



Minutes of MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 21st December 2023 – 7.00pm
By Mrs. K. Hughes Clerk – Sopley Parish Council

MINUTES

In attendance: Chairman Shutler, Cllr Allen, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Vines, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Linford and Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION. None.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr Adaway, for a personal commitment.

3. Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation received by the Clerk.

None were received.

Item 14 – District Councillors report was moved before item 4. Cllr Linford had to leave early due to work commitments: -

- He stated that he had been monitoring the flooding issues in the Parish and that the responsibility was mainly down to the landowners in the problem areas.
- He reported that Cllr Michael Thierry had been suffering with ill health for a few months and wanted Sopley Parish Council to be aware.
- He mentioned the closing of two Doctors surgeries in Bransgore and Burton and how this would impact the local parishes. He suggested communicating with Cllr Desmond Swayne may be an option and he stated that Twin Oaks Doctors Surgery was still taking new patients.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 were approved as read and agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair there were no matters arising.

Updates regarding Flooding in Derritt Lane - (Cllr. McDonnell) Item Moved for Cllr Nigel Linford.

- Flood Resilience Scheme was discussed. Steve Melpas has been in contact with the owners of the Bridge House in Mill Lane.
- The facebook post detailing how to report flooding will be updated by Cllr McDonnell with updated contact information. **ACTION: Cllr McDonnell.**
- 2024 Newsletter will feature flood reporting information.
- A Sopley/Ripley Emergency plan will be implemented in the New Year and Cllr McDonnell will take responsibility as Sopley Parish Council's Flood Warden.
- A new mobile app was announced from Hampshire County Council and people were urged to report problems using it – "Our Hants".

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

ACTION LIST UPDATE – (DS)

- Ongoing kissing gate replacements, Cllr Shutler will communicate with the contractor the Clerk has found. **ACTION: Cllr Shutler.**
- “Lengthsman” for ongoing Parish Maintenance – Cllr Vines contact will be instructed on a day to day basis and will charge £20 per hour.
- Welcome gates will be painted in the better weather in January 2024. **ACTION: Cllr Vines.**

The 2019 Tree survey on Parish Council land previously completed by The Tree Management Company needs updating.

The clerk has received a quote to complete this for £165 plus VAT. **It was approved and agreed by all Council members to instruct them to do this.** The Clerk is also to find out other areas in the Parish that need tree surveys completing. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

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

- The following payments were agreed and approved to be made by all Council Members.

Supplier to be paid		
Outdoor Designs	Inv 4808	£420.00
Tree Management Co	Inv 5071	£800.00
	Total:	£1,220.00
Supplier already paid		
Cllr McDonnell	red ribbon (18/11/23)	£6.89
Source for Business (Allotment water)	4083904880	£82.39
Clerk	Dec-23	£992.00
Pennon - cemetery water	-	£6.89
		£1,088.17
To pay out:		£1,380.00
Paid:		£1,088.17
To pay in:	<i>VAT to reclaim</i>	£160.00
Funds available:		
Current Account		£34,718.65
Deposit account		£0.21
Allotments account		£3,224.53
Allotments account 2		£92.58
Parish Hall Account		£1,581.59
	Total:	£39,617.56
Lengthsman Scheme		£1,916.00
Section 137 per elector £9.93	739	£7,338.27

- The Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 21st December 2023 were circulated and approved by all Council members.
- The clerk reported that the Vat reclaim for period 1st July to 30th November 2023 had been completed and the monies received and paid into the Current Account for £790.98.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- Highways correspondence regarding encroachment onto Highways causing flooding. The clerk reported that NO official communication had been received so there was nothing to discuss at this point in time.

8. TO APPROVE BUDGET AND PRECEPT for 2024-2025.

The precept and budget agreed at the earlier Finance meeting held this evening was to be applied for at £36,000. This is just above a 5% increase. To the electorate it will mean an annual increase per elector of £5.55. **The precept and 2024-2025 budget was agreed and approved by all Council members present. (budget attached).**

9. PLANNING:

19/12/2023	CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
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.
23/10940	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.
23/11078	COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	Avon Tyrrell Farms	Erection of a new agricultural building	22/10/2023 sent to Cllrs for comment 17/11/2023 comments submitted to NFDC
23/10742	COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	Mr McCowen - Avon Tyrrell Estate	The installation of 3 rows of solar array panels; battery and tranformer structures; access	22/10/2023 sent to Cllrs for comment 14/11/2023 closing date 17/11/23 will submit after Council meeting 16/11/23 17/11/2023 comments submitted to NFDC.

23/11170	THE OLD CART SHED, COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	Avon Tyrrell Farms	Demolition of the existing barn; replacement with a new building to be used for commercial space (Class E (g) (retrospective)	27/11/2023 to cllrs for comment or meeting referral. 08/12/2023 refusal submitted to NFDC.
23/11155	TYRRELLS FORD, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BQ	Mr & Mrs Bowley	Proposed single-storey 6 bay garage and carport for private car use; new courtyard wall & gates	29/11/2023 sent to cllrs for comment or meeting referral. 19/12/2023 Par 1 permission sent to NFDC.
23/01567FULL NFNPA	UK YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRE, Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre, WHITEFIELD HILL, AVON TYRRELL, CHRISTCHURCH, BH23 8EE		New building for use as Experiential Learning & Sports Centre; parking; tracks (Demolition of existing storage building)	08/12/2023 sent to Councillors for comment by 15th January 2024,

- The Chairman addressed the Council and stated that access to land where planning has been applied for must be done with permission granted from the landowner for all applications. No Council members should access private land without prior permission.

10. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk)

- All invoices have been sent to Allotment holders totalling £435 for 2024.

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

Nothing to report.

12. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH)

A bingo evening is scheduled for 19th January 2024 at 7pm for 7.30pm eyes down.

13. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES: (Cllr. Partridge) - All previously discussed.

14. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: Cllr Vines reiterated to now use the “Our Hants” app for reporting of potholes etc.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) - COUNCILLOR REPORT. (Cllr Linford/Millington) - Comments were received as above from Cllr Linford.

Meeting closed at 8.21 pm

Date of next full council meeting Thursday, 18th January 2024 – 7.30pm