



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 20th JULY 2022 at Sopley Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. D. Shutler (Chair) Cllr. K. Brake; Cllr. J. Ludford; Cllr, T. Langford and Cllr. J, Allen.

Also Present: Cllr. T. Ring (New Forest District Council and 4 Members of the Public

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest in respect of Agenda items. Cllr Ludford to take minutes.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr E Macknamara (Acting Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Dangerous obstruction to the road at the Sopley Junction of the Avon Causeway, A resident complained that the branch was still hanging out onto the road on the left hand side of the right lane. It was obscuring the view of traffic.
ACTION Cllr Shutler will cut this down himself.
- The sign “Welcome to Sopley” is largely hidden by vegetation and needs cutting back
ACTION Needs adding to the Lengthsman Scheme
- Footpath dangerously subsiding into the river on the Avon Valley Pathway. A resident complained that this situation is yet to be resolved. It was noted that the Parish Clerk was going to provide Cllr Thierry (Hampshire Council) with notes on correspondence with the various agencies that had been contacted regarding this matter.
ACTION – Clarification from the Locum Parish Clerk regarding this status
- Unreasonable noise and disturbance from traffic going over Cats eyes A resident complained that, due to the resurfacing of the road outside her house, the Cats eyes had been replaced incorrectly. This resulted in an unacceptable level of noise when traffic went over them as they were now positioned too high above the road, causing a bumping sound. She added that her son had had to move his bedroom from the front of the house in order to sleep. She had written to the Highways Agency but had been largely ignored, with no resolution or acknowledgement of the problem.
ACTION – All correspondence was handed over to Cllr. Shutler who would investigate
- Traffic speeding A resident asked if a SID camera could be placed at the entrance to the village Cllr. Ring commented that Ringwood Council had instigated a voluntary speed watch scheme, and this has been very successful. They had received help from the police who sent letters out to motorists who were witnessed speeding. A noticeable drop in speeding along a specific area had been noted as a result.
ACTION – Cllr. Vine to liaise with Cllr. Ring for contact details and set up information and with Mr Andrew Rawlinson who previously has dealt with Highways issues

- Parish notice boards
A couple of residents noted that the Parish notice boards were falling into a poor state. Notices were not always current or displayed well and the boards themselves need attention.
ACTION – Cllr Shutler to do a survey of all 5 notice boards to assess what is required and a contractor will be appointed to carry out any repairs.

2. Minutes of the June Meeting The minutes of June meeting have been circulated prior to the meeting and some amendments were noted. These amendments are to be made to the minutes and a new version sent to the Chair for signing **ACTION Cllr Ludford**

3. Matters Arising:

- The Status of the Jubilee bench
The bench is currently located in the foyer of the village Hall. It was agreed that it needs sanding down and relocating to the front of the building where some alterations to it will need to be made.
ACTION – Cllr Shutler to talk to Mr. John Eccles from the Village Hall Committee who it is hoped will carry out this work
- The Status of the Phone Box
ACTION – An update on the status of this is needed from the Locum Parish Clerk who had some actions on this matter i.e., communicating with the resident whose land the box may be on, although this needs confirming.
- Parish Clerk's Mobile Phone:
The status of the purchase of a mobile phone for the Parish Clerk, and its number, is still not clear after authorization for its purchase had been made at the last meeting.
ACTION- Update needed from the Locum Parish Clerk
- The overgrown hedge on Derritt Lane has now been cut down by Richard Frampton
- The Tree Management company have now been given authority to carry out the work opposite Moorands College,
ACTION – Cllr. Shutler to contact them and arrange a date for this to commence
- With reference to the request form Thorney Hill Community Centre at the last meeting it was resolved that the Parish Council consider grant applications in April and October each year to coincide with the receipt of the Annual Precept payments. Cllr. Allen submitted a proposed Grant Awarding Policy that should be discussed at the next meeting
ACTION – To the put this on the Agenda for the next meeting
- There is still an outstanding vacancy for at least one more member for the Finance Committee. It was hoped that any new councilors appointed in the coming months would be interested in joining this committee.

4. CURRENT ISSUES AND FORWARD PLANNING: No items were raised for discussion.

5. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT:

The Locum Clerk reported the following matters for decision:

a) PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

The following payments were presented for approval and payment:

PAYEE	DATE	DETAILS	AMOUNT £
Scribe Accounts	22 nd June 2022	Scribe Accounts Package	582,00
Mrs. K. Hughes	20 th July, 2022	Sick Pay July, 2022	278.50

Pennon Water Services	8 th July 2022	Annual Charges paid by direct debit - Cemetery water charges	3.60
Outdoor Design (Maintenance) Ltd	29 th June 2022	Cemetery Maintenance - June	405.00
Quirky Wood	30 th June 2022	Jubilee Bench	300,00
Mr. E Macknamara	1 st July, 2022	Locum Charges – June & Postage Costs	719.60
TCL Online	13 th July 2022	Website Maintenance	120.00
		TOTAL	£2408,70

RESOLVED: That the Payments listed above be approved for payment.

Due to the Locum Parish Clerk's absence, there were no more items forthcoming for his report.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i) Application No. APPLICATION NO:22/10835 Loft extension
15 MARRYAT WAY, BRANSGORE, SOPLY BH23 8FGN
NO OBJECTION

6. **Heatherstone Grange Allotments:**

Cllr. Langford reported that a meeting has been arranged with Cllr Ring regarding the watering of trees.

Parking for the allotments

Cllr. Langford has had discussions with various groups regarding the unauthorised parking in the allotment users' bays, and as this is still an ongoing problem, a solution now needs to be agreed. It was thought that Drop Posts may be the most effective deterrent to unauthorised parking and some more signage

ACTION – Cllr, Langford to get some quotes for Drop Posts and bring these to the next meeting. He will also arrange for the signage to be made

7. **SHIRLEY ALLOTMENTS:**

Members had asked for a report to this meeting on the position regarding the income for the charity.

ACTION – Report for next meeting from the Locum Clark

8. **BURIAL BOARD:**

Cllr. Brake was concerned about the progress of some agenda items from the last meeting but, due to the Clerk's absence this was understandable, however clarification on status would be helpful.

- i) A decision had been made to do the repointing and all costs had been included in the budget agreed by the Council
Repointing Cemetery Wall - £7000 - Mike Latchford Construction
ACTION – Update required on this status from the Locum Clark
- ii) It was agreed that new registers are to be purchased to record Burials and Interments but it is not known if this has been done.

ACTION – Update on status form the Locum Clerk

- iii) At the last meeting it was agreed, that in order to keep all records safe, all records should be kept in a Fire Safe Box which would also be purchased. Cllr Vine was asked to get some quotes. However, it is thought that the Parish Clerk may have a Parish Filing cabinet in her home office.

ACTION – Cllr Brake to confer with Cllr. Vine and an audit of council property needs to be carried out.

- iv) Some missing records have been located but more still need to be found to ensure all Burial Records are accounted for.

9. **PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT:** The meeting was informed that all was going well

10. **PARISH FOOTPATHS AND RIGHT OF WAY:**

- i) As discussed with residents above. However, the status on progress from Cllr Thierry regarding the response to a resident's report to the Rights of Way Team (Hampshire Council) needs following up.

ACTION – Cllr Thierry to be invited to the next meeting to check on progress

- ii) Cllr. Langford has received requests form Heatherstone Grange residents that a footpath be made between the development and Sopley Village. It was agreed that this would be desirable but the land between the two sites was owned by a variety of different landowners.

ACTION – Cllr Shutler to arrange a meeting with Mr Dan Tanner, Landowner, to discuss the possibility of having a footpath on his land which would cover much of the path.

11. **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: As discussed above**

12 **COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** The Chair invited the District Councillor to report any current issues.

Cllr. Ring gave an update on the current discussions at NFDC regarding waste collection and the introduction of wheelie bins. He urged residents to make any submissions for exemptions in plenty of time when this was announced, as alternative provisions can be made in some circumstances.

Cllr Ring asked to be kept informed of any issues regarding Ukrainian Guests towards the end of the hosting scheme if there were any, NHDC are still discussing the way forward on this issue

i) **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS:**

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 item of business on the grounds that publicity may be prejudicial to the public interest or because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- i) Clerk to the Council/RFO:

The meeting concluded at 22.15pm

NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING: TBC

