

Hamble-le-Rice Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 2015 AT THE ROY UNDERDOWN PAVILION, COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS, BARON ROAD, HAMBLE-LE-RICE AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr I Underdown – Chairman
Cllr S Hand - Vice Chairman
Cllr M Atkinson
Cllr S Cohen
Cllr M Cross
Cllr M Davies
Cllr A Fish
Cllr C Fish
Cllr W Pepper

In attendance

Brendan Gibbs – Clerk to the Council
Judy Hickman - Minutes Secretary
Andy Cunningham – Hamble River Raid
Steve Emery – Hamble Lifeboat Ltd

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lear, Cllr Hamel and Cllr Venables.

449/121/15

To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Angela Fish declared an interest in the dinghy park. Cllr Hand declared dispensations regarding the Dinghy Park and Foreshore and an interest in Footpath 5 as a member of the Royal Southern Yacht Club. Cllr Underdown declared dispensations relating to the Foreshore and Dinghy Park. Cllr Pepper declared an interest in Hamble Club Football Club. Cllr Clive Fish declared an interest in the Dinghy Park.

450/121/15

To accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2015

Cllr Hand proposed, Cllr Pepper seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2015 as a true record.

451/121/15

Public Session

Andy Cunningham (Hamble River Raid Ltd) had sent a comprehensive report to the Council which answered most of the questions raised at the previous meeting. He asked for Council support for the Hamble River Raid and said further information was available on their website. Cllr Underdown thanked Mr Cunningham for his report and for attending the meeting.

Steve Emery (Hamble Lifeboat Ltd). Mr Emery was currently the operations manager for the Hamble Lifeboat, responsible for running the boat and the crew, and had been a professional project manager in the past. Although he was not previously involved in the building project, his intention was to find out what work was outstanding as it was apparent that after Christmas there would be nowhere to run the boat from. He was aware of a number of different snagging lists which had not been shared by all stakeholders. Most of the older items had been completed but he had found about 30 other items which were not on any of the lists. The Clerk said he had e-mailed the Trustees with the Council's concerns about the construction of the toilets. Mr Emery had produced a snagging list for the Trustees which he shared with the Council and asked whether this summarised the extent of the Council's snagging list or whether there were other items the Council had in mind. He felt he did not have full information about the project.

Cllr Underdown asked about the current position. Mr Emery had met with Ben Moore, Roger Harding and Nick Rose regarding the electrical connection on 17 November and went through the snagging list. SSE installed the meter that day but could not connect up the circuits in the building because certificates were required. Mr Emery was pressing for the work to be done and was disappointed

that the Lifeboat would have to be taken out of service in January, as the temporary arrangements at Hamble Point Marina would no longer be available.

Mr Emery asked about the Council's major concerns. Cllr Underdown told him about the extraordinary Council meeting and money owed to the Council for various works it had carried out. Mr Emery was not aware of this, so Cllr Underdown gave an outline of the history of the project relating to the toilets. The main issues now concerned disabled access, the specification for the toilets (particularly tiling) and landscaping. Cllr Hand commented that it had been made clear to the Trustees that the Council's contribution was £70,000 and no more. All summer the Council had been liable for extra expense and there was no sign of the building opening. Cllr Underdown mentioned loss of revenue from the dinghy park and said the Council was not getting value for money.

Mr Emery believed the original building agreement between the Council and the Trustees was based on drawings produced over a period of 10 years. The original plan was not affordable, and in 2013 discussions began about cost reductions. Cllr Underdown said problems arose when the last building agreement ran out, and due to a planning issue the responsibility for fitting out the toilets was changed from the Council to the Trustees. Cllr Clive Fish asked whether a building inspector had signed off the building. Mr Emery had asked Ben Moore the same question and requested certificates. Cllr Cohen commented that the Council had not received straight answers to straight questions and had been left in the dark about basic facts. She asked whether Mr Emery had been formally appointed as project manager. He responded that he had appointed himself informally. The Trustees were aware that he would attend the Council meeting. The Clerk had spoken to Ben Moore who indicated that he hoped to issue a practical completion certificate before Christmas. Mr Emery said there had been miscommunication because much had been done by word of mouth. He had written a report on the construction of the toilets which he would be happy to share with the Council. Cllr Underdown thanked Mr Emery and asked him to go back to the Trustees and get himself officially appointed to represent them to get the project finished. The Leases Working Party would then meet to follow up. The Clerk would e-mail the Council's snagging list to Mr Emery.

Clerk
452/121/15

Planning and Development Control

a) To consider any planning applications

S/15/77163 – Consultation on application for a Marine Licence for maintenance dredging at Port Hamble Marina, Satchell Lane, Hamble-le-Rice SO31 4QD

There was no paperwork but Cllr Underdown thought the Council had already received this.

453/121/15

F/15/77616 – Erection of detached single store office/storage building at Port Hamble Marina, Satchell Lane, Hamble-le-Rice SO31 4QD

Cllr Hand proposed, Cllr Clive Fish seconded, a majority agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to leave the decision with planning officers.

Clerk
454/121/15

b) To receive any Planning Decisions and Matters at Appeal

The list was noted.

Cllr Underdown provided information following a meeting that he had attended with Cllr Hamel and Cllr Cross. Officers of Eastleigh Borough Council presented a background document going out to consultation. It showed all the areas where planning permission had already been granted, those under appeal and also strategic use of land that owners might want to develop. GE Aviation, the Mercury Marina and the Hamble Airfield were included. Previously EBC had said the airfield would not be considered for development but in a consultation document approved by the EBC Cabinet there were eight options for development, one of which was 600 homes on the airfield. Cllr Underdown said the Council needed to respond and get as many people as possible to write in, giving reasons why development on the airfield should not go ahead. The Clerk had information that the consultation was necessary because if EBC did not consider all the sites that developers had put forward under strategic housing allocations, there was a high likelihood that the Inspector would reject the Local Plan. There was some concern that the consultation was being sent out just before Christmas but Cllr Cross said the deadline had been extended from 6 to 8 weeks to allow for the holiday period. Cllr Cohen suggesting using social media as well as the Village Magazine, and that

the Council should consider employing a planning consultant to look at the document. Cllr Pepper thought very few people were aware of the document and that the Council should call a public meeting. The issue would be discussed further at the next meeting.

CLAg
455/121815

Finance

a) To receive Orders for Payment for December 2015

The orders for payment were not complete but the Clerk gave verbal details of the remaining invoices. Cllr Davies proposed, Cllr Pepper seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to accept orders for payment for December 2015 up to £7,500.

456/121/15

b) Budget and Charges 2016-17 – to receive a report from the Clerk

Details of current charges and the Clerk's recommendations had been circulated.

For allotments, the Council was charging less than other authorities and there had been an increase in the work carried out by grounds staff. Cllr Underdown proposed, Cllr Cohen seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the allotment charges from £5.50 per rod to £6.00 with effect from 1st January 2017.

457/121/15

Regarding burial charges, the Clerk asked for these to be delegated to the burials working party. He also raised the issue of providing a new burial ground.

458/121/15

Cllrs Underdown, Hand, Angela Fish and Clive Fish left the room during discussions about dinghy park charges. Cllr Cross proposed, Cllr Cohen seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Davies should chair this discussion. Currently the parishioner rate was £108 for one space, and £221 for a second space. For non-parishioners, the rate was £221 (all rates inc. VAT). Due to the Lifeboat redevelopment the Council anticipated losing eight spaces. Cllr Cohen asked about the charging structure which the Clerk explained was historical. She thought it could be made more coherent and would prepare a paper for the next meeting.

459/121/15

SC

The pay and display car parking charges were linked to Eastleigh Borough Council. The Council currently charged £6.00 for the popular clock permits. The Clerk recommended a gradual increase up to a maximum of £10. Cllr Angela Fish proposed, Cllr Cross seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the charge for clock permits to £7.00 with effect from 1st January 2017 and to apply further increases of £1 each year until the charge reached £10.00.

460/121/15

For hire of pitches, the Clerk recommended an increase for cricket. Cllr Cohen proposed, Cllr Davies seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the fee for pitch hire for cricket to £80.00 with effect from the 2016 season.

461/121/15

c) Precept 2016-17 – to receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk recommended that in view of a CPI of -0/1% and the forthcoming Council elections in May, the Council should consider maintaining the precept at the current level. Eastleigh Borough Council would make a full contribution via the Council Tax Support Grant.

462/121/15

d) The Local Authority Property Fund – to receive a report from the Clerk

Information had been circulated. The Clerk recommended that councillors should consider investing £25,000 of reserves in order to obtain a better interest rate than currently available from Eastleigh Borough Council.

463/121/15

Hamble Lifeboat Station Construction Project

The Clerk commented that the delay in finishing the new building had compromised the whole operation of the Lifeboat. Cllr Davies said he had no confidence in the Trustees and thought the Council should stop the project, take it back and then charge the Trustees for finishing the work. Cllr Cohen cautioned that the Council needed to find out whether this was legal. The item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

52/21/15
CLAg

Information Board at Westfield Common – to receive a report from Cllr Underdown

A draft of how the noticeboard might look was circulated. The board would provide more information about the history of the area etc. There were information boards at Hamble Common. Cllr Clive Fish

proposed, Cllr Hand seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the draft and provide an information board. The location would be decided later. Cllr Underdown asked councillors to check the draft and whether anyone could help with the graphics. Cllr Cohen said she may know a person who had the necessary skills.

**IMU &
Clerk
464/121/15**

The Hamble River Valley Forum – to receive a report from Cllr Underdown

Reports and updates were provided. There was discussion about the Harbour Master's response to the Forum's request to reinstate a dedicated area on Hamble's public jetty for emergency and other boats to embark and disembark passengers. The Harbour Master believed there was sufficient space on the jetty for most of the year but would review the matter again next year. Cllr Clive Fish thought a dedicated area should be kept clear. He proposed, Cllr Cross seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to write to the Harbour Master saying the dedicated area should be retained.

465/121/15

A member of the public raised the matter of lack of public access points for small boat users in the mid and upper river areas. Swanwick Hard was the only place where parking was available and small craft could be launched. The Forum agreed to look into this.

The main item of the meeting was a report from the newly formed Report Rights of Way Working Party, chaired by Cllr Underdown and comprising representatives from each Parish Council adjacent to the river from Hamble to Bishops Waltham. Information had been received about the new government initiative to implement an English Coastal path and the Botley to Bishops Waltham Bridleway project. The Working Party had shared information about each parish's riverside/coastal existing rights of way and identified problems such as missing links. It had also discussed existing maintenance issues and using planning gains for improvements.

The Forum had sent a comprehensive response to Hampshire County Council's Walking Strategy Consultation and encouraged parish councils to make a response.

Hamble Estuary Partnership Meeting – to receive a report from Cllr Underdown

The recent meeting had a presentation regarding the "Solent Bird Study and Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy", with information regarding birds' roosting and movements. Dogs allowed off leads were found to cause the greatest disturbance. All developments within 5.6 km of the coast had to contribute towards mitigation. Updates of the National Coastal Partnership conference and the Marine Management Organisation South marine plans were given. Another item of interest was that the Harbour Authority would take over the Upper Hamble Country Park's jetty from Hampshire County Council's recreation department.

466/121/15

To receive a report from the Clerk on the following matters

Hamble-le-Rice Parish Council Secure Storage

Only one quotation had been received with the Clerk reporting some local firms were reluctant to quote. He was asked to obtain two further quotations.

**Clerk
239/81/12**

Path from Well Lane to Marina Drive

Still awaiting information from Eastleigh Borough Council.

205/61/13

Eastleigh Borough Council Developer Contributions

Information was being put together for Mount Pleasant.

111/32/15

Public Toilets Water Bill

A credit had finally been received regarding the disputed bill. Cllr Clive Fish proposed, Cllr Cohen seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to close this minute.

239/62/15

Public Art at the Hamble Foreshore

The artist, Tim Norris, would inspect the seat in the new year and would advise on the work required.

273/71/15

Hamble Footpath 5

The County Council Rights of Way officer had met with representatives of the Royal Southern Yacht Club and reinstatement work was progressing.

275/71/15

Parish Council Out of Hours (OOH) contacts

Details had not yet been finalised due to problems with the alarm in the storage shed.

276/71/15

Barclays Bank in Hamble-le-Rice

The Clerk was working through various issues following the bank's closure. He would not change the bank mandate before the May elections. Currently the Council enjoyed a concession via signed letter protocols at the Hedge End branch.

327/91/15

The Well Lane Footpath Spur

Nothing further to report.

330/91/15

The Hamble River Raid 2016

Cllr Underdown proposed, Cllr Angela Fish seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED that in principle the Council would support the River Raid committee's request to use the Foreshore and Donkey Derby field for the 2016 River Raid. The Clerk would contact Andy Cunningham.

Clerk
422/112/15To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors

None received.

467/121/15

To authorise the Clerk to deal with correspondence relating to Council matters including:-**a. From Eastleigh Borough Council**

None received.

468/121/15

b. From Hampshire County Council

Draft Walking Strategy Consultation (previously circulated) – Cllr Underdown proposed, Cllr Cross seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED to support the response put forward by the Hamble River Valley Forum.

Clerk
469/121/15

Hampshire Libraries Consultation (previously circulated) – A paper from a parishioner was also circulated. Cllr Underdown said the Council should respond. Discussion mainly centred on issues relating to the proposed new community library exchange service. Previous research had shown that the Memorial Hall was the only suitable location in the village for a library. Volunteers were available. Cllr House had said that Eastleigh Borough Council would fund the building once a suitable location was found and Cllr Underdown thought it was time to write to him now that the Lowford facilities were completed. Cllr Underdown proposed, Cllr Cohen seconded, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED (a) to respond to the parishioner who had prepared the paper; (b) to respond to the consultation and (c) to write to Cllr House asking him about EBC plans for a library in Hamble.

Clerk
470/121/15**c. Other correspondence**

HALC Council Tax Support Schemes review document – noted.

HALC Community Infrastructure Levy review document – noted.

HALC Smaller Authorities Transparency Fund update – noted.

471/121/15

Before moving on to exempt business, Cllr Underdown wished to record the Council's thanks to Jackie Bevis for her contribution to the Parish Council. He mentioned in particular her professionalism and excellent PR skills and wished her well in the future.

Exempt Business

The Chairman proposed, all agreed and IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public and press be excluded.

472/121/15

The matters to be discussed were:-

The Hamble Club Football Club lease discussions.

The provision of a Trip Boat at the Hamble Foreshore.

The appointment of an Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council staff appraisal process.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.