

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 AT 7.30P.M.** **IN SOPLEY PARISH HALL, PRIEST'S LANE, SOPLEY.**

**Attendees and the Clerk confirmed that the meeting was Quorate and there were no declarations of interest in respect of the items contained in the Agenda.**

Cllr. Rippon-Swaine's apologies were received by email on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014; also Barbara Woodfield apologies were received on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014, due to illness. 9 Parishioners present and Parish Clerk Mrs Hughes. Apologies were received from Cllr Eccles for Cllr Rawstron.

### **Review of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

The minutes of the November Parish Council meeting were approved and circulated to the Parishioners present. There were no matters arising and they were proposed by Cllr. Eccles and Seconded by Cllr. Paul. Cllr Shutler signed a copy.

### **Parishioner Participation:**

Mr Dunn raised the point regarding the mud patch at the end of the new footpath outside Sopley Court and also the footpath from Smugglers around the front to the Woolpack and that the path has not been finished. This point should be raised with Highways and Richard Bastow has been contacted but no response had been received. Mrs Hughes is to contact him again and arrange a meeting to get an update. Cllr Dunn also said she would be more than happy to attend an onsite meeting with Mrs Hughes and Highways. Also it was raised regarding the gate at the entrance to Avon Valley Footpath and it was suggested that Cllr. Shutler will have a look and perhaps make good using a barbed wire fence.

Mrs Angie Hill raised the Sopley School parking again. Mrs Pope suggested that perhaps if formal plans were raised that it may speed up the car parking situation. The suggested plans would include the Mitchells field on right which is used in the summer for additional parking. This would include a lay-by for the Mothers/Guardians to pull in and drop children so they are not anywhere near the road. It was suggested that perhaps in the long term purchase of the land from Mr Mitchell maybe an option. Funding needs to be found as it needs to be specialised area because of the school issue. Lord Manners would also need to be approached regarding the proposed car parking improvements. Also Mrs Hughes to contact the Headmaster of Sopley School to see if he has a plan of action.

Cllr Shutler said that he had confirmation that there would be tarmacking happening when the weather dries up. Mrs Hughes to arrange a meeting with Highways and inform Cllr. Shutler when this will be. It was suggested that maybe the School may have some funds to get the plans drawn up properly.

Mr Tanner mentioned the outside light on the hall. Cllr Eccles will have a look at it. Mrs Butler brought up a robbery in the car park after WI. Cllr Paul brought up the issue of perhaps putting a sensor light on the property next door. Solar lighting was mentioned. Cllr Eccles will approach the property owner. Mr Emmel has offered to put a dummy camera up, signs to be put on the car park entrance.

### **3. CURENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING (Cllrs Shutler & Westmacott) :**

Cllr Shutler brought up the Sopley Parish website, and has asked Mrs Hughes to get all Councillor details updated. Cllr Eccles mentioned the Fencing for Olivia Harrison and it was agreed that Cllr Shutler will replace half a dozen posts and make good the fence in between the cemetery and Mrs Harrison's land. Cllr Shutler will do the fences next week.

Mrs Hughes brought up the issue of the Sopley Newsletter and agreed to contact Cllr. Pease after his help with the 2013 Newsletter, but in case Cllr Pease is still abroad she will start to contact all the contributors.

4. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT :

**Sopley Parish Council Payments and Receipts 2014/2015**

<b>Treasurers Account - Current a/c</b>	<b>09/12/2013</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£23,172.33</b>	
<b>Payments</b>	Date	Chq no	Amount	
Dan Shutler	11/12/2013	977	£1,287.60	
Clerk salary	11/12/2013	978	£612.00	
MJ Hoare	11/12/2013	979	£500.40	
Total:			<b>£2,400.00</b>	
<b>Payments to be made (invoices received)</b>				
TLC Online	15/01/2014	980	£40.00	
Hampshire Probation	15/01/2014	981	£75.00	
Clerks salary Dec 13	15/01/14	982	306.00	
	Total to be paid:		<b>£421.00</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	25/11/2013		£2,074.50	
<b>Bus Interest Access - Deposit a/c</b>	<b>09/12/2013</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£20,678.80</b>	
Transfer in				
Interest	09/12/2013		£0.79	
<b>Allotments Charitable Trust</b>	<b>09/12/2013</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£5,297.04</b>	
Interest	09/12/2013		£0.17	

Correspondence received.

Mrs Hughes reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Olivia Harrison regarding her fences and this was addressed above. Also an anonymous letter was received, this has been reported to Highways and to Lord Manners but stated it was difficult to deal with, when you don't know who has sent the letter.

Also due to the unfortunate resignation of Cllr Robin Pease, Carole Smedley has been accepted onto the council and was co-opted. This was after the position had been advertised as required in the Parish Boards. Mrs Smedley was unable to attend this meeting but looks forward to taking up her position on the council at the March Council Meeting.

## Planning:

Mrs Hughes read out the following outstanding planning applications:

Merryfield Park – Ongoing  
Ivy Cottage – Not yet approved but has been recommended with Conditions.  
Sopley Farm – Recommended subject to conditions.  
Oakwood House – Recommended.  
Cypress Cottage – new application received to go to Councillors.

### 5. BURIAL BOARD REPORT (Cllr Shutler/Westmacott) :

Cllr Eccles mentioned Mrs Harrison's fence. He reported that there would be an interment at the end of the month. It was mentioned about the broken handle on the main entrance to the cemetery and we could ask Mr Hatton to have a look. Cllr Eccles also mentioned that he would like to look at the Cemetery charges and see if they can be updated.

### 6. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (Cllr Eccles) :

Cllr. Eccles reported that the bank balance after paying the mortgage was £4051.64  
Cllr. Eccles reiterated the break in at the Parish Hall and the security issues are being addressed.  
He also reported that the upcoming events were as follows:  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2014 Community Quiz night, a number of teams have already showed an interest including the Woolpack, Jack & Hill, Sopley Village Hall, Stepping Stones, Stables, Friends of Sopley Church and Moorlands.  
St Patricks Night is also booked for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in the hall.  
The Dancing Mirrors were brought up the funding is there for them to be replaced and Mrs Ann Ramm is to get some quotes, Cllr. Paul at this point said she would love the old ones for the Playgroup.  
Cllr Eccles also raised the fact that the porch is cracked and that there is damp in the toilet, he reported that he will be checking the plumbing and that at present the wall has been clad with polythene.

### 7. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES (Cllr Westmacott) :

Cllr Westmacott reported the following information received from Mr Gerald Lewis.

*2013/2014 Countryside Access Grant. Thanks to cllr Shutler, the grant-aided work to replace 14 footpath stiles with kissing gates is almost complete, with just two gates remaining to be installed. The Council will need to consider if it wishes to apply for grant funding again in 2014/15 (assuming that funding is available) to complete the remainder of the stile replacements in the Parish ( there will be about 12 oldstiles left after the completion of this year's work).*

#### *Footpath 30*

*The correct line of FP30 between it's junction with Bridleway 32 (Green Lane) and Harpway Lane has been cleared and re-opened to walkers. The HCC Rights of Way team have supplied the Parish Council with some additional direction signs and fingerposts to improve the footpath signing on paths 16 and 30 these will be erected during the next few weeks following discussions with the Avon Tyrrell Estate about the most suitable locations.*

#### *Footpath 13*

*Hampshire County Council have further extended the existing closure order on FP13 (adjacent to Two Bridges Plantation between Fish St Ripley and Court Lane) for a period of 12 months from January 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, pending replacement of the wooden footbridge at the Fish St end of the path.*

Also the access to Priests Lane was raised after Mr Tanner had towed out three supermarket lorries. After the work has been completed at Mrs Harrison's regarding the new fences a letter will be written to see about stopping access up this road.

Mrs Hughes to contact Mr Benton-Jones regarding the hedge overgrowing the paths adjacent to his property.

8. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES (Cllr. Rawstron/Shutler) :

All items listed on the Agenda for Highways and Traffic Management Issues were discussed under Parishioner Participation.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Woodifield) : None received.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Rippon-Swaine): None received.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Meeting closed 20.20pm.