



**Minutes of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 21st March 2024 – 7.30pm**

MINUTES

In attendance: - Chairman Shutler, Cllr, Dunn, Cllr Adaway, Cllr Partridge, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Allen, Cllr Vines, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION.

- A Parishioner from Heatherstone Grange asked for confirmation of Sopley Parish Council's expenditure and on what the funds were spent. The Clerk directed her to the website and the AGAR's available online. She also offered the Clerk email address for specific enquiries.
- They also wanted to know how to apply for Grants and Community projects funding. The Clerk directed them to the Grant Application form on the website and also said if there were Community Projects then they should be emailed to the Clerk and they would be circulated to SPC Members. Proposals received would be added to future Agendas for discussion. The Clerk also said that the first of the Grant application windows would be open to accept applications in April 2024.
- Cllr Partridge highlighted the Local Government Act 1972, S137 which currently is set at £9.93 per elector. An example was given of 250 Heatherstone Grange residents would equate to approximately **£2480.00 per annum**. It was stated that out of £147,000 precept monies received that they had only benefitted from £6,000 in the **past five years**.
- The "hoggin" footpath that Heatherstone residents would like was raised. SPC members confirmed that the landowner had no wish to have this on his land. **RESOLVED: Landowner has no wish for a footpath in Derritt Lane on his land.** The Clerk confirmed that NO CiL bid application was submitted for this path. As no measurements or costings had been received to complete the application by the Cllr managing the bid. It was suggested to the Parishioners that they should approach Hampshire Highways to enquire about the possibility of having a path on their verge.
- **NFDC own and is responsible for the Open Spaces (green areas) at HG, not the estate infrastructure.** Their current Management Committee Trinity is still involved with them. They stated they are £20,000 pa worse off than previously.

- Cllr Allen agreed that he would make some investigations and supply HG with the costings. The Clerk quoted from an email from Cllr Partridge on 15th June 2023 that the costings could be anywhere between £800,000 and £1.2 million for the path that they wish to have installed (these figures are not for a hoggin path). **ACTION: Cllr Allen agreed to provide some plans, measurements and costings to HG and SPC for confirmation.**

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received by Cllr Neil Millington.

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

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2024 were confirmed as a true record and were approved by all Council members and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes: None.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

ACTION LIST UPDATE – Chairman Shutler ran through the current Action list.

- Kissing gates for replacement at Harpway Lane – the Clerk was asked to Chase the Ground Maintenance Company to attend and quote for the intallations. **ACTION: Clerk to email them.**
- New Parish maintenance man has now supplied his Public Liability Insurance certificate to the Clerk so will be able to start planned works next week.
- Cllr Vines confirmed he will address the Welcome gates within a couple of weeks.
- Sopley School - no reports had been received from them re flooding. **ACTION: Clerk to chase the school for details of reports and any incidents.**
- **FLOODING:** - Cllr McDonnell reported that he had been corresponding and had meetings with Bransgore PC, Cllr McCormack, BCP and Hampshire Highways and the Environment Agency.
 - The culverts are fine in Derritt Lane.
 - Every blocked drain is to be blasted in Burley Road, Fish Street and Derritt Lane.
 - A lot of the Ditches around the Parish are blocked.
 - Cllr McDonnell confirmed that blockages had been found in the pipes outside 64 and 65 Fish Street but have been reported to Highways.
 - Pipes were also found to be blocked outside Dan Tanner's in Derritt Lane.
 - Highways have been repeatedly invited and should be asked to attend again future SPC meetings.

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

- The following schedule of payments had already been circulated by email and were **authorised and approved by all Council Members for payment.**

21/03/2024	Invoice no:	Amount
Supplier to be paid		
HALC - Planning course Maria	6315	£57.60
Outdoor Designs	4876	£420.00
HALC - knowledge course Maria	6393	£98.00
Microsoft	-	£59.99
	Total:	£635.59
Supplier already paid		
Clerk March		£992.00
Williams Monumental	Grave correction	£120.00
Giff Gaff		£6.00
Water Cemetery		£3.80
		£1,121.80
To pay out:		£655.19
Paid out:		£1,121.80
To pay in:	<i>VAT to reclaim</i>	£49.20
Funds available:		
Current Account		£27,780.78
Deposit account		£50.31
Allotments account		£3,234.99
Allotments account 2		£42.58
Parish Hall Account		£1,581.59
	Total:	£32,690.25
Lengthsman Scheme		£1,916.00
Section 137 per elector £9.93	739 electors	£7,338.27

- The Bank Balances and Reconciliation had been circulated to all members as at 19th March 2024 **these were checked and approved and duly signed by the Chairman.**
- The Clerk confirmed that Eleanor Dunne from Do The Numbers Internal Auditors had been instructed to complete the Internal Audit for the 2023/2024 Financial year on 7th June 2024 at the Clerks home address. **RESOLVED: Internal Audit booked for 7th June 2024 at 1pm.**
- D Day 80th celebrations 6th June 2024. Cllr Dunn kindly offered her garden to host if an event was planned. **ACTION: The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Hall Committee and report back.**
- FONFA are having a service of remembrance that will be held at the memorial followed by a social gathering and refreshments at The Heritage Centre– the former RAF Sopley Radar Centre (Mosquito Way, Bransgore) on Saturday 6th June at 2pm. **ACTION: Cllrs to let Clerk know if they wish to attend.**

- HM Charles III portrait placement. The Clerk confirmed she had ordered the “free” portrait and if it arrives a decision will be made regarding placement.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- An Email had been received from a resident re HG Management Committee. It was decided that there was no need for further discussion at this point after this was raised in Public Participation earlier.

8. PLANNING:

21/03/2024	CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
App No	Address	Applicant	Application	Current Status
23/10751	LITTLE NUTLEY, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BB	Mr & Mrs West	Full planning permission reate new access to dwelling; dropped kerb; gate; remove short section of wall and fencing.	22/01/2024 new planning application (same number) sent to members. 21/03/2024 awaiting further comments from SPC.
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	17/11/2023 comments submitted to NFDC. 21/03/2024 ongoing.
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))	19/03/2024 Granted stc
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	29/02/2024 decided granted subject to conditions.
23/01567 FULL 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)	16/01/2024 Cllrs Allen, Dunn and McDonnell visited and approval given to NFNPA. 21/03/2024 awaiting decision.

24/10082	FERNHILLS, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Mr and Mrs Bryant	Proposed dormer to rear elevation	05/02/2024 sent cllrs for comment. 21/03/2024 agreed to approve par 1.
TPO/24/0108	Tyrells Ford Hotel, Tyrells Park, Ringwood Road, Avon, Christchurch, BH23 7BQ		Various Trees - Fell/prune as per submitted schedule	04/03/2024 comments by 1st April 2024
24/10163	COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	Mr Manners - Avon Tyrrell Estate	Variation of condition 2 of application 22/10127 to allow revised window and door openings	04/03/2024 sent for comments expires 290324
24/10173	Land adj HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Mrs Mitchell	Construction of dwelling (Outline application - access layout and scale only)	07/03/2024 comments by 5th April 2024 21/03/24 agreed to approve par 1.
24/10198	11 ARNWOOD DRIVE, BRANSGORE, SOPLEY BH23 8FH	Mr Nibbs	Loft conversion including rear dormer with juliette balcony and front rooflights.	12/03/2024 request comments by 5th April .

9. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk) – nothing to report.

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

- The Clerk reported a water bill increase for the cemetery to £7.16 per month.
- She reported that the plaque for incorrect Burial is due this week.

11. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH)

- The Clerk gave an Update on the Section 143 Notice – an email had been received yesterday confirming a solicitor has been instructed. Cllr Partridge suggested to the Clerk that clarification of the legal pack would be the first thing to ask of him when he calls. The Clerk was asked to chase up drainage plans for the Parish.
ACTION: Clerk to chase drainage plans.
- The clerk confirmed she will circulate a monthly account update to all Council members. The Clerk was asked to obtain a General report from the Hall Committee for each SPC meeting regarding the day to day running of the hall by them.

- **SOPLEY PARISH HALL MONTHLY ACCOUNT UPDATE:**

Opening Nat West bank balance on 1st February = £15924.06

Total income = £2174.79

Total expenditure = £814.26

Surplus = £1360.53

Closing bank balance on 29th February = £17284.59

12. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES: (Cllr. Partridge) - Nothing to report.

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

- Cllrs Vines reported that the Speedwatch Scheme was still on hold.
- He agreed to circulate the data collected from the SID outside the Clerk's home. **ACTION: Cllr Vines to report data from SID to SPC members as soon as he can.**

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

15. COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Linford/Millington) – None received.

Meeting closed at 9.08 pm

Date of next full council meeting Monday, 15th April 2024 at 7.30 pm