

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH JANUARY 2025 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Marianne Black, Cllr. Paul Dunning (Chair), Cllr. Andrew Hooker, Cllr. Stephen Jenkins, Cllr. Rob Price, Cllr. David Martin, Cllr. Erica Mason

In attendance:

Members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council
Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Borough Council

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

4. TO RESOLVE THE FULL COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2024

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4 November 2024. Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD – 4 NOVEMBER 2024

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 4 November 2024, which had been carried out.

Further to Minute 14 of the Minutes of 4 November 2024, the Parish Clerk advised that he did make an application for grant monies to County Cllr. Kirsty North and this has been successful with £1,000 having been paid to the Smannell Parish Council. Three companies were approached for first-aid training quotations but only one full quotation has been received from Nuco Training. The quote for Basic Life Support Training course cost is £250.00 and the length of the training is 2-3 hours. Everyone will receive a certificate of attendance after the training, as well as an end of course pack to detail the information that has been covered together in class. The trainer will bring training manikins, as well as defibrillators, so that everyone has the opportunity to use the equipment and gain the vital skills needed in CPR and resuscitation. If people would like to gain a Level 2 Qualification in Basic Life Support, this would be £60 per person and also lasts for 3 hours. This option provides attendees with a qualification at Level 2, as well as gaining a CPR mouth shield each, in a large keyring style pouch, to carry around.

The Parish Clerk also advised members that Enham Alamein Parish Council members were supportive of holding several joint first-aid sessions.

Members felt that the course syllabus for £60 per person lasting three hours and leading to a Level 2 Qualification in Basic Life support was certainly worth pursuing. In respect of the syllabus covering general Basic Life Support, members felt this was limited and needed to also offer more practical topics such as burns and scalds, sprains, bandaging and the like. The Parish Clerk was requested to ask Nuco Training on the feasibility of providing such a course covering some of the topics mentioned as an example.

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ACTION

The Parish Clerk to contact Nuco Training to request a course that also covers practical topics such as burns and scalds, sprains and the like.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received, which were noted without further comment. Cllr. David Martin advised that he and the Chair offered their voluntary services for a Digital Switchover event in Whitchurch on 24 January 2025 but their services were not required due to a large number of volunteers who have already come forward to offer help.

The Parish Clerk advised members of a letter received from Lloyds Bank advising that from 14 January 2025, they will be applying a monthly account maintenance fee of £4.25 for day-to-day banking charges. This was noted by members.

7. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

The Parish Clerk advised members that he has re-invested a sum of £20,000.00 in a 32 Day Notice account with Lloyds Bank to gain higher interest.

The expenses of the Parish Council for November/December 2024, amounted to £21,643.63 as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

£516.35 – Paul Dunning – Invoice 11B2110 (Travis Perkins) dated 16 November 2024 – Materials for works at Little London – Note that included in this invoice are materials personal to Paul Dunning amounting to a total of £250.29, which has been personally paid back to the Smannell Parish Council on 15 November 2024 by Paul Dunning

£140.00 – PCC of Smannell with Enham Alamein – Invoice dated 8 November 2024 – Annual contribution to the running costs of the Parish Oak

£250.00 – PCC of Smannell with Enham Alamein – Invoice 421108 dated 8 November 2024 – Contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard at Christ Church

£101.26 – Enham Trust - Invoice SINV547727 dated 31 May 2024 – Grass maintenance in Little London

£101.26 – Enham Trust – Invoice SINV557025 dated 2 August 2024 – Grass maintenance in Little London

£101.26 – Enham Trust – Invoice SINV552243 dated 28 June 2024 – Grass maintenance in Little London

£20,000.00 – Lloyds Bank – Treasury Bond Investment Reference 21282651LS dated 25 November 2024 – Investment in 32 Day Notice Account

£216.75 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – November Salary

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£216.75 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – December Salary

Members RESOLVED the financial expenditure schedule for the parish council amounting to £21,643.63.

8. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE A SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk advised members that the budget with full commentary, which has been previously circulated, must be resolved at this meeting.

The Chair advised members that four years ago he suggested that the Smannell Parish Council should increase the precept by 15% year on year for five years. He suggested that to ensure that expenditure does not exceed income, the precept should be doubled again over the course of the next five years to a sum that approached the current outlay.

The Parish Clerk advised members that he has now received formal confirmation from Test Valley Borough Council as to the applicable taxbase and has been informed that it remains the same at 153 for 2025/2026 as for 2024/2025. The Parish Clerk tabled the papers for the projected budgetary effect of increasing the precept by various levels.

Members agreed that the commitment to an increase of 15% in the precept as part of the original five year agreement should be adhered to and continued. The Parish Clerk advised that to increase the precept by 15% for 2025/2026 will result in a precept increase to £4,807.00 ($£4,180 \times 15/100 = 627$). Add the £627 to the 2024/2025 figure of £4,180.00 equates to £4,807.00. In respect of Average Band 'D' Council Tax terms, this amounts to 4807 divided by the taxbase of 153 = £31.42. This is an increase of £4.10 or 15% from the 2024/2025 figure of £27.32.

Members RESOLVED to agree the budget and increase the precept by 15% for 2025/2026 to £4,807.00.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to advise Test Valley Borough Council of the precept requirement of £4,807.00 for Smannell Parish Council for the financial year 2025/2026.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LLPF AND EVENTS TEAM AND ACTIVITIES

A report was provided by Cllr. Andrew Hooker as set out below.

Cllr. Andrew Hooker stated that there was little to report since November 2024. The Christmas 'Switch On' in Little London was the final event of the year. Special thanks to go to:

- Enham Trust who planted the new live tree in time for the event.
- Rev Elliot for supporting the event and leading the carols.
- Meg for organising a very successful raffle.
- Arps and Michelle for the electricity supply.
- The helpers who made it an enjoyable event.

Thanks also to approximately 50 local residents who attended the event. The event raised, after costs, £186.17 profit.

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At this point in the meeting, Cllr. Andrew Hooker advised members that he has decided to resign his position as a Parish Councillor to Smannell Parish Council and has tendered his written resignation to the Chair. This meeting will be his last as a Parish Councillor. Members accepted his resignation and the Chair paid tribute to Cllr. Andrew Hooker thanking him for his sterling and magnificent efforts over the period of four years for his work on the Parish Council and for the community, which has been much appreciated. The Parish Clerk advised members of the formal procedure required following this resignation, which will necessitate informing Test Valley Borough Council that a vacancy exists on the Parish Council, which must now be advertised.

Cllr. Andrew Hooker informed all present that Cllr. Marianne Black will Chair the Little London London Playing Fields and Events Team Committee.

Cllr. Marianne Black provided details of some of the envisaged events planned for 2025 and touched on ensuring that profit targets are met and that the committee is committed to building community cohesion.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to pursue the necessary legal procedures with Test Valley Borough Council following the written resignation of Cllr. Andrew Hooker.

10. TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr. David Martin advised members that he and the Chair recently attended a resilience meeting at Kings Somborne and this was similar to previous meetings attended. He stated that his enquiries with the police as to the question as to the demarcation point of handing over a situation from local volunteers managing an issue to the emergency services has not been answered. As a result, the proposed and efficient way of addressing this is to devise a proforma flow chart. This will help to finalise and 'mop-up' an incident or matter and should manage matters satisfactorily. It will be included in the Smannell Parish Council Resilience Plan. Cllr. David Martin stated that he will have such a flow chart prepared for the March Parish Council meeting.

He informed all present that the Resilience Plan has now been formally logged with the authorities and is in formal existence to be relied upon in the event of an incident arising in Smannell. The issue of the precise definition of 'vulnerable parishioner' in the context of the resilience plan and the parish has not been determined. Accordingly, Cllr. David Martin stated he would seek guidance from resilience colleagues on this point.

ACTION

Cllr. David Martin to prepare a flow chart setting out the procedure to finalise and 'mop-up' an incident in readiness for the March Smannell Parish Council meeting. Cllr. David Martin to contact resilience colleagues and obtain a formal definition of a 'vulnerable parishioner' to be incorporated in the Parish Council Resilience Plan.

11. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None recorded. The Chair stated that he has been chasing planning at Test Valley Borough Council in respect of establishing the definitive status of the plans for the land

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adjacent to the Oak, Stoke Road but no formal response has been received. There appears to be an indefinite open window on this matter. The Parish Clerk was requested to pursue this with Test Valley Borough Council planning and housing departments, to understand the current position.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to approach Test Valley Borough Council planning and housing departments to understand the planning position with respect to the Land adjacent to the Oak, Stoke Road.

12. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. David Martin advised that he has not heard further in respect of the on-going application for the change to the Definitive Map DMMO 1234. It has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate but no further information has been received. There have been no formal developments with the request for speed limit changes as part of the case request having been submitted to Hampshire Highways.

Members commented that the bus stop shelter on Green Drove, approximately 100 yards up from Frenches Farm Lane is in urgent need of cleaning by Hampshire County Council. The Parish Clerk to request cleaning maintenance for the bus stop shelter with Hampshire County Council.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to request that the bus stop shelter situated on Green Drove, approximately 100 yards up from Frenches Farm Lane, is cleaned.

Members agreed to purchase extended warranty for the SIDs at the cost of £199 per SID per year. The Parish Clerk to ensure that the warranty extension purchases are effected.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to purchase extended warranty for the two SIDs with ElanCity at the cost of £199 per SID per year.

13. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

None recorded.

14. MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair requested that the memorial plaque for the late Allan Mitchener be chased as necessary.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to chase the production of a plaque for the late Allan Mitchener to be placed as a dedication by the recently planted Christmas Tree.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.48 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will take place on 3 March 2025 at April's Farm, Smannell, commencing at 6.30pm.