



**Draft MINUTES of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 20th February 2025 at 7.30pm**

In attendance: - Chair Vines, Cllr Dunn, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Shutler, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

Thanks were received from a local family for the support of Sopley Parish Council members in their planning application no: - 24/01476FULL.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from: - Cllr Allen, Cllr Adaway, Cllr Partridge and Cllr Frampton. Apologies were also received from Cynthia Hiscock.

3. There were no Interest or requests for dispensation received by the Clerk.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2025 were approved by all Council members and duly signed by the Chair.

- No matters were arising from these Minutes.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

ACTION LIST UPDATE – (GV):

- One of the kissing gates had been replaced and the second one at Kennelman's is to be installed shortly.
- The issues with the ongoing downloading of data from the SID may have been solved with an application that Chair Vines will download and report at the next meeting.
- It was to be noted that signage and a table belonging to Sopley Salads had gone missing on 15th February 2025. This was after Highways had asked regarding licences for signage on the Harrison Memorial Garden. Nothing had been received officially from them regarding this by the Clerk.
- Fencing requested by Cllr Dunn for the above garden were decided to not be viable at this time.
- Wessex internet are to be approached regarding planting more bulbs on this green area after it was reported that it had been trampled during the installation works.

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, duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.**

20/02/2025		Amount
Supplier to be paid	Invoice no:	
SID security key	5283	£20.81
Staples	2744210	£37.55
Safety4signs – No parking	2859043	£149.42
Barry post fixings	-	£6.91
Outdoor Designs	5101	£465.00
		£679.69
Supplier already paid		
Harts's - encroachment (1/2)	7620	£14,900.00
Penon – cemetery water	-	£7.16
Cilca exam fee	-	£62.50
Street solutions – cones/tape	33998	£54.44
Amazon – interim signage		£88.23
PAYE – FEB	-	£1,015.80
Adobe – pro	-	£19.97
Clerk giff gaff		£6.00
SLCC annual membership	-	£202.00
		£16,356.10
Credits		
SPH		£457.37
HMRC VAT		£3,813.00
HG Allotment – Plot 3		£35.00
		£4,305.37
To pay out:		£679.69
Paid out:		£16,356.10
VAT to claim		£0.00
Funds available:		£32,932.76
Current Account		£29,552.69
Allotments for Labouring Poor a/c		£4,008.94
Deposit account		£50.82
Deposit account		£50.82
	Total:	£33,813.27

- The Bank Balances and Reconciliation to 17th February 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting by email. These were checked, **approved and duly signed by the Chair.**
- The Clerk reported that the VAT has been reclaimed for Harts for the encroachment remedial works.
- The clerk confirmed that the **Internal audit** has been booked for 6th June 2025 1pm with Eleanor Green from Do the Numbers at the registered Council address.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- An email had been received from a Parishioner in Derritt Lane. It stated that the ditch on the Bransgore side of the bridge in Derritt Lane is still full, although the riverbank is low. Highways are not going to get involved and that the riparian responsibilities were being dealt with by them direct with the landowners.
- The clerk reported a planned electric power outage has been received from Southern Electric for 20th March for 5 hours. 8.30am to 2pm.
- It was reported Wessex internet broadband Burton and Sopley are due to go live next week but not Ringwood Road, Sopley. Cllr McDonnell is in communication with Vicky Missen of Wessex Internet.

8. UPDATE ON SECTION 143 NOTICE – PARISH HALL ENCROACHMENT:

- The Clerk has been asked to investigate the ramp lighting and was it disconnected during the remedial works updates to follow.
- It was discussed and confirmed that the removal of locking posts will be completed after the grass verges have become more established.

9. PLANNING: a monthly update on all applications was reported as below by the Clerk.

20/02/2025		CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS	
Date received	App No	Address	Current Status
18/02/2025	25/10148	11 BURNT HOUSE LANE, BRANSGORE, SOPLEY BH23 8DD	18/02/2025 sent to Cllrs for comment
03/02/2025	24/01476FULL	SHIRLEY FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, SHIRLEY, BRANSGORE, CHRISTCHURCH, BH23 8EH	17/02/2025 pending decision
30/01/2025	23/10742	COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	17/02/2025 pending decision
15/01/2025	25/00022OHL	Christchurch (CHRI) E6L5 11kV Circuit	17/02/2025 pending decision
12/11/2024	24/01313 FULL	TREESCAPE, THATCHERS LANE, SHIRLEY, BRANSGORE, CHRISTCHURCH, BH23 8EG	17/02/2025 pending decision
23/10/2024	24/10835	SOUTHWINDS, NORTH RIPLEY ROAD, RIPLEY, SOPLEY, BH23 8ES	17/02/2025 extension of time awaiting update
22/10/2024	24/10922	SABINES, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BQ	17/02/2025 extension of time awaiting update
	23/11078	COURT FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, AVON, SOPLEY BH23 7BG	20/02/2024 Grant stc

10. FLOODING UPDATE (Cllr McDonnell):

- A meeting with Cllr Frampton is to be arranged suggesting improvements in Derritt Lane.
- It was reported that the bridge in Derritt Lane has been repaired 9 times in 2 years.

11. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk) –

- The Clerk reported that there are currently 3 outstanding allotment rental invoices, and they had been chased re payment.

12. BURIAL BOARD REPORT. (Chairman Vines/Clerk): -

- Quotes have been received for the following: -
 - Quote 420 - for hedge bordering property, clearing consecrated ground, burning all waste and leaves from cemetery, £510.00. The Clerk proposed for these works to go ahead as there is money available in the cemetery budget. **RESOLVED: All members present approved these works to go ahead.**
 - Quote 421 - Front spoil area £960.
 - Quote 422 - Maintenance quote for £547.00 pm received from GMC including Welcome to Sopley Gates on B3347 maintenance.
- Still waiting on a 3rd quote for regular maintenance for the cemetery.

13. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH)

- Hall access and notifications to Hall Manager. – further information to be reported on 20th March SPC meeting.
- The Clerk reported that Sopley Parish Hall Manager & secretary stepping down as trustees.
- The current treasurer was reported to be stepping down as trustee and resigning as Treasurer. *The Clerk advertised the vacancy.*

Opening Nat West bank balance on 1st January = £12029.42
Total income = £1144.46
Total expenditure = £896.85
Surplus = £274.61
Closing bank balance on 30th January = £12277.03

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

- Correspondence from Rosehill Drive re hedge cutting on 2nd February 2025 had been received and it was confirmed that it was a neighbour and not an official from NFDC.

15. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: (Chair Vines/McDonnell) – No update.

16. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) – No report received.

17. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Linford/Frampton)

Cllr Linford reported the following:

- It is not looking likely that the sewage treatment plant for Wyatt Homes will get approval.
- He stated that meetings and further events will be held for Members in relation to the Devolution plans for Hampshire.
- Wheelie bins for the parish have been pushed back to at the earliest August 2025.
- He is still chasing the “non-delivery” of black and recycling bags for the Parish.
- He also stated that he may be able to fund the refreshments for the Annual Assembly.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Date of next full council meeting

Thursday, 20th March 2025 at 7.30 pm