

Minutes of the Meeting of South Warnborough Parish Council
VIRTUAL
Monday 14th December 2020
Draft Minutes Subject to Confirmation

Present Cllr Lady Belinda Hall (Chair)
 Cllr Stephen Spreadborough
 Cllr Gavin McBride

County Councillor Jonathan Glen
 District Cllr John Kennett
 Mrs Elizabeth Ford (Clerk)
 3 members of the public

1. Introduction

All attendees were welcomed to meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Parish Cllrs Chris Preston and Ed Clark and also received from District Councillor Ken Crookes.

3. Declaration of interests

Cllr McBride declared a personal interest as a neighbour in item 11.

4. Approval of minutes from the Parish Council meetings on Monday 16th November 2020

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting on Monday 16th November 2020.

5. Financial Reports – see Appendix A

a) Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was checked against the bank statements and all signed. Bank balances on 14th December 2020 were:

SWPC Treasurers (current) account	£ 38,939.59
SWPC Burial Ground Account	£ 3,469.01
SWPC Recreation Area Trust Account	£ 9,758.70
SWPC - SWAGA CMM Account	£ 2,120.10
NS&I Savings Account	£ 6,115.24

b) Minute agreement to payments

It was resolved to approve the payments listed below (total £102.79)

<u>Payments to be Authorised 14th December</u>		
14/12/2020	Clerk expenses November	£ 37.79
14/12/2020	B Hall, Xmas tree	£ 65.00
		<u>£ 102.79</u>

c) To agree precept for 2021/2022

It was resolved to request a precept payment for 2021/2022 of £30,418. The Chair and Cllr McBride would sign the precept request form.

d) To consider quote for the upgrading of the temporary lighting power supply box at the SWAGA

It was resolved to accept the quote from Downlighting Electrical Ltd and instruct the company to replace the power supply box for the temporary lighting at the SWAGA at a cost of £241.10 plus VAT.

6. To consider the following planning applications:

- a) **20/02837/CA, Varndells Gaston Lane.** Reduce 5 lime trees on the front boundary of the property by 2m in all dimensions, crown raise to 7m, crown thin each tree by 20%. The application was discussed and **it was resolved** to submit the comment of no objection.
- b) **20/02752/LDC, 3 Tigwells Field, Knollmead, Gaston Lane.** Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed single storey rear extension and erection of outbuilding. The application was discussed and **it was resolved** to submit the comment of no objection
- c) **20/02747/LBC, Varndells Gaston Lane.** Creation of a french drain to the North West and South West elevations, repairs to the structural timber frame on the North West elevation, repair to brickwork on the North West elevation, creation of two soakaways and thatch repairs to the ridge. The application was discussed and **it was resolved** to submit the comment of no objection.

7. Update on other previous applications

Since the last meeting the Parish Council had submitted a comment on the two following planning applications:

20/02943/CA, Ivy Cottage, Lees Hill. Ash (T1) - Remove mature Ash tree and replace with a Crimson King Maple Poplar (T2) - Crown thin by approximately 20% by removing crossing, damaged or diseased branches Sycamore (T3) - Crown thin by approximately 20% by removing crossing, damaged or diseased branches. Parish Council comment no objection. Status: ongoing.

20/02910/CA, Chancery House, Alton Road. Ornamental Plum Tree - prune to around 1/3 its current size. Current diameter of the crown is about 12m. The proposal is to prune back to suitable growth points on the tree to take the crown back to around 5m diameter. Parish Council comment no objection. Status: ongoing.

Decisions had been made by Hart District Council on the following applications:

20/02425/FUL, Land At Tile Barn Farm Lees Hill. Demolition of barn and erection of two (2 bed) dwellings, widening and realignment of vehicle access. Parish Council comment to support with minor changes to proposals and maintenance use of footpath across site. Status: Refused 11.12.20

20/02424/FUL, Land At Tile Barn Farm, Lees Hill. Erection of a general purpose farm building following demolition of existing barn and widening and realignment of vehicle access. Parish Council comment to object. Status: Withdrawn 11.12.20

20/02346/OUT, Granary Court, Alton Road. Outline planning application (new application) for the construction 6 detached dwellings etc. Parish Council comment to object. Status: Refused 23.11.20.

The following applications were still awaiting decision:

20/02632/EIA, Ford Farm Ford Lane Upton Grey. N.B. development site located to the north of Long Sutton village, Parish of Long Sutton. **Request for screening opinion** for a proposed ground mounted solar farm with associated ancillary works and buildings (up to 105.11 hectares).

20/02030/LDC, Hazelfield Lodge, Alton Road. Use of Hazelfield Lodge as a self contained flat. Parish Council comment no objection. Status: Ongoing

20/02073/FUL, Ford Farm, Ford Lane, Upton Grey. Erection of storage and office building for use by PHL Limited etc, Parish Council comment no objection. Status: ongoing

JUTA/19/01949/HOU and JUTA/19/01950/LBC, Lees Cottage, Lees Hill. Planning Appeal for refusal of: two storey rear extension etc. Parish Council comment no objection. Status: Ongoing.

The Clerk also advised that the website link for the Chosley Farm Solar Farm had wrongly been entered under the January 2021 Parish Magazine listing for the Ford Farm Solar Farm screening opinion request (application ref. 20/02632/EIA)

8. To consider a request to Hart District Council to carry out a review of planning issues at the Granary Court/Lees Barns site

This item was discussed after item 11. A draft letter to Hart District Council to request a review of the planning and other regulatory compliance status at the Granary Court/Lees Barns site had been circulated to Councillors and District Councillor John Kennett prior to the meeting. Cllr Kennett had forwarded the letter to the Hart DC Head of Planning Enforcement who had replied to Cllr Kennett that she had forwarded it to Hampshire County Council as regarding road safety issues.

The site was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would prepare an evidenced letter requesting enforcement at the site.

9. Update from County Councillor

Two written reports were received from Councillor Glen. These were on HCC support for families affected by Covid-19 (included as Appendix B) and an update on the Odiham Parish Council Working Group to keep the Odiham Library operating as a community book exchange.

County funding for bus services would be reviewed shortly with the drop in passenger numbers over the last ten years in Hampshire being twice the national average.

Just before lockdown Hampshire County Council reversed the decision to cancel free school buses from Hook to Robert Mays School. This followed three years of campaigning by a school parent group and Cllr Glen.

Three schools in Hart District now had confirmed Covid-19 cases and with higher levels of infection in the district to be expected safeguarding against infection was essential but whether there could be a change to tier three before Christmas was unknown.

Three solar farm applications had been submitted in the western parishes of Hart district being at Rotherwick, the Chosley Farm site to the north of South Warnborough and the Ford Farm site around the village of Long Sutton. It was highlighted that further applications in the area were possible but there were strong reasons to refuse the applications around the RAF Odiham site.

The County Council was facing major financial losses as rate receipts reduced due to businesses folding under lockdown. The County still had strong reserves which could fund the deficit for Covid impacts lasting until 2024. The day of the meeting would see an announcement on further financial support, the fifth tranche of Covid grants, which would be available from Government.

Problems with the RAF Odiham junction on the B3349 continued. There had been a fatality south of the junction recently and the Ministry of Defence was being requested to make improvements. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph at the junction was described as only providing false protection because the road was in a rural area and compliance with a lower speed limit was less likely.

10. Update from District Councillor

The closing date for the Ford Farm application had been extended to 17th December to enable the Ministry of Defence to submit a comment.

Tracking and tracing the virus was now utilising the information held by County and District Councils. 58% of contacts were traced in 24 hours by SERCO and then 98% of the remainder using information from Councils.

Government had re-instated the new homes bonus for a further year which was good news for Hart finances.

The new bike jump on Pale Lane in Fleet was recommended.

Hart District Council had completed the compulsory purchase of the listed Swan Inn property in North Warnborough and planned to convert the building into two houses with a third house to be constructed on site.

Hart DC was still promoting the Shapley Heath Garden Village development and still facing opposition in this from all the western parishes.

11. Update on proposed improvements to the bus stop opposite the Village Shop

Cllr McBride had sent a specification to build the new bus shelter to five local contractors and was expecting quotes from three. He would also request a quote from Prime Oak Buildings at Swains Hill. Cllr Kennett had obtained a quote from the builder who had erected the bus stop at the Village Green. Comparison of all quotes obtained would be made at a later meeting. Alternatives for the location and design of the bus stop and bus shelter were discussed. The Clerk would arrange a meeting to discuss options with the Hampshire County Council team and the Chair, Cllr McBride and District Cllr Kennett in the week commencing Monday 4th January 2021.

12. Questions and answers from the floor

The Hart District Council decision on the pre-application on a proposal for 16 residential dwellings on the land adjacent to the Poachers Field site (application ref. 20/01155/PREAPP) was discussed (see Hart DC website for full statement). Hart had advised in summary that:

“The proposal is partly satisfying a local need as far as affordable housing is concerned, however as it stands, there would appear to be neither justification on needs or planning grounds for the level of market housing proposed nor the mix of market units. Neither the Parish nor the District as a whole is in high need of 4-bedroom properties. “

However, the Hart housing need was expected to be changed following the current Government planning review. Two thousand Councillors had written to the Secretary of State to complain about the review but with no success. The proposed revisions were expected to increase housing targets with much of the increase in development located in the rural areas of the south.

There was further discussion on the solar farms and it was expected that there would be more applications locally in the near future.

13. To confirm date and location of next meeting.

The next meeting would on Monday the 11th January at 7.30pm and would be a Zoom virtual meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

Signed Chairman _____ Date_____

Parish Clerk Elizabeth Ford

Appendix A- Financial Summary for December 2020

BANK BALANCES AS AT 14th Decemb		SWPC Treasurers Account		£ 38,936.59
		SWPC Burial Ground Account		£ 3,469.01
		SWPC Recreation Area Trust		£ 9,758.70
		SWPC - SWAGA CMM		£ 2,120.10
		NS&I Savings Account		£ 6,115.24
				<u>£ 60,399.64</u>
SWPC TREASURERS ACCOUNT		BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 13th November		£ 42,280.26
	<u>Receipts to 14th Dec</u>			
	NIL		£ -	
			£ -	£ 42,280.26
	<u>Payments to 14th Dec</u>			
	23/11/2020	Clerk expenses Oct	£ 34.20	
	23/11/2020	Tufton Warren LLP, playground 6m rent	£ 250.00	
	23/11/2020	UBE Enterprises, website & domain ann fee	£ 204.89	
		TBC Ridley Hall, rent Jan 6, Mar 9, Oct 12 2020	£ 40.00	
	23/11/2020	Clerk mileage & expenses Nov	£ 68.60	
	23/11/2020	Lawnmaster	£ 24.00	
	23/11/2020	PKF Littlejohn, external audit	£ 240.00	
	23/11/2020	Vitaplay	£ 1,554.98	
	23/11/2020	Downlight Electrical Ltd	£ 96.00	
	26/11/2020	Clerk salary November	£ 455.00	
	30/11/2020	Swadling Garden Services	£ 376.00	
			<u>£ 3,343.67</u>	£ 38,936.59
	<u>Payments to be Authorised 14th December</u>			
	14/12/2020	Clerk expenses November	£ 37.79	
	14/12/2020	B Hall, Xmas tree	£ 50.00	
			<u>£ 87.79</u>	£ 38,848.80
	Outstanding Payments		nil	

Making a positive difference - County Council launches new community project to tackle COVID-19 hardship

A new initiative to help families and individuals who are facing hardship because of the coronavirus pandemic is being launched by Hampshire County Council in a positive start to the new year.

The ‘*connect4communities*’ programme will be community-based and driven by Hampshire County Council - working with community partners such as schools, colleges and Early Years providers, as well as voluntary and charity organisations. Funded by the £2.89 million Winter Grant Scheme, awarded to the Authority by the Department for Work and Pensions, the scheme comprises a planned programme of supportive measures mainly, but not exclusively, targeting families on low incomes with children over the winter and beyond.

At least 80% of the total funding will go towards families with children, with up to 20% allocated for other households in need, including individuals such as young carers and care leavers. The ‘*connect4communities*’ scheme will be delivered across the county by a range of sources including schools and voluntary groups and will comprise:

- Providing food vouchers
- Providing vouchers/payment cards for fuel, energy and water bills
- Expanding the Christmas school holiday support, for the school holidays in 2021 to include providing a daily hot meal and fun, educational activities/playschemes
- Supporting the establishment of Community Pantries
- Supporting organisations to provide direct help to vulnerable households through community grants
- Providing slow-cookers to families without basic cooking facilities
- Setting up a ‘connect4communities’ online directory for residents to search by postcode to find where they may be able to access financial and other support and subsidised food

Food Voucher and Discretionary Grants Schemes

‘*connect4communities*’ builds on the County Council’s previously announced Food Voucher and Discretionary Grants schemes, which will help feed children and young people including young carers and care leavers, over the Christmas holiday fortnight. Through the Discretionary Grants Scheme, schools and colleges have access to funding to help families who may not be immediately eligible for the free food vouchers but find themselves struggling financially; for example, where a parent has lost their job due to COVID-19.

The County Council will be expanding the schemes to provide activity programmes for the forthcoming Spring Half Term Holiday (February 2021), Easter Holidays (March/April 2021) and Summer Holidays (July/August 2021).

Thanks to a kind donation by the Book Trust, free books and activity packs will also be given to Hampshire families with Early Year children eligible for the food voucher scheme. This will provide an extra Christmas gift that will help children enjoy reading and improve literacy.

Community Pantries

'*connect4communities*' will also fund plans to ensure there is at least one Community Pantry in each of the 11 districts in the Hampshire County Council local authority area – either by supporting an existing Community Pantry or establishing a new Pantry. Community pantries offer those in need the chance to buy food at a lower cost than at the supermarket, on a weekly basis.

Helping community groups to support vulnerable families

Other support to be provided by the initiative includes grants for community and voluntary organisations, such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau. These grants will support families in need with food, energy and water bills. They can also be used for essential items such as warm clothing and bedding, as well to supply slow-cookers to households who do not have basic cooking facilities.

If anyone knows of a local family in need who might benefit from any of the above initiatives please contact me on jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk. It is helpful if within the message you give me permission to use your email address so I can forward it directly to the right department for action.

In the meantime, I'd like to wish you all a very happy & healthy 2021--stay positive and test negative!

- County Councillor Jonathan Glen