracy of the map produced. The Chairman undertook to seek clarification from the Agency
ACTION: JS/BH

f) **TREE WARDEN** Nil

g) **HEDGES / VERGES** i) Council had heard comments about overhanging branches in Fry's Lane in particular on the Meon Hall / recreation ground boundary. James Morrice has undertaken to investigate further.
ACTION: JS

ii) Bruce Horn expressed concerns over proposed changes to the regulations governing the trimming of hedges.

h) **RURAL TRANSPORT** Nil

i) **FOOTPATHS** Work on improvements to the 'Meon Valley Trail' is ongoing. Rowena Hyder expressed concern over reported use of shingle to re-surface part of the trail. Rowena undertook to contact David Dean on this matter.
ACTION: RH

j) **HIGHWAY MATTERS** Speed / noise nuisance on A32 – ongoing watching brief.

9. **COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTRATION** The Clerk reported that WCC required a map showing boundary details for the Bucks Head pub be submitted. Council agreed the details and the Clerk will submit the map.
ACTION: Clerk

10. **PARKING AT THE SHOP AND ENTRANCE TO St ANDREWS GREEN** Hampshire Highways have produced a drawing of the area with proposed extra parking places, and although intimating that this would not be too onerous to achieve, had reported that budget constraints would mean this would not be top of their agenda. Councillor Roger Huxstep HCC agreed to continue to pursue this with Hampshire Highways.
ACTION: JS

11. **BROADBAND** Council had written to Glenn Peacey, the programme manager for the Hampshire Superfast Broadband Programme, expressing its concerns over broadband funding, etc.
ACTION: SC

12. **COMMUNICATIONS** The Chairman reported that he had put a notice in the Bridge Magazine and on the notice boards asking parishioners to contact Council with suggestions on how communications could be improved between Council and parishioners.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE** An email has been received concerning anti-social motor biking on the A32 and requesting that Council support a petition. Council agreed that its stance on this matter is well known and that it is pursuing this matter in PACT and WDALC meetings, and does not wish to get involved with the petition.

12. **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS** The Clerk was asked to include items on PACT and WDALC in future agendas.
ACTION: Clerk

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING ~ Wednesday 3 September 2014 ~ 7.30pm**

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