

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2024 AT APRIL'S FARM, GREEN LANE FARM, SMANNELL

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Marianne Black, Cllr. Paul Dunning (Chair), Cllr. Andrew Hooker, Cllr. Erica Mason

In attendance:

Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Borough Council (from 18.40 hours)

Chris Drewery – Chair of Friends of Smannell School (FSS)

Kate Joseph – Friends of Smannell School (FSS)

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. David Martin – Smannell Parish Council

Cllr. Rob Price – Smannell Parish Council

County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

A member of the public commented that the situation with respect to potholes on the roads in Smannell is worsening and that they are in a very serious condition, requiring urgent attention. Members concurred and requested the Parish Clerk to contact County Cllr. Kirsty North to draw her attention to this issue and to request that this is urgently addressed by Hampshire County Council.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to advise County Cllr. Kirsty North of the serious conditions of the roads in Smannell caused by potholes.

Cllr, Andrew Hooker raised the concerns of a resident regarding the condition of the footpath that runs alongside the Huf Haus and that it is seriously flooded. Members agreed to source woodchip to help dry the path from the top of Big Street to the woods.

ACTION

Members to source woodchip in an effort to help dry the path from the top of Big Street to the woods.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

4. TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 15 JANUARY 2024

The Chair reviewed the Minutes and action points from the Full Council meeting of 15 January 2024 and members RESOLVED to approve the Minutes. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly as a true and correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING – 15TH JANUARY 2024

The Parish Clerk advised members that all the action points arising from the Minutes of 15 January 2024 have been actioned.

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6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

All items of correspondence received to date were brought to the attention of members without further comment.

The Parish Clerk especially highlighted the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation, which has a closing date of 31 March 2024. He provided a verbal summary of the proposals contained in the consultation. Members noted the consultation.

The Parish Clerk advised members that Hampshire County Council has debated the proposed new policy, which allows for the introduction of 20mph zones at the request of parish councils in Hampshire. The new policy confirms two matters: firstly that Hampshire County Council will continue to consider 20mph zones in areas where they are deemed appropriate and there is a proven safety need for them. The decision will also introduce a policy, which allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area. There will be a number of criteria for a community led application. Members commented that the enforcement of a 20mph speed limit is difficult to enforce and acknowledged the expenditure involved. Costs will vary for each street and the consultation fee is £175.00, which will cover a detailed assessment and give an accurate costing for the suggested 20mph site.

There are legal traffic orders, which would require change and would be charged as part of the costs. Members noted this development.

The Parish Clerk stated that he has received a request from Rural EV Charging enquiring whether the Parish Council would allow public electric vehicle chargers to be installed on Parish Council land. This would be in return for a rental payment at market value from the charge point operator who pays to install, maintain and operate the chargers for the contract term. Members felt this was not appropriate for Smannell but noted the opportunity.

7. TO RESOLVE EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR MARCH 2024

The Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial information and bank balances of the Parish Council. He presented members with the deposit account interest statement. The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council for March 2024, which amounted to £454.50 as scheduled below.

£21.00 – Paul Dunning – Refund for Portafix, Invoice 150779 dated 6 February 2024 for washers, fullnuts, nyloc nuts and bolts to affix signage

£216.75 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – January Salary

£216.75 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – February Salary

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** the financial schedule of expenditure for March 2024 as prescribed and presented.

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8. TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE CO-OPTION OF A SERVING PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Chair commented on the importance of co-opting a Parish Councillor for the one vacancy remaining on the Parish Council. Members concurred and the Chair requested that the Parish Clerk re-issue the Notice of Vacancy for co-option of a parish councillor ahead of the next meeting of the parish council.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to issue a further Notice of Vacancy for co-option of a Parish Councillor ahead of the next parish council meeting.

9. TO UPDATE ON HM LAND REGISTRY TITLE DEEDS RELATING TO LAND AT LITTLE LONDON

The Parish Clerk advised members that the solicitor has prepared all the documents for the amendments for the official copy of the register of title HP500276 and has written to the holders of the title for the formal signed authority for transfer using form TR1.

It is now merely a case of the necessary documents being received by the solicitor to effect the requisite changes.

The update was noted by members.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LITTLE LONDON PLAYING FIELD AND EVENTS TEAM AND ACTIVITIES

Cllr. Andrew Hooker provided the below update to the current LLPF&ET and activities.

Marquees & Equipment: At the last meeting held on 27 February 2024, it was agreed that we should not offer any of our equipment on loan or on hire. The Team's view was that there is already history of damage to the equipment and a concern as to whom would be liable if a third party was using our equipment and there was an accident.

Playground Equipment: The outcome of the application for a grant is still awaited.

BBQ Area and Kitchen: Work parties to be arranged to:

1. Complete the proposed BBQ area
2. Re-site the WC
3. Fit the kitchen into the cabin
4. Build steps into the cabin.

Events: The LLPF&ET agreed that we will be organising the following events this year:

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- May (date to be confirmed): Official opening of 'NEW' Playing Field equipment by a member of the Stephens family.

The opening will also have a 'FUN & GAMES' for all the family event (similar to the events held over the last couple of years).

- Saturday 3 August 2024: This is the preferred date for the Village Fate incorporating Music In The Park.

This event will include Craft and other stalls (possibly vintage cars) from 14:00 – 18:00

Members of the LLPF&ET are approaching potential stall holders.

This will be followed by music from 18:00 – 21:00.

Acts have already been booked that are required, including the Andover Brass Band for the opening.

- Saturday 2 November 2024: Fireworks Display: We have not yet gained agreement for a bonfire this year, however we have agreed this date for the Fireworks Display.

This date allows for a postponement if the weather is bad as per last year.

Keith and Gavin have agreed to support/organise the event and if possible, attend a 'pyrotechnics' course.

We are keen to support Allan Mitchener if he is still able to be involved.

- Monday 2 December 2024: Christmas Tree Lights switch on event. May include Santa this year.

Other news:

The three hedgehogs found under the pallets, have left their winter nests.

We have planted the four donated Elm trees from Hampshire County Council in the field.

The Chair advised members that he has heard from Pete Bowker asking whether the Parish BBQ could be held in the playing field for 2024. She has stated that it would save transporting the marquee and the BBQ equipment to an alternative location in the parish. She has also mentioned that no-one else has come forward offering to host the event. The Chair highlighted a number of procedural and legal requirements associated with holding events that were discussed and would be required.

The Chair commented that following a discussion this week, the Enham Trust has been engaged to cut the playing field grass when required throughout 2024.

He also reminded those present that it was not up to the LLPF & Events Team to decide whether they loaned any of the equipment to anyone for personal or private

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use, This is the remit of the Parish Council to decide as the equipment belongs to the Parish Council. It was therefore up to members whether the Church is able to borrow the equipment for their annual BBQ. The Chair explained that the Parish has a pub, a church and a school and it was important to have positive relationships with all entities.

After some discussion amongst those present, it was suggested that none of the equipment owned by the Parish Council, (looked after by the LLPF&ET), would be loaned out at all. The Chair made it clear that if it was the case that the equipment is not to be used by those raising money for the church, then the equipment should not be used by anyone - including the LLPF&ET or members for private functions on any occasion. Despite the Chair's concerns about the potential ban of any of the equipment being used except on direct Parish business, the motion was carried by a majority vote. The Chair conceded and commented that he would be very concerned if he heard that there were any exceptions where any equipment were to be used by any persons on any occasion.

The Parish Clerk advised members that he received some queries from Jenny Brain in relation to the Smannell Parish Council application to the Community Asset Fund and this has been answered and returned with documentary consultation evidence.

11. TO RESOLVE THE PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2040

Members discussed a consultation response to the Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan 2040 Stage 2 Public Consultation together with the briefing note on the document prepared by the Parish Clerk. Borough Cllr. Phil North explained the details of the Draft Local Plan 2040 to members and advised that the local gaps have been retained and protected. Members RESOLVED to support the Draft Local Plan 2040 and the consultation response prepared by the Parish Clerk to the Draft Local Plan 2040 and for this to be sent to Test Valley Borough Council accordingly.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to send the briefing note consultation response on the Draft Local Plan 2040 to Test Valley Borough Council.

12. TO AGREE THE RESERVE POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk referred to the report on the Reserve Policy Statement previously circulated to all members. The brought forward reserve balance for 2023/2024 is £48,918 following the earmarked reserves ring-fenced balance of £9,560. This has been achieved by bringing forward the 2022/2023 balance of £58,478 LESS earmarked reserves of £9,560 = £48,918. The Earmarked reserves agreed towards capital projects for 2024/2025 will be a capital contribution of £14,807 towards the development and purchase of new play equipment and development of a new play area. This is dependent on the success of obtaining a grant from Test Valley Borough Council of £17,138 making a total contribution excluding VAT, which is

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reclaimable, of £31,945 including the Smannell Parish Council earmarked reserve contribution. This covers the anticipated expenditure. The Parish Clerk therefore explained that for the financial year 2024/2025, total Earmarked Reserves will be £14,807 and the total to General Reserves as at 31 March 2025 will be £34,111 (£48,918 LESS £14,807).

Members agreed the earmarked reserves as stated coupled with the general reserves for 2024/2025 and RESOLVED to agree and accept the reserve policy statement for the parish council for 2024/2025.

13. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members that he was in receipt of two planning applications requiring determination.

24/00396/TPON – T1 Yew – Crown reduce, including height and spread, by up to 2 metres at 13 Little London Lane, Little London, Smannell, Andover. Members RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

24/00413/TPON – T1 Yew – Fell at 13 Little London Lane, Little London, Smannell, Andover. Members RESOLVED NO OBJECTION

14. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

The Parish Clerk advised members that he has emailed Harry Goodchild (Definitive Map Manager) at Hampshire County Council in respect of the tracks within Rag Copse and Little London (DMMO 1234) that has taken an inordinate length of time. Harry Goodchild has advised that six years is not a long time to wait when it comes to DMMOs and this is fairly commonplace across the UK. The original case officer dealing with the application has returned to the team this month and she will be resuming oversight of this matter and it may be that the referral can be completed so it can make some progress through the Planning Inspectorate's internal processes.

Members reiterated their concern as to the length of time this request has taken. Borough Cllr. Phil North requested that Harry Goodchild's email be forwarded to him and he will discuss this with County Cllr. Kirsty North and chase as necessary.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to forward Harry Goodchild's email response on the matter of the tracks within Rag Copse and Little London to Borough Cllr. Phil North.

The matter of remedial works to the Cinder Track was raised and discussed. The Parish Clerk advised members that a quote has been obtained for works. Purbeck have supplied a quote for the Cinder Track improvement works dated 11 January 2024. To surface the existing footpath from Enham to Woodhouse 725m x 1.2m will cost £23,500.00 plus VAT and as an extra over option to supply and install timber edging to both sides of path 1450 linear metres @ £5.40 per linear metre = £7,830.00 plus VAT.

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Members were keen to pursue the concept albeit that any progression would be subject to grants being obtained. The Parish Clerk advised members that grants may potentially be available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from Test Valley Borough Council as he has been advised that monies have been secured through recent development. Brough Cllr. Phil North requested that the quote be forwarded to him.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to forward the quotation received from Purbeck to Borough Cllr. Phil North.

15. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

None received.

16. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None received.

The Parish Clerk advised members that the next meeting of the Parish Council in May falls on a Bank Holiday Monday (6 May 2024). Members agreed that the revised date should be 29 April 2024.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed this meeting at 20.25 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 29 April 2024 at 18.30 hours at April's Farm, Green Lane Farm, Smannell.