

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Meon Hall Meonstoke.

PRESENT Chair Sue Walker, Steve Clark, Bruce Horn, Rowena Hyder, Jane McCormick, Patrick Rowe and John Shaw.

In attendance: 6 members of the public, Councillor Norma Bodtger, WCC, Councillor Roger Huxstep, HCC, and Keith Best.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** There were no apologies for absence

2. **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
None

3 **CLERK**

3.1 **Appointment of a new Clerk.**

The Chair reported that until a permanent is appointed it is proposed that an interim appointment is made. Mr Keith Best has been interviewed and it is proposed that he is offered a temporary contract on a locum basis.

Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Rowe and approved unanimously.

3.2 **Outgoing Clerk**

The Parish Council recorded its thanks and appreciation to Mrs Juliet Brooks for all her hard work and service on behalf of the Council. It was agreed that the cost of the farewell gift would be met from reserves.

4 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

4.1 Mr Robert Tutton, a planning consultant, made representations in respect of the planning application for Mayfield, Rectory Lane.

4.2 Mrs Za Rowe informed the meeting that she had been in touch with the South Downs National Park Authority regarding the "Interpretation Signs" and the information had been passed to the Clerk.

5. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2015.**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2015 having been previously circulated, were considered. Cllr Shaw proposed that Minute 11.3.2 Enforcement should be amended to read "Steynes Farm is still ongoing" as that was the only discussion on this point at the meeting. It was agreed to delete the remainder of the draft minute. The amended minutes were taken as read, approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Rowe and approved unanimously.

6. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/INFORMATION**

6.1 **Cllr Norma Botger WCC**

a) WCC now have three new members on the Enforcement Committee and action, including a substantial fine, has been taken against the illegal siting of a caravan near Bishops Waltham which is encouraging in respect of the long running problem at Steynes Farm.

b) The remit of each of the Portfolio Holders has now been clarified to avoid confusion and will be published on the WCC website,

c) WCC rents will be increasing by 2.2% in two stages.

d) A new Tree Officer, Andrew Giles, has been appointed.

e) Allotments. There was a long discussion on the delay in the provision of allotments. Cllr Rowe reported on a meeting on 19 January at which WCC advised that there will be no stand pipe; raised beds were being investigated but thought unlikely; and whist trees would be felled their roots would not be removed. The Parish Council considered these points unacceptable and Cllr Rowe will meet the new Tree Officer on site to discuss the situation particularly in respect of the impact of the non-removal of tree roots.

Cllr Botger will wait until Cllr Rowe has met the Tree Officer before taking the matter up again with WCC. [Action](#)

6.2 Cllr Roger Huxstep HCC

a) Lengthsman: Cllr Huxstep is not aware of any changes to the arrangements regarding the Lengthsman service but Parish Councillors have heard that whilst the service would continue, changes to the funding arrangements might be implemented.

b) The next HCC meeting on 19 February and a briefing from Sir Tony Redmond, the lead Commissioner of the Local Government Boundary Commission in England in anticipation of redrawing the divisional boundaries of the 17 County elections and this could have implications for the Meon Valley division.

c) The Cabinet is meeting to discuss the £1.9 billion budget including endorsing the requirement to reduce the budget by 12%. The Council Tax will not be increased for the sixth year in a row.

d) "Care at Home" is the new service providing care and support in people's own homes.

e) Waste Recycling centres. The decision has been made not to close any such centres but opening hours will be reduced.

f) In response to a question on the possible provision of fibre optic broadband in the parish Cllr Huxstep stated that he had no further information on this.

g) The Meon Valley Trail – It is not on the agenda of the next meeting of the Recreation Committee but it was agreed that a delegation will attend when it is to be discussed.

[Action RH](#)

7 PLANNING

7.1 To note current planning applications and decisions received:

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.

7.1.1 Canberra House, High Street. SDNP/14/04910/TCA. Approved

7.1.2 Hawks Nest, Pound Lane. SDNP/14/05664/FUL. Ongoing

7.1.3 Garden House, Chapel Road SDNP/14/05776/HOUS Ongoing

7.1.4 Hill Rise, High Street SDNP/14/05895/HOUS Approved

7.1.5 Chapel House, Chapel Road SDNP/14/06452/HOUS Ongoing

7.2 New Planning Applications.

7.2.1 April Cottage, Pound Lane SDNP/15/00210/HOUS Awaiting Plans

7.2.2 Barton House, Rectory Lane SDNP/14/06569/HOUS Awaiting Plans

7.2.3 Mayfield, Rectory Lane SDNP/14/05789/FUL objection recommended on following grounds:

The application to replace a caravan/mobile home with a permanent bungalow in a different and considerably more conspicuous location on the site is in contravention of Winchester District Local Plan (WDLP) Policy CE23 – "replacement of dwellings will be permitted provided it does not significantly change the character of the existing dwelling or result in increased visual intrusion".

Furthermore, the design and construction of the proposed dwelling does not respond positively to the character and appearance of the local environment, in contravention of WDLP Policy DP3. - "replacement of dwellings will be permitted provided it, in terms of design, responds

positively to the character and appearance of the local environment”.

Proposal to accept the recommendations of the Planning Committee – Proposed Cllr Rowe, seconded Cllr Horn and approved with one abstention, Cllr Walker.

7.3 Other planning matters

7.3.1 Affordable housing:

Mrs Za Rowe presented a progress report on the proposed Social Housing at Bridgemed. The planning application is being prepared, in particular the Energy Assessment statement, and the Design and Access Statement is almost complete. Two additional visitor parking spaces have now been included.

8. FINANCE

8.1 **The financial statement-** the Clerk reported balances of £740.27 in the Community Account and £10354.63 in the Scottish Widows Account. After the following payments have been made

8.2 Accounts for Payment

<u>Chq Number</u>	<u>Pavee</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
200687	S W Marchant Ltd	Repair of Chain Link fencing	£875.83
200688	A J Morrice	Monthly Surface Upkeep	£40
200689	J Brooks	January Salary & Expenses	£353.05

There were concerns about the standard of the repair to the fencing and it was agreed the contractor would be asked to attend a meeting on site before the cheque was released. It was also agreed to discuss the provision of additional fencing with the contractor.

The other two payments were recommended for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Rowe and approved unanimously.

8.3 **Bank mandate-** the replacement Mandate Change Form has been completed and will be returned to Barclays Bank.

8.4 To appoint an Internal Auditor.

Recommendation to appoint Brian Harris as Internal Auditor. [Action Clerk](#)

Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Rowe and approved unanimously.

8.5 2015/2016 Budget and Precept

It was confirmed that the Precept application has been submitted to WCC following the finalisation of Annual Budget.

9. PARISH MATTERS

9.1 Playground

Cllr Clark reported that negotiations have almost been concluded on the cost of the improvements. It is hoped that a report will be available at the next meeting.

[Action SC for next meeting](#)

9.2 Recreation Ground

9.2.1 Cllr Clark reported that the signs are now in place.

9.2.2 James Morrice reported that he is monitoring the grounds maintenance contract and had liaised with the contractor, ISS, and they have cut the hedge at their own expense as they omitted to carry out the work last year.

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

9.4 **Tree warden** No report

9.5 **Hedges / verges** There was discussion about the condition of the hedge in Stocks Lane the responsibility for home owners to maintain their hedges.

9.6 **Rural transport** No Report

9.7 Footpaths

9.7.1 **Meon Valley Trail** – Part of the Trail has had work carried out to the surface and a programme of future work was circulated by Cllr Hyder. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss the Trail and it was suggested that the Parish Council should send representatives. Comments should be

channelled through Cllr Hyder and she and McCormick agreed to attend the meeting and Cllr Walker may also attend. [Action RC](#)

9.8 Highway matters

9.8.1 Flooding: Cllr Shaw has spoken to HCC about the flooding of the A32. The Flooding in Rectory Lane has also been reported to HCC. Cllr Horn is meeting a representative of the SDNP to discuss ways of alleviating the flood around the old railway bridge at the junction of Shavards Lane and Stocks Lane.

9.9 PACT / HALC / WDALC

The next PACT meeting will be held here on 16 March.

10 PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The Chair expressed concern about the disproportionate amount of the Clerk's time that is taken up with the organisation of Parish meetings. It was suggested that the Parish Council moves to bi-monthly meetings as a trial.

Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Rowe and approved unanimously.

The Clerk will draw up a list of meeting dates and advise as to implications for planning applications including the need to hold extraordinary meeting as necessary. [Action Clerk](#)

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11. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 22 April 2015. Barbara Holyome from South Downs National Park has agreed to address the Assembly. Our Community Police officer will also attend. Given the move to bi-monthly meetings the AGM can be held before or after the Assembly. [Action: All to consider best timing.](#)

12. CORRESPONDENCE

It was reported that the Interpretation Panels around the village suggested by the SDNP cost £800 each. The Council agreed that this was unaffordable. It was further suggested that similar signs on the Meon Valley Trail might be more appropriate.

13. WEBSITE UPDATE

Cllr Clark reported on his discussions on upgrading the website and it was agreed that this is a priority. [Action SC for next meeting](#)

Proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Shaw and approved unanimously.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING ~ Wednesday 4 March 2015- 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 9.15pm.