

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 19TH MAY 2025 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Marianne Black, Cllr. Paul Dunning (Chair), Cllr. David Martin, Cllr. Erica Mason, Cllr, Sue Rogers

In attendance:

Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Borough Council
Jenny Brain – Community Engagement Officer – Test Valley Borough Council
Members of the Public

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Stephen Jenkins – Smannell Parish Council
Cllr. Rob Price – Smannell Parish Council
County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded

4. TO RECEIVE THE RETIRING CHAIR'S REPORT

The retiring Chair for the municipal year 2024/2025 gave the following report:

I am thankful that the visions that I referred to last year in the Chair's report have been realised and that in the most part it continues to be my personal motivation for the next twelve months. The vision to build a stronger and more fulfilling environment in our Parish continues.

1. Developing methods to decrease speeding and increase the safety of our community.

We continue to operate the Community Speedwatch initiative and the Resilience plan has materialised thanks to considerable input from Dave Martin and TVBC meetings we have attended at neighbouring village halls on several Saturdays.

2. Develop an active and vibrant community where Parishioners from all walks of life can benefit from the inclusion in our events.

With thanks to the LLPF&ET we have had very successful events in Stephens playing field including the record numbers at the Fireworks event and more recently the VE80 tea party.

3. Develop and maintain precept increases to at least meet the average budgeted expenditure in recent years which would not include peculiar one-off purchases.

The precept continues to increase by 15% and proves to be the correct decision as local PC's have recently increased theirs by 30% in one year. Whilst reserves continue to be strong, I know that the remaining two years of 15% increases are integral to meeting expenditure and income budgets.

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The long-awaited completion of the playing field was not possible without many hours of preparatory grafting behind the scenes by Dave Martin, Andy Hooker and myself.

Several days of digging out and construction of the retaining wall saved the Parish Council the embarrassment of not completing the build for a further season and saved several thousands of pounds in the process. The same can be said of the permanent BBQ shelter built by Dave and myself at a fraction of the cost of the raw materials most of which were reclaimed, recycled or donated free of charge. The toilets are now screened off and the old disused toilet cut up and disposed.

I would like to register my thanks to the members of the council and the events team associated with the Little London Playing Field for their unilateral support of the Council vision. The additional assistance by Gavin Burgess (Electrician) and Chris Brown (Carpenter) continues to be considerable in the playing field and without their supply of free goods and labour much of what we are seen to achieve as a Council would not be possible. I would also like to thank Kevin our Parish Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council and wider community for trying to keep us on the straight and narrow.

The parish faces new pressures in the coming years, the most pressing of which is the anticipated planning application for up to 190 houses in the south of our parish. Thirty of our parishioners went to the public consultation meeting and none were in favour of the development. It is of course our duty to represent those in the parish, but significantly, seventy plus people from Augusta Park and East Anton also went to the meeting. By far the majority were also against the proposal, though I believe someone from Augusta Park asked if they could be put down on any waiting list for a possible purchase. Though most of those I spoke to were resigned that (under the current Government guidelines) the development was a foregone conclusion, increasing our small parish by 113% will have significant impact. This must be a leading consideration for the Parish Council in the next few years.

5. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 29 MAY 2024

Members unanimously RESOLVED the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29 May 2024 and the Chair signed the Minutes as a true and correct record.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Borough Cllr. Phil North advised all present that he would provide his report later in the Full Council meeting.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

None received.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members unanimously RESOLVED that future parish council meetings should continue to be held on a bi-monthly basis, with the exception of August and will therefore remain unchanged but meetings to start at 18.30 hours.

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9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None recorded

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed this meeting at 18.34 hours.