

MINUTES OF SOPLEY PARISH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 16th MAY 2013, IN SOPLEY PARISH HALL AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT

Parish Councillors Shutler (Chair), Eccles, Paul, Pease, Rawstron and Westmacott
County Councillor Rippon-Swaine, Locum Parish Edwin Macknamara and 14 Parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Parish Councillor Springate and District Councillor Woodifield

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- a) The minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting and Parish Assembly had previously been circulated and were signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 21st March, 2013 had previously been circulated and were signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Shutler

Cllr Shutler welcomed everyone present to the annual meeting and thanked his fellow Parish Councillors – together with County Councillor Rippon-Swaine and District Councillor Woodifield for their hard work and support during his first year as Chairman. Having been elected to the Council in 2011 he thanked Cllr. Westmacott for his guidance and help during the past year which had gone by so quickly. The Chairman reported that he had lived in the Parish all of his life and now worked as a self employed Agricultural Contractor with a passion for the outdoors and for being part of the local community.

One of the highlights of the year was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The occasion was marked in Sopley by an afternoon tea party at the Parish Hall and the lighting of a Beacon Bonfire on Braggers Hill later the same evening. Despite the worst fears the weather was kind to both events and the Beacon was a great success with the vantage point site enabling spectators to spot other Beacons in the neighbouring County. Many people enjoyed BBQ's and drinks as the Celebration took place. The Beacon was kindly provided by Simon Butler and the Beacon was built, lit and supervised by volunteers from Bransgore Scouts.

The 2012 Parish Festival was also a great success despite the need to postpone it from July to September again due to the weather. Residents from across the Parish with visitors from far and wide attended the Festival. The festivities were extended over Saturday and Sunday for the first time and thanks were due to everyone who's hard work had made it a successful weekend.

The wet weather during winter had caused flooding in several parts of the Parish with Ripley bearing the brunt of it over Christmas and the New Year period. The Chairman thanked everyone who had helped to overcome these difficulties. One of the main aims during the coming year as Chairman would be to try and prevent this flooding happening again and ensure that ditches are dug, pipes and culverts kept clear and he thanked the Avon Tyrell Estate for the work they had done in cleaning and enlarging Deep Ditch to dramatically improve drainage at Ripley Crossroads. Encouragement had been gained from very constructive meetings between Parish, District and County Councils with the Avon Tyrell Estate and by continuing to work together it was hoped that a prevention plan could be put into place.

The Chairman reported that the Mr. Gerald Lewis had stepped down as Clerk and he paid tribute to his work as Councillor, Chairman and latterly Clerk bringing to an end the successful contribution he had made over many years. A massive thank you was due to him for all of his hard work and advice over this time. A Locum Clerk would cover the role until a permanent replacement could be appointed.

In conclusion the Chairman reminded those present that Parish Council Meetings were held on the third Thursday of every other month in the Parish Hall and all Parishioners were invited to be present.

3. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the end of financial year Bank Balances were:

Current A/C £14,500

Deposit A/C £20,500

Parish Hall Refurbishment A/C £19,500

Former Allotment Charitable Trust A/C £5000. This account had now been closed and the balance would be transferred to the Parish Council Current Account.

The Clerk circulated a list of payments and income received during April/May 2013 (Appendix A)

Since the last meeting three Planning Applications had been received:

- 13/10375 Detached garage at Meadowbrook, 14 Ringwood Road, Sopley
- 13/98455 Construction of new bunkhouse at Braggers Wood Camping and Activity Centre, Braggers Lane, Bransgore
- 13/10424 Use as three bed and breakfast rooms, breakfast room/lounge and reception area, external alterations, amendments to existing access and gates from Salisbury Road; three car parking spaces at Lakeside, Moorlands College, Sopley Park, Salisbury Road, Sopley

The Parish Councils comments were available on the New Forest District Council Website www.nfdc.gov.uk/planning

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

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Proposed Seconded

4.1 Election of Chairman Cllr Shutler

Cllr Pease Cllr Eccles

RESOLVED: That Cllr. D. Shutler be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Cllr. Westmacott was elected as Co-Chairman to support the Chairman during the year.

4.2 Election of Vice Chairman Cllr Paul

Cllr Eccles Cllr Shutler

RESOLVED: That Cllr. C. Paul be elected Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

5. ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

		Proposed	Seconded
5.1 Election of Finance Committee	Cllr Shutler Cllr. Paul Cllr Rawstron	Cllr Eccles	Cllr. Westmacott
5.2 Election of Planning Committee	Cllr Westmacott (Chair) Cllr Eccles Cllr Rawstron Cllr Paul	Cllr Shutler	Cllr Pease

Planning Consultees: All Parish Councillors are eligible to be consulted in respect of planning Consultations. Individual applications are circulated to three Councillors for comment who represent the areas closest to each application site.

Full Planning Meetings will only be called at the direction of the Council to discuss applications whose impact might affect the wider Community/whole Parish

5.3 Election of Burial Board	Cllr Westmacott Cllr Shutler	Cllr Pease	Cllr Paul
Miss Hiscock and Mr. Lewis were coopted to the Burial Board as Parishioners for 2013/14.			
5.4 Trustees – Former Allotments Charitable Trust	Cllr Eccles Cllr Paul Mr Lewis (Co-opted)	Cllr Shutler	Cllr Westmacott
5.5 Lead Councillors:			
Highway Liaison	Cllr. Shutler Cllr. Rawstron	Cllr. Westmacott	Cllr Eccles
Footpaths and Rights of Way	Cllr. Westmacott	Cllr Shutler	Cllr Pease

6. NOMINATION OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES

		Proposed	Seconded
6.1 Parish Hall Management Committee	Cllrs Rawstron, Eccles & Paul	Cllr Shutler	Cllr Westmacott
6.2 Sopley School Governor	Cllr. Caroline Paul	Cllr Eccles	Cllr Rawstron
6.3 New Forest Consultative Panel	Mr Lewis (co-opted)	Cllr. Pease	Cllr Westmacott
6.4 NFNPA SW Quadrant Group	Mr Lewis (co-opted)	Cllr. Pease	Cllr Westmacott
6.5 Police Liaison	Cllr. Pease	Cllr Westmacott	Cllr. Paul
6.6 Bournemouth Airport Liaison	Cllr Westmacott	Cllr Pease	Cllr Paul
6.7 NFALC & HALC	SPC Chairman & Clerk	Cllr Westmacott	Cllr Paul

7. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR

It was agreed that Council meetings would continue to be held throughout the year on the third Thursday of every other month. The Clerk will publish these dates in advance on the Parish notice boards and website.

8. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

15th May 2014

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The Annual Meeting was immediately followed by the Annual Assembly.

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF SOPLEY PARISHIONERS HELD ON MAY 16TH 2013.

Present: Cllr. D. Shutler (in the Chair) Parish Councillors Eccles; Paul; Pease; Rawstron and Westmacott
County Councillor Rippon-Swaine; Locum Parish Clerk: Edwin Macknamara
16 Members of the Public

The Chairman invited the Parishioners present to raise any matter for discussion on any subject of relevance to the Community:

- i) Priest Lane, Sopley: A resident reported that vehicles were travelling to the end of Priest Lane and then had difficulty turning when they reached the end of the road. He asked if the Parish Council could be asked to consider what could be done to prevent this happening.

No other matters were raised.

The Chairman brought the Annual Assembly to a close at 8.05 pm. The meeting was then given over to a very well received illustrated lecture by Mr Gareth Owen from the New Forest National Park Authority which updated his talk on the project 'New Forest Remembers' living history and the information they had now collected on life in and around the New Forest during the Second World War.