



**Meeting held of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
At Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 20th July 2023 – 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Vines, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Dunn, Cllr McDonnell, District Cllr Linford and Mrs K Hughes (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

The clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate. In the Chairs absence it was agreed that Cllr Vines (vice-chair) would Chair the meeting.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

- An update was requested re the traffic calming reported to HH in Derritt Lane. The Clerk reported there was no update available as yet. **ACTION: Clerk to chase.**
- The overgrown hedgerows were raised also in Derritt Lane. The MOP's were advised that these problems should be reported on the Hampshire Highway website. If they are unable then please email the Clerk and it will be logged and reported.
- HH Road closure signs are still dumped on the roadside. **ACTION: Clerk to ask for removal.**
- The Cats eyes which have been replaced opposite the Old Post Office in Sopley Village were reported to be an improvement on the previous "raised" ones.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Chair Shutler and Cllr Allen.

3. Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation. There were none received by received by the Clerk.

4. The Minutes of the Sopley Parish Council meeting held on 19th June 2023 were circulated and approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

- **Any Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

A Parishioner from Heatherstone Grange had requested that the Minutes be amended and that "asking for a loan" from SPC to place an order for the Coronation Bench be removed. This request was circulated to all Council members and it was **Resolved that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting held on 19th June and would NOT be amended.**

The Minutes were approved by all Council members present and signed by Vice Cllr Vines.

4. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING: (All Council Members)

ACTION LIST UPDATE:

- The Chair ran through the current Action List and Cllr Partridge advised that ownership of the land where the Hedgerows/trees are overgrown from opposite Moorlands (the West side of B3347) and down to the Woolpack on the left-hand side of B3347 should be archived for now as HH are dealing with ownership.

Cont:-

- Cllr Dunn asked if there could be bulbs purchased in the Autumn for the triangle at the bottom of Priest lane as the current hedges had died and been removed. **All Council members approved this purchase. The Clerk reported there were funds available for up to £100 from a donation years ago from Cllr Woodfield. ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Dunn.**
- Coronation Bridge Opening and signage. The Clerk to source signs and lettering and circulate to Council members and to bear in mind Sopley Village Fete is to be held on 9th September 2023. 12 to 4pm. **ACTION: Clerk.**
- Avon Valley Path entering Vatchers Common. Clerk to email landowners regarding access to Vatchers Common. Council members all approved that the area should be cleared when access is granted or have further discussions as to whether to keep the tenancy. Notice would need to be given by 29th September 2023 with a year's notice. Council is keen to rectify the liability for the land and the possible Community usage of the area. It was noted that the Ramblers will soon be complaining regarding access to the Avon Valley Footpath. If the tenancy is upheld, then it was suggested that a "Working Party" would be formed to include Council members and local parishioners. **ACTION: Clerk.**

5. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: (Katie Hughes - Clerk)

- **The following payments were approved for payment and authorised by all Council Members.**

		Amount
Supplier to be paid		
Outdoor Designs - cemetery	April/May/June	£1,260.00
HMRC _ tax backpay KH	April/May	£1,169.18
HALC - JA Planning Training	inv 6027	£57.60
Clerk - July 2023	-	£944.20
		£3,430.98
Supplier already paid		
Phil Emmel (Gift for Mr Picksley)	-	£40.00
National Allotments Membership	Annually	£66.00
Clerk tax refund	20/06/2023	£26.00
Pennon HG Water 01/01-10/05	quarterly	£226.03
Barry McDonnell	Screwfix	£30.98
Bench paint - repay Clerk	Dee	£32.94
New Forest Disability	Grant	£50.00
Staples	1365650	£93.97
Cilca handbook - repay Clerk	-	£73.84
DCH Pest Control - wasp nest Mill Lane	Inv 366	£72.00
Laptop cable - repay Clerk	Amazon	£11.88
Penon water cemetery	DD	£6.89
Do The Numbers - Internal Audit	12/1456	£320.00
		£1,050.53
To pay out:		£3,430.98
Already Paid Out:		£1,050.53
To pay in:	VAT to reclaim	£25.10
Funds available:		£34,760.60

Current Account	18/07/2023	£35,608.17
Deposit account		£0.21
Allotments account		£2,515.52
Allotments account 2		£42.58
Parish Hall Account		£2,995.84
	Total:	£41,162.32
<i>Thorney Hill Centre</i>		£1,050.00
<i>Lengthsman Scheme</i>		£1,050.00

The clerk reported that the following items had been circulated to all Council members, **approved and signed by Cllr Vines**:

- Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 20th July 2023.
- VAT reclaim completed for period 010423-300623. Funds Received in full totalling £2383.84.
- The clerk reported the matters to be addressed from Internal Auditors Report and actions to be taken. **Approved by all Council members present.**
 - Committees abolished.
 - GDPR – no initials in Minutes.
 - Budget/precept only from Scribe Accounting Software from Nov 2023
 - National Allotment Membership – purchased 21/06/23.
 - Update in 2023 – HR and Data Policies

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- Highways S115 agreement for Coronation Planters. Clerk to resend maps to Council Members received from HH and Council members to pinpoint SPC owned land for planter placement and report back to her. **ACTION: Clerk**
- A request was received from a Heatherstone Grange resident to replace the current stile off Derritt lane on the footpath to HG with a kissing gate. The current one is too high for local residents. This was **NOT** approved for the time being as the landowner was happy with the current stile and close by there is footpath access for walkers and dogs meaning that there is no need to use the current stile placed there. To note all stiles in the area are tagged with NFDC or HH branding.
- Request from Avon resident for additional SID for Avon to slow vehicles entering the village from Avon. There were no plans to make another purchase when the current unit needs moving regularly. Posts and areas for placement to be sourced. **ACTION: Cllr Vines/ Cllr McDonnell.**

7. GRANT FUNDING

- Sopley School – Secret Garden – Learning pod. Reallocate the annual funding from Thorney Hill Community Centre to the School's PTA. Clerk asked to write to Chair of committee advising they need to comply or lose their funding as nothing has been heard at all from them to date after the Clerk wrote to them in 2022. **ACTION: Clerk to write again to the Chair of Thorney Hill Community Centre.**

8. PLANNING: No new applications received.

9. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk)

- A HG resident has offered to oversee and report to Clerk HG Allotments status each month.
- Hedge/Tree trimming on boundary of allotments is required. The Clerk is awaiting a quote. The Clerk is to write to the homeowners on the boundary of the HG Allotments to get their feedback and then source more quotes. **ACTION: Clerk.**

10. BURIAL BOARD REPORT. (Chairman Shutler/Clerk)

- Update on electronic plan of cemetery ongoing – (JA).
- Awaiting quotes sought fencing on right side of cemetery.
- Awaiting quotes for central gravel path. **ACTION: Clerk to Chase current maintenance contractor for their updated quotes again.**

11. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH)

The Clerk reported that Sopley Village Fete will be on Saturday, 9th September 2023, 12 to 4pm. Volunteers are needed and a Fete planning meeting will be held 7pm on 1st August. There is also a bingo evening Friday 21st July in the hall at 7.30pm.

12. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES: (Cllr. Partridge)

Cllr Partridge reported that he had been dealing with a lady after a complaint regarding a crumbling bridge and overgrown footpaths and they had been asked to report online to HH Footpaths and Rights of Way. The Clerk was asked to start a spreadsheet of reports and their reports numbers for all reports submitted.

13. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: (Cllr. Vines)

All items covered previously and clerk asked to chase reports already submitted online.

14. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) – None received.

15. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT. (Cllr Linford)

Cllr Linford reported that wheelie bins would be introduced into the Parish starting in December 2023 starting with garden waste. He also reported that there is to be a safety event on 2nd August at the Ringwood Gateway. He also stated that he had been informed that the Vernon Dene site owners had gone into administration again.

Meeting Closed 8.48pm. (no meeting to be held in August).

Date of next full council meeting Thursday, 21st September 2023

Mrs. K. Hughes
Clerk – Sopley Parish Council

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