



Minutes of the MEETING OF SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL held on  
Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021 at 7.30pm Sopley Parish Hall.

In attendance: Chairman: Rawstron, Cllr Allen, Cllr. Eccles, Cllr. Cllr. J. Ludford and Cllr. D. Shutler and 1 parishioners. Also Present Mr. Edwin Macknamara (Acting Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Brake and Cllr. Emmel had given their apologies. The meeting was quorate.
2. PUBLIC SESSION: No matters raised.
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS:  
The Acting Clerk reported that no requests for dispensations had been made. No Declarations of Interest were declared.
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – 18th November 2021: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November, 2021, having been circulated to all Members of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Agreed by all Members present.
5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: There were no matters raised arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.
6. **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT:** (Acting Clerk: Edwin Macknamara): Accounting Software: The Acting Clerk reported that he had requested 3 quotes for Accounting Software of which only one had been received. He suggested that this item be deferred until the next meeting so that all quotes could be discussed. The Accounting Software had been designed to comply with all Audit Regulations and to produce financial reports which would enable the finances to be scrutinised and monitored in accordance with then Annual Governance and Accountability Return. RESOLVED: That this item be deferred until the next meeting.
7. PLANNING
  - i) DEVELOPMENT OF 100 DWELLINGS; INFORMAL OPEN SPACE; NATURAL RECREATION GREENSPACE AND PLAY AREAS; LAND TO THE SOUTH OF DERRITT LANE, SOPLEY

<https://planning.newforest.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyval=NEWFO DCAPR 214898>

The meeting noted that New Forest District Council's Planning Officer had advised that amended Plans were expected to be received from the Developer of this site which would be made available on the Website for further Consultation. The applications was, therefore, unlikely to be considered at the January, 2022 meeting of the District Council.

Cllr. Allen asked when the 30 Page Document prepared on behalf of the Parish Council **would be circulated to all Members of the District Council's Development Committee.** The Acting Clerk reported that he considered it would best be circulated when the Agenda for the meeting at which the application would be considered would be the best time to circulate this Document but he would be guided by this meeting. Also once the amendments had been received from the Developer further consultation would be carried out by the District Council.

It was also noted that Bransgore District Council had now formally objected to this application on the following Grounds:

Flooding during heavy rainfall making Derritt Lane Impassable; the ability of the proposed swales to cope during periods of heavy rain; the ability of the pumping station to deal with added demand despite upgrades to pipework and the unacceptable level of social housing of 18% which was contrary to Policy HOU2 (which required 50% Social Housing)

Members noted that their approach had been to identify those areas which the application had failed to comply with current NFDC Planning Policy.

As previously discussed Sopley Parish Council had maintained a consistent approach to this application which fell short of meeting local needs as well as the failure to comply with Planning Policy already identified.

One of the issues identified related to the problem of flooding and the proper maintenance of the Clockhouse Stream so that flood water could escape. This would be the responsibility of the Riparian Owners adjacent to the stream.

It was proposed and seconded that Sopley Parish Council should now formally object to this application on the following grounds:

Flooding issues, the ability of the pumping station to cope with additional demand, the shortfall in social housing required by Policy HOU2; the siting of houses with access onto West Road not included in the approved local plan; highway issues including the flooding of Derritt Lane and traffic flow details and the siting and layout of the proposed play areas.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED: 1) That Sopley Parish Council formally object to this application on the grounds identified above.

2) That the Document prepared by the Parish Council setting out the wider concerns relating to this application be circulated to all Members of the District Council's Development Control Committee when the Agenda for the meeting to discuss this application is circulated.

NB. The Document entitled "**Sopley Parish Council Submission; Wyatt Homes Derritt Lane Application 21/11097 (September 2021)**" had previously been discussed and agreed by the Parish Council at a previous meeting and a copy is available from the Acting Clerk by request. Email. [parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@sopley.gov.uk)

#### 8. HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL **COUNCILS' COVID ADVICE:**

The Acting Clerk had circulated details of this advice to all Members prior to the meeting. The advice had been issued to minimise the impact of Covid and to protect Members and Staff and the public during the upsurge in cases and reflected the Governments Announcement made on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

However, as the situation was currently changing it was felt that no action should be taken at this time pending further Government Advice. It was, therefore: -

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken until further Guidance is issued by the Government.

#### 9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

The Acting Clerk reported that due to a number of factors including illness it was unlikely that the meeting due to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 would be quorate. In view of this and the current difficulties with the Covid situation the meeting was asked to review the arrangements for the next meeting. It was agreed that, as things stand, it would be advisable to cancel the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and move the date forward to a time and date when the Parish Hall would be available. The Clerk would obtain appropriate dates when the meeting could be held.

RESOLVED: i) That the meeting due to be held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 be cancelled and that the cancellation be advertised on local Noticeboards and other appropriate means.

ii) That the Acting Clerk obtain alternative dates for when the meeting could be held from the Parish Hall and notify Members of the alternative dates available,

#### 10. BUS SERVICES – CONSULTATION BY BOURNEMOUTH POOLE AND CHRISTCHURCH COUNCIL:

The BCP Council were currently consulting on the Bus Services within their area. This had coincided with the recent service provided by Yellow Buses of the route into Bransgore

running from Christchurch. Although Sopley and Bransgore Parish Councils had not been formally consulted it was felt important that this loss of bus services to the area should be highlighted to BCP Council and the Yellow Bus Company.

The proposal was supported by all present and it was:

RESOLVED: 1) That the Acting Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr. Allen, be authorised to respond to The Consultation by BCP Council on Bus Services and highlight the problems caused by the Loss of the Yellow Bus Service to the area and requesting that this be considered as part of the Consultation exercise.

2) That Hampshire County Council and the Yellow Bus Company be also notified on the concerns arising from the loss of the Yellow Bus Company services to the area.

11. PARISH COUJNCIL VACANCY:

The Acting Clerk reported that he had been notified by NFDC that an election had not been requested following the advertising of the vacancy for a Councillor being advertised.

The process for the Cooption of a Councillor would now be implemented.

12. RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 that members of the public and press be now excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that publicity may be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Date of next full council meeting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

Meeting closed 8.37pm.