

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Date: 24 th January 2022		Venue & Time: South Milton Village Hall, 19.30hrs
Present: Cllr Anne Berryman Cllr Marion Brice Cllr Paul Booker (in the Chair) Cllr Graham Collyer Cllr Graham Jinks Cllr Tim Lewis Cllr Nick Townsend	In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Clerk & Minute taker Dist. Cllr Mark Long Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/Guests Present: 4	Apologies: NT Ranger, Emma Reece

REF 2021/22 MINUTES

116 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

117 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No Declarations of Interest were received.

118 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 6th December without alteration, they were then signed by the Chairman.

119 CLERKS REPORT:

- a. EV Charging Points: SHDC have asked for proposed sites for EV charging sites. If anyone knows of any suitable sites for potential EV charging points, please forward this information to the parish clerk.

120 PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM (allocated time not longer than 15 minutes, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 2 minutes as per Standing Orders):

- a. Noted that SHDC planners have asked for a six-week extension to the Wakeham planning application.
- b. In one year, the WI will be 90, they would like to create a mosaic and site it outside the cemetery. A design will be submitted in due course.
- c. Report Received from NT Ranger Emma Reece –
We will be installing further chestnut paling fencing to protect the dunes from trampling before the main season and will also install a replacement boardwalk on the top section opposite the toilet block. No further update on the outfall pipe other than it is being costed up by engineers before an MMO application is progressed. We will also be carrying out some maintenance work on the car park and track before Easter.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: Rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

Waste

- 2020 statistics for the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Plymouth which processes some 65,000 tonnes of our waste each year from the South and West of the County.
 - Overall Waste Processed 261,000 Tonnes.
 - Electricity Generated 204,000 MWh.
 - Steam Generated 57,000 MWh.
 - Plant Availability 88.93% (target 91%);
 - Co2 Savings 84,000 Tonnes.
 - Landfill Diversion 99.9%
 - Cash Savings (Vs Landfill) approx. £12million

Afghan Refugees

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- We now have about 150 refugees in the county temporarily housed in hotels in Exeter and Exmouth with a number of rescued cats and dogs from the well-publicised animal sanctuary in the Tiverton area. We should be paid back monetarily by the Home Office, but staff are becoming increasingly stretched by lack of resources.

DCC Finances

- In the year 2010/11 DCC employed 6,500 full time staff. It is now 4,500 full time staff.
- In 2013/14 The government revenue support grant was £140 Million and is now £1/2 Million.
- Required cost savings for 2022/23 are £387 Million.
- DCC's net revenue budget for 21/22 was £545 Million of which Council Tax contributed £440 Million with Adult Social Services taking 49%, Children's Services 27% and Highways 10%
- Government Covid support grant funding for DCC was £17 Million last year.

ROADS

With so much rain falling these days and particularly in winter it's hard to affect any repairs. Filling potholes full of water does not work and not filling them annoys the public. Schedules slip as does quality. Please keep reporting problems via the DCC website report a problem.

The CCTV report re the flooding issue has shown that there is tarmac blocking the pipe, Highways have raised an order for the tarmac to be dug out of the pipe/chamber and issued another order for a large gully wagon and jetting system to attend at the same time. Cllr Lewis advised the councillors that some work has been undertaken at the site today although we are not sure exactly what was done.

The white lines in Mill Lane are to indicate where initial patching will be completed before it is dressed in approximately one year. The Highways team have also removed the mud build up in the area.

BEACH STEPS

The beach steps issue has been raised with Cllr Gilbert by a parishioner. Cllr Townsend advised the owner has submitted a planning application for signage. Cllr Pearce is due to visit the site with an engineer to determine if it can be declared a dangerous structure. Devon County Council has agreed to adopt the steps once they have been upgraded.

REPORT IT:

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Judy Pearce: cldr.judy.pearce@southhams.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cldr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

1. Budget proposals have now been published with £200k set aside to initiate community composting schemes, several parishes already have these (South Brent is a good example) and they work very well. Any scheme of this nature would be run and managed by the parish.
2. With precept discussions coming up shortly it should be noted that the Government is proposing to have a consultation to consider limiting parishes precept increases in the same way that SHDC and DCC are limited.

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3. SHDC Have been awarded monies for Omicron grants. The majority of businesses who qualify will receive a maximum payment of £3k with some large businesses receiving up to £6k. SHDC have already contacted previous grant recipients to advise if they qualify. The government have recently advised that if holiday homes are going to apply for the grant, they will have to provide clear evidence that they have been trading as such.
4. ARG monies have also been received - SHDC can allocate these themselves and are concentrating on those businesses who were in the supply chain (food/drink) for local hospitality businesses.
5. Business Rates on second homes are being changed. From 2023, second homeowners will have to submit evidence if they want to remain on business rates, those without the right evidence will be returned to the payment of council tax.
6. There is an offer of up to £5,000 for people who live in social housing who would like to downsize. This quarter SHDC have delivered nearly 50 affordable properties.
7. The improvement plan that SHDC have been working on in respect of the planning team is moving on well, there should be a full team in place by the end of March following the recruitment of four additional planning officers and two lawyers. This will ensure fewer delays and issues in respect of both planning and enforcement. Planning case numbers remain high with over 800 active cases in the South Hams.
8. The homeless strategy is in development, housing officers are actively pursuing 'rough sleepers' to help improve their housing situation. There has been a bigger issue with homelessness over the past year as more properties have been transferred into Airbnb or similar. The homelessness strategy will be going out to consultation shortly. Full details of housing strategy update are available online.
9. Re the waste service, information is still awaited from FCC re the recommencement of the brown bin service. It is hoped they will be in position to start it again in March 2022.
10. SHDC are talking with Environment Agency re notices to be sited at the lagoon. Noted one of the signs is now in the sea and may be hazardous – it was able to be seen at low tide but may have now washed away completely.

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>

Missed Bins, Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged/Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

121 PLANNING:

- a. **Applications** received by the Parish Council and under discussion and consideration for the last period. Any recommendation by the Parish Council to the Planning Department is noted after the application details. Those without comment remain under discussion.

NOTE: When providing a response to applications, the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan will be referenced.

- 0017/22/LBC & 0016/22/HHO, Greenaway, new garden room. **SMPC Support.**
- 3748/21/FUL, South Milton Nursery & Flower Farm, temporary agricultural worker dwelling. **SMPC deferred a decision pending updated information from applicant.**
- 4426/21/COM, Airband, intention to install telecommunications equipment cabinet. SHDC Approved. Cllr Brooker discussed the location with the Airband team, they have suggested a site in Thurlestone, Cllr Brooker asked them to consider either Backshay Close or the burial ground as the new location. We await developments.

Decisions:

- 2769/21/HHO, 7 Sunnyside, Single storey rear extension. **SHDC Conditional Approval**
- 2664/21/FUL, Tolcarne, Demolition & construction of new building **SHDC Conditional Approval**
- 4178/21/FUL, Wakeham Farm, Demolition & Replacement with 4 dwellings. **SHDC No Decision**
- 4194/21/VAR, The Old Chapel, Variation of Condition 4. **SHDC No Decision**

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b. Enforcement issues: Continue to be dealt with.

Please will all parishioners provide the Clerk with full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach

Cllr Pearce left the meeting.

122 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a) Village Sign in Milton Lane: The sign requires replacement or bending back into position. To avoid it being damaged again it should be re-sited. Cllrs Brooker & Collyer to view potential sites and feedback to full council.
- b) Platinum Jubilee: A committee will be formed to organise a street party to celebrate the occasion. Some funding has been built into the 2022/23 budget for this purpose.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan update:

The Dairy site, we have been advised that progress is hopeful within the next twelve months. To expedite the car park and play area, a plan will be drawn up for both by the architect for the village hall redevelopment.

No progress has been made on the projects identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, except that a permissive path has been made from Mill Lane to the coast.

The policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan had proved effective to date but it was felt that the further control was needed on the growth of second homes through a Principal Residency policy. Cllr Townsend advised that 31% of the homes in the parish were identified as second homes in 2015 and since then a further eight second homes had been identified, all in the core of the village. Cllr Townsend summarised that the proposed Principal Residency policy would require, as a condition of approval, that all additional homes, whether newly constructed or converted, include a Section 106 agreement to ensure occupancy as a principal residence. Details of the proposed policy and justification are included in Appendix A. This policy will be submitted for comment to Duncan Smith at SHDC.

123 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

- a. The accounts month 10 - **Appendix A**. A mandate sheet and transaction records were produced and signed in respect of the below payments:
Accounts to pay – Clerks Salary including HMRC £245.30, Jeremy Bell Cemetery Maintenance £60, South Milton Village Hall Hire £60, Parish Magazine Printing £45.50
It was unanimously resolved to accept the payment schedule.
- b. **Governance:** Budget & Precept Agreement
 - 1. The monthly accounts always show the Council's spend to date in the financial year. In December/January the Parish Council uses this information to estimate and assess the projected outturn spend for the year. This then gives the Council a likely carry forward figure for the next financial year and informs the precept discussions.
 - 2. The meeting therefore reviewed the year-to-date financial position and worked through the modelling supplied by the Clerk to assure itself of the validity of the projected outturn.
 - 3. The meeting then considered the commitments, inflationary pressures and the likely increase in services needing to be both provided and funded locally. Year on year the Parish Council has to pick up more of the

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services previously provided by the County or District Councils – if the Parish and its' parishioners wish them to continue.

4. The Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) from SHDC has been removed entirely and the base band D on which precept calculations are based has increased from 248.02 to 248.87.
5. The meeting noted that the Government has decided to defer the setting of council tax referendum principles to town and parish councils for 2022/23. However, it has again issued a challenge to those councils to demonstrate restraint when increasing precepts that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. 50% increase put forward
6. The Council concluded that they needed to increase the precept to £6,836 so the average household will pay £27.47 per year (i.e.: £0.53p per week). This will mean our budget increases by £2,279 allowing us to fund the costs of more benefits to the community and any services devolved from County or District etc.
7. A proposal was made to request a precept level of £6,836 as per the above information.

Proposed by Cllr Jinks, seconded by Cllr Brice, approved unanimously.

124 MEETING ENDS 21.08 Hrs

Items for the next Agenda:

125 DATES FOR THE DIARY: 28th February, 28th March, South Milton Village Hall, 19.30 hrs.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please could these be submitted to Mrs Katharine Harrod by the 3rd Monday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to Mrs Katharine Harrod for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List

Cllrs Berryman, Booker, Brice, Collyer, Jinks, Lewis, Townsend

For Information: e-circulation to: County Cllr R Gilbert, Dist. Cllr Mark Long, Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce, South Milton Parish Council Notice Board, National Trust, Riccardo Carrelli, Jenny Brown.

APPENDIX A: South Milton Parish Council Finance: Month 10

Category	Descriptor	Date	Month No. of Report to Council	banked/Chq NO	Paid In	Paid Out	Cash Book Balance
Cash Book Balance b/f from last financial year							16,343.40
Payment	Clerk December Salary	30/12/2021	10	Y	-	196.30	18,126.56
Payment	December HMRC		10		-	49.00	18,077.56
Payment	J Bell Invoices to 11/11	10/12/2021	10	Y	-	120.00	17,957.56
TOTALS YTD Financial year 2021/22					£ 5,227.90	-£ 3,613.74	£ 17,957.56
RECONCILIATION CASH BOOK TO BANK							£
Cash book balance b/d				FY 2021/22 month	10	£	18,104.76
						receipts	5,227.90
						payments	- 3,613.74
						£ 1,614.16	- 147.20
							Variance
ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT							
Clerk Salary (& HMRC) paid on 31st of each month							-245.30
J Bell to 11/11							- 60.00
Hall Hire							- 60.00
							-
Meeting Sub Total							- 365.30
Receipts & PAYMENTS REPORT TO COUNCIL							
MEETING DATE							
Prepared By:					24/01/2022		
Date:					K Harrod for South Milton Parish Council		
					20/01/2022		