

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Date: 27 th November 2023		Venue & Time: South Milton Village Hall, 19.30hrs
Present: Cllr Anne Berryman Cllr Emma Halmshaw Cllr Marion Luscombe Cllr Nick Townsend (in the Chair)	In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Clerk & Minute taker Dist. Cllr Samantha Dennis Dist. Cllr Mark Long County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/Guests Present: 3	Apologies: Cllr Paul Booker Cllr Steve Harding Cllr Graham Jinks Councillors RESOLVED to accept the apologies received.

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

304 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

305 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):

- Apologies were received from National Trust Rangers, Emma Reece and Valda Smith, they wish all members of the Council a very happy Christmas and New Year!
- A request was made for ashes to be interred in the burial ground. The Parish Clerk will forward details by email.
- There are several Remembrance wreaths at the Church. It was agreed to retain two and recycle the others. The purchase of future wreaths will be put on hold – although a donation can still continue subject to Councillor approval.

a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

1. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme.
The Mobile Boost scheme ran from February 2021 to March 2023 and funded over 1,700 installations across the region, helping small businesses and homeworkers with poor indoor mobile coverage.

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) are delighted to share that the scheme has recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) and will be re-opening to applications on Monday 8th January 2024. Funding is limited and they have forecast that the scheme will run for six months from January to June 2024, subject to demand. See news release on additional funding South West communities receive funding boost to improve mobile connectivity - Connecting Devon and Somerset

2. Shute Lane Potholes – Devon County Council filled some holes but not others, they have viewed the photos of the missed holes and stated they don't look like they're steep-sided. Having at least one vertical face is one of the criteria to be assessed as a defect requiring action. Devon County Council consider they have been correctly assessed as non-defects. However, the holes are so deep that children are not being allowed to cycle on the road as it is not safe to do so. Cllr Gilbert confirmed that the potholes filled were designated, the remaining holes were not designated as potholes and will not be filled.
South Milton Parish Council will arrange repair, a Chapter 8 qualified person is required to assist, Devon County Council will provide the tarmac to fill the holes.
3. The mobile library service has ceased, unlike most other counties where one in six libraries are being closed, DCC are keeping all fifty libraries open. A home library service is available, see this link for details <http://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/health-homelibraryservice>

Road Closure Notifications, within 3 months (see <https://one.network/>) :

4. The road through West Alvington is closed until 22nd December to replace old metallic gas mains, it will then reopen until 2nd January after which it is due to close again until 11th March for phase two of the essential works. A detour via Churchstow will be operative. Councillors expressed concerns about diversion signage at West

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Alvington and elsewhere with some overlapping and confusing motorists. Cllr Gilbert will ask Adam Keay to review.

5. Modbury road closure for 6 weeks commences on 8th January, light traffic will be deviated internally, heavy traffic will be required to follow another, longer, diversion route.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

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/>

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

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

1. Devon aligned service for waste collections - all residents now have the same service which commenced on 20th November. There will be an impact on most people either in the way they present their waste or residents will find their collection date may change. If there are any issues with collections please report online at the earliest convenience.

Cllr Long was informed that an amount of waste has been left on/near grit bins, SHDC will not collect large cardboard waste. Cllr Long will arrange for letters to be sent to the relevant properties – these will reiterate what items will be collected by the refuse teams and explain that ultimately, the perpetrators can be fined for fly tipping if the situation continues.

2. Notifications have been received from the police regarding burglaries at farms and rural locations – quad bikes and tools have been targeted.
3. A number of consultations are on the SHDC website, including the Corporate Strategy, Council Tax and dog control orders.
4. A number of different grants are currently available including one to support the resilience of local communities for items such as village halls – the grants are between £2k and £10k and need to be match funded.
5. Cllrs Dennis & Long are part of a Task & Finish group in respect of Enforcement, a number of issues have been raised and there will be more communications coming out to the parishes regarding the Enforcement process.
6. The new planning IT system, including mapping, is coming into force at the end of the month. Between 22nd Nov and 29th November there will be delays to the processing of applications.
7. The Executive meeting takes place on 30th and includes the approval of the modifications to the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan.
8. Cllr Dennis & Townsend have a meeting with South West Water on 13 December.
9. Cllr Dennis has had a conversation with the owners of the steps leading to the beach, it was noted that the sand is currently at a level that has temporarily reduced the issue of dangerous access.

REPORT IT: 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...

THE MEETING CONVENED

306 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER: Cllr Halmshaw declared an interest in respect of planning application 26918/23/HHO and withdrew from these discussions.

307 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 16th October without alteration, they were then signed by the Chairman.

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

308 CLERKS REPORT:

1. We have still not received an analysis of the responses to the Housing Needs Survey which closed on 22nd September.
2. Bantham Swoosh Update: The swim was an overwhelming success - having raised £150,000 for 1:1 swimming lessons for children with disabilities. This is excellent news for the charity who are looking forward to working closely with local charities such as Dart Sailability.
As with any event, they welcome all feedback from residents about the day itself. They have noted a few issues that will be dealt with via the 2024 traffic plan and would appreciate any further comments being forwarded. The team are also willing to meet with the Council if required.
3. Defibrillator Application/update: We have confirmed to the Ambulance Trust that our intention is to add a second defibrillator in the parish. Unfortunately, we are not able to locate a defibrillator on the side of the public toilets due to lack of an electrical supply, we have therefore contacted the Beachhouse to discuss potential options.
4. SH Active Travel Update, an update regarding progress of the South Hams District Council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Behaviour change study has been provided to Councillors, this project will conclude in March 2024, further details will be provided in due course.
5. South Hams District Council have advised the election recharge for 2023 amounts to £148.70, this will be invoiced in the new financial year.
6. Door Stickers – no uninvited callers, we have received a number of door stickers to deter uninvited callers, a supply has been left in the Village Hall porch.
7. Fire Service Consultation, open to 30th November <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/769bb7ae-a2f9-44ef-a38a-39451587d1f4> .
8. Email Scams – we continue to receive scam emails, please remain vigilant, the Parish Council will never ask parishioners to purchase vouchers/tokens, nor will we request assistance that requires payments to be made and reclaimed. If you are ever unsure please contact a Councillor or the Parish Clerk directly.
9. Road Warden Update. We are obtaining details of all those who want to be involved across the nearby parishes, this includes Malborough, South Huish, West Alvington and Salcombe (who we hope to meet with in December). Our thanks to Kingsbridge Town Council for providing details of their arrangement.
10. Planning training for councillors is now due to take place on Wednesday 24th January between 4pm and 7pm.
11. On Wednesday 22nd November AONBs were renamed National Landscapes. It marks the start of a new chapter in the story of designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales. Find full details of the story of the UK's National Landscapes and the work they do at www.national-landscapes.org.uk.

309 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. When providing a response to applications, the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan will be referenced.
1. Neighbourhood Plan Modification – The modified plan has been forwarded for final approval, to be ‘made’ at the South Hams District Council Executive meeting on 30th November. On 12th December the Regulation 19 statement will be published.
2. 3475/23/HHO, Greenacres, South Milton, extension and alterations to dwelling, 30/11 **Support**.
3. RATIFICATION: 3502/23/TPO, Brook House, South Milton, T402,T403,T404: Poplar - X3 remove due to risk of tree failure into property. **Support**.

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

- 3560/23/HHO, Well Park, Ilbert Road to Whitlocksworthy Cross, proposed extension, alterations and roof conversion to existing dwelling (Resubmission 2899/23/HHO) 5/12. **Restate Previous Objection.**
- 2691/23/HHO, Old Orchard, South Milton, remove existing workshop & garage & Construct ancillary bedroom & workspace each with own WC. 21/12 **Support Conditionally on it being ancillary to the existing dwelling.**
- Wakeham Farm update including 3783/23/ARC, Wakeham Farm, approval of details reserved by condition 4 (Bat, Bird & Invertebrates Boxes) of planning consent 4178/21/FUL Non Statutory Consultation. **Support.**

The developer has been asked to provide a parking strategy maximising on site parking due to recent issues raised by parishioners re parking in the village.

There was an issue with silt runoff which has now been largely dealt with.

The original approved plans, 4178/21/FUL included grey cladding, inferred to be light grey. This has now been deemed not acceptable by the planning officer at the discharge of conditions stage. South Hams District Council have asked for dark grey or black cladding. Councillors consider this this would be out of keeping in the current setting and there is no known cladding of this colour in the village. The Parish Council do not accept this response from South Hams District Council and will request they review the documentation in line with the existing colours and materials in South Milton.

Local Planning:

- Dairy Site – Cllr Townsend advised the applicant is currently preparing plans/undertaking surveys for the pre-planning application. A meeting was recently held with a journalist from Daily Telegraph who is writing a feature about how parishes have worked with the community and developers to provide additional housing.
- Airband applications including Whitley Cross to Huxton Cross and Huxton Cross to B3197. Airband have not recently provided specific details regarding the submission of permitted development documentation to South Hams District Council, we continue to follow this up with them.

b. Decisions:

- 3840/22/FUL, Higher Southdown Farm, (29/12) **No Decision Yet.**
- 2226/23/ARC, Tolcarne, South Milton. **Discharge of Condition Approved.**
- 2583/23/FUL, Thurlestone Beach House, South Milton, TQ7 3JJ, 19/10. **Conditional Approval.**
- 3228/23/ARC, Wakeham Farm, **Discharge of Condition Refused.**

c. Enforcement issues:

Please will all parishioners make a report to SHDC with full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported confidentially to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach If you would like to submit a report but do not have access to the website, please contact the Parish Clerk.

310 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- Climate & Ecology Bill – details sent to Cllrs 24/11. Councillors **RESOLVED** to defer this indefinitely.
- South West Water Communications – Cllr Townsend. There was an overflow from the treatment plant for 4 days, 16th – 20th November, this followed a 25ml rainfall on 16th November. The overflow stopped on 20th November but restarted on 21st for two more days – this being a total of 6 days overflow from the South Milton treatment plant with no significant rain after 16 November. The overflow is discharged into the stream, through reed beds and down to the lagoon, from here it either disperses into the sea, or, if a sand

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

bank has built up it remains in the lagoon until the bank reduces sufficiently – this being an obvious hazard for the many beach users. Cllrs Dennis & Townsend are meeting with South West Water in December to show them the geography of the site and discuss the issues.

South West Water appear to be focussed on planning for the future and not paying sufficient attention to serious deficiencies in the sewerage system.

311 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

a) **Accounts to pay Month 8**– Clerks Salary including HMRC, Monthly bank charge £8, Hall Hire £20, Hugo Fox £11.99, Parish Magazine Printing £57.80, War Memorial Plants £17.94

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve all payments.

b) **Governance:**

1. A first draft of the proposed 2024/25 budget had been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors were asked to provide comments to enable the budget to be adapted accordingly for the Precept approval in January 2024.
2. Councillors **RESOLVED** to move both bank accounts from HSBC to Lloyds bank.

312 MEETING ENDS 20.56 Hrs

The Council then went into closed session to discuss confidential staffing information at which time it was **RESOLVED** to approve the NALC pay increase at spinal point 25 (£17.64 per hour) effective from 1st April 2023 for council staff. It was further **RESOLVED** to reduce the hours worked to 4 hours per week per week and to allow a further 25 hours of flexible work as/when the need arises.

313 DATES FOR THE DIARY: 2024: 22nd Jan, 26th Feb, 25th Mar, 22nd Apr, 27th May, 24th Jun, 22nd Jul, 23rd Sept, 28th Oct, 25th Nov, 7.30pm, South Milton Village Hall.

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

South Milton Parish Council Councillors

For Information: e-circulation to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, National Trust, Riccardo Carrelli, Jenny Brown.