



**MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at Sopley Parish Hall on
Thursday, 21st September 2023 – 7.30pm**

Minutes

In attendance: Chairman Shutler, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Allen, Cllr Dunn, Cllr McDonnell, County Cllr Thierry and Mrs K Hughes (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION.

- A stile was reported as broken in Anna Lane on the pig farm footpath and requires replacing.
- The pedestrian gate by Shirley saw mill was reported as being hit by a vehicle. **ACTION: Cllr Shutler to mention to the landowner.**
- The stile at Kennelmans was reported as still not replaced and should be changed to a kissing gate for access with dogs. **ACTION: Cllr Shutler to check his stock for the two kissing gates needed above and then the clerk will gain approval from landowner and source a contractor to install.**
- Speed Indicator Device was mentioned regarding re-locating in the Parish and the following were pin pointed as possible locations:

Poles by cemetery, Derritt Lane – Owls Barn, Derritt Lane – Sopley PYO, Coming out of Village towards Ringwood – Little Chitley raised verge, Ringwood Road (Ripley) Braggers and Thatchers Lane crossroads, Braggers Farm, Meadowbrook, Ringwood Road, Avon Valley Farmhouse, and Silver Mist (current position).

- Poles for SID to be purchased and Councillors are to check if they have any that may be suitable. **ACTION: Cllr Vines and Cllr Partridge to check their privately owned posts that may be suitable. Clerk to source posts from NFDC and alternative suppliers.**
- Road adoptions plans are to be requested from Hampshire CC. **ACTION: Clerk to email requesting plans for Shirley and Ripley.**

2. Apologies were received from: Cllr Vines and Cllr Linford.

3. There were no Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation received by the Clerk.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2023 had been circulated and agreed as a correct record of the Minutes and were signed by the Chair.

Cllr Allen wanted the “west side” of B3347 opposite Moorlands to be added to these minutes.
ACTION: Clerk. Approved by all Council members.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING: (All Council Members for discussion/approval)

- **Co-option:**

The Clerk reported she had been approached by two Parishioners regarding Co-Option, questionnaires had been sent to them but nothing received back at the time of the meeting.

- **ACTION LIST UPDATE** – (DS) Chairman Shutler ran through the Action List and will be updated and circulated by the Clerk with the Minutes of this meeting.
- **Vatchers termination of tenancy:**

It was discussed at length and the Clerk was asked to contact the landowner and express Sopley Parish Council's frustrations at not being able to maintain the Common due to lack of accessibility by the adjoining landowners.

Chair and Clerk to confirm current Tenancy agreement and if necessary an Extraordinary meeting would be called by the Chair. The Clerk told members that she will ensure that they are kept updated. The agreement from 2015 stated notice would need to be given by 29th September 2023. Clerk also to check the Minstead/landowner current Tenancy Agreement.
ACTION: Chair/Clerk.

- **Coronation Bridge Opening:**

The signs have now been received for the "Coronation Bridge" the Chair then showed them those present. A date will be set for the opening once discussions have taken place with the Woolpack and also Derrick Slade who may be asked to open the bridge. Cllr Thierry asked the Clerk to approach the Lord Lieutenant to see if he may be available. It was decided it should be a Saturday. **ACTION: Clerk.**

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

- **The following payments were authorised by all Council Members.** (circulated prior to the meeting).

		Amount
Supplier to be paid		
Outdoor Designs	inv 4709	£420.00
BHIB - new Council Insurance	inv 3043	£1,486.03
Parish Printing - newsletter	inv 10602	£761.00
Sustainable Furniture (HG bench)	inv 107345	£2,405.00
	Total:	£5,072.03
Supplier already paid		
Clerk - September 2023	-	£944.00
PWLB - Hall loan (SPH payment)	-	£1,393.25
PWLB - Hall transfer to SPC	cr	£1,393.25
Clerk - repay microsoft		£79.99
Clerk - recorded delivery post Plot 4		£2.60
Penon - cemetery water	dd	£6.89

Clerk - newsletter postage		£185.00
Cllr McDonnell - telephone box bits	1427-3266	£31.63
Cllr McDonnell – tel box renovation	-	£550.00
Outdoor Designs	Inv - 4686	£420.00
Clerk - August 2023	-	£944.00
JAF Graphics (Coronation signs)	-	£285.00
The Grounds Management (Mlands)	803	£234.00
		£3,683.11
To pay out:		£5,072.03
Paid out:		£3,683.11
To pay in:	<i>VAT to reclaim</i>	£492.61
Funds available:		£26,656.11
Current Account		£28,673.01
Deposit account		£0.21
Allotments account		£2,519.73
Allotments account 2		£42.58
Parish Hall Account		£1,581.59
	Total:	£32,817.12
Thorney Hill Centre		£1,050.00
Lengthsman Scheme		£816.00
Reserves (Nov 23) pedestrian scheme		£14,000.00
Section 137 per elector £8.4	739	£6,214.99

- Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 21st September 2023. **Cllr McDonnell checked the reconciliation to the bank statements and also the payments list and signed them.**
- **The Clerk reported the Annual Insurance had been renewed at a cost of £1406.83** with BHIB instead of Hiscox who had quoted £2900.00 this covers the Council, Hall Management Committee and the Burial Board.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- Dog waste bins at Shirley Common £2450 plus VAT chargeable from 1st April 2024. Clerk was asked to check ownership of the land where the waste bin is situated and also to see if there will be a reduction if the bin is only emptied fortnightly or monthly. General decision was to have them removed but to find out possible reductions in fees nearer the time. **ACTION: Clerk.**
- Planters Consent licence £196 for up to 5 places for 3 years. More areas not owned by HH to be sourced for the planters. **ACTION: ALL.**

8. GRANT FUNDING

- Sopley School PTA.

The annual funding allocated to Thorney Hill Community previously for 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be reassigned to the Parents Teacher Association for the Sopley Secret Garden at Sopley School due to no communication from Thorney Hill after repeated requests. Annual Funding allocation will be looked at in November 2023. **RESOLVED: £1050 to be granted to the PTA. Proposed by Cllr Dunn and Seconded by Cllr McDonnell and agreed by all.**

9. PLANNING:

Costrells Yard – the Clerk confirmed refusal had been sent as a Consultee Comment to NFDC planning.

App No	Address	Applicant	Application	Current Status
23/10751	LITTLE NUTLEY, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BB	Mr & Mrs West	Construct new pavement crossover to highways specification with full construction of pavement	03/08/2023 sent to Cllrs awaiting comments. 07/08/2023 No objection Par 1 submitted to NFDC.
23/10876	12 Marryat Way, Bransgore BH23 8FG	Mr & Mrs Barnett	Single-storey side extension with glazed roof	11/08/2023 sent to Cllrs awaiting Comments 31/08/2023 chased further comments.
23/10940	SOPLEY BARN, DERRITT LANE, BRANSGORE, SOPLEY BH23 8AX	Avon Tyrrell Farms	Change of use of an existing agricultural barn and associated land to be used for B8 Storage (Retrospective)	31/08/2023 sent to Cllrs for comment. 19/09/2023 Refusal submitted.

10. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk)

- Hedge trimming on boundary of allotments. The Clerk is awaiting quotes.
- New tenant in plot 4 very happy after previous Allotment Holder was asked to leave.

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

- Memorial application received for Mr LM Watts (5C1) 100823
- Update on electronic plan of cemetery ongoing – The Clerk and Cllr Allen have met and the Clerk is due to attend a Scribe Cemetery software training course and report back to SPC.
- Interment the late Robert Miles 4aC19 22nd September 2023 at 11am.
- Upcoming purchase of Deed Of Grant - Garden Of Rest for the late Mr Pascoe.

12. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH)

- Sopley Fete was reported as a great success and will be repeated next year with good profits made.
- The hall's "Whats on" poster. The Clerk was asked by Cllr Dunn to express that she felt the poster needed more information. **ACTION:** Clerk to email the Hall Manager.

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

- Shirley Common – Cllr Allen reported the footpath was almost impassable. **ACTION:** Chair Shutler will attend and cut back the path adjacent to Shirley Common.
- Cllr Partridge was pleased that all Highways and ROW reports are now being tracked with their Tracking number so evidence is readily available.
- Moorlands College have offered Parish maintenance help on 22nd September 2023.

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

No report was available due to Cllr Vines absence, but it was felt that most areas had been covered under other Agenda items.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry)

Cllr Thierry reported that a Council had recently gone bust. Eastleigh Borough Council was reported as financially in difficulty. He also mentioned he was saddened that wheelie bins in some areas were being installed. Some people in rural areas have hidden theirs in hedges.

16. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT. (Cllr Linford/Millington)

No report was available and apologies were given by Cllr. Linford.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next full council meeting Thursday, 19th October, 2023

Mrs. K. Hughes
Clerk – Sopley Parish Council

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