

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr Jo Hocking.* The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all Parish affairs and pass resolutions about them

Date: 8 th May 2019		Venue & Time: Galmpton Village Hall, 19.00hrs
<u>Present:</u> Cllr Simon Coleman Cllr Sue Darke Cllr Paul Green Cllr Jo Hocking (in the chair) Cllr Ann Rossiter Cllr Alan Rundle	<u>In Attendance:</u> Kathy Harrod (Clerk & Minute taker) Cllr Judy Pearce 6 Parishioners	<u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Rufus Gilbert Cllr Mark Long

REF 2019/20 MINUTES

34/19 **THE MINUTES** of the meeting held on 9th May April 2018 had already been agreed and signed as a true record.

Cllr Jo Hocking, in the Chair and Chairman of South Huish Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of the Parish, highlighting the fact that it was an opportunity for everyone to hear reports and comment on how the Officers of the village are doing and highlight any areas of concern or aspiration.

35/19 **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

District Councilors Pearces report is reproduced here in full:

Much has been said about the South Hams transition programme reducing costs while maintaining front line services. Storm Emma provided the opportunity to test the programme. The result demonstrated the Authorities ability to run normally with officers all working from home. This included the call centre working for both SHDC and WDBC . National recognition came with a Bronze award at the annual Local authority awards ceremony.

The new Corporate Strategy was confirmed. our priorities :

- Our Environment
- Council sustainable financial future
- Employment
- Homes
- Communities
- Wellbeing

Due credit must be given to the Joint Local Plan . An enormous amount of work resulted in an adopted Joint Local Plan with West Devon and Plymouth. This was ground breaking work to have an agreed plan for two district Councils and a unitary, this is only the second plan in the country for three councils working together.

With the successful roll out of T18 it was time to start challenging staff and residents with how they felt we were performing. We now see an improved level of staff satisfaction but some additional work still to be done. The senior Leadership Team have been rolling out several initiatives to provide improvements. Residents were then requested to report their satisfaction. This provided surprisingly good results although improvements were identified, these are now being addressed.

We then invited the Local Government Association to conduct a Peer review. Senior Officers and Members from other Authorities spent a week looking at the way we do business and hearing from partners and residents their thoughts. The new Council will grasp the resulting report and start implementing the highlighted areas that should be addressed.

The way we have been consulting has changed enormously. Re the Engagement portal & “join the conversation site”, 28 consultation documents shared, consultation with Businesses and residents over the draft Annual Budget and development consultations have all been rewarding. Not perhaps sometimes as

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expected, an example being Kingsbridge the original proposals were withdrawn and now replaced by a Community Land Trust and a budget hotel .

The Governments policy for Business rate relief on the rental of second homes has been challenged and brought to the attention of our local MP's, the Local Government Association and Central Government Ministers have all been lobbied and will continue to be so.

The waste service underwent a two-year review which resulted in Members agreeing to partner with a third party. 1st April saw FCC (the UK branch of a Spanish owned company) take over the waste service. We will see a financial saving while delivering an enhanced service. Next year you will see roadside recycling being rolled out.

Commercial investment has been seriously considered but unlike many authorities Members agreed not to invest outside the District but invest within provided it also demonstrates a benefit to our communities such as the Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Hub, additional parking in Salcombe and a hotel in Kingsbridge. With the £1.8 million given to us from the increase in stamp duty in recognition for our proportionally high second home numbers we have started to actively support several Land Trusts. We have a target of 50 truly affordable homes being built this year. These homes will be based on build costs only and have some very strict local occupancy criteria. We have agreed to borrow up to £8.5 million to cover phase 1 and 2. Finally , but by no means least, mention must be made of the Neighbourhood Plans . I am delighted our Ward now has two adopted Plans and a further four in various stages of development. These plans provide the ability to shape your own future.

36/19 POLICE REPORT

NO REPORT RECEIVED

37/19 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Gilbert provided the following information which was read by the clerk in his absence:

1. Highways – A lot of catch up Highways work has been undertaken; the winter was favourable which has also eased the situation. Work on gullies has been stepped up and the road to Plymouth is largely flood free.
2. Broadband fibre to premises update – this is still being rolled out but there have been some further delays, this will cause issues for outlying properties.
3. Council tax increase 4% band D £100 – most going into adult social care.
4. Cllr Gilbert has now completed his first year as Cabinet Member for Economy.
5. Devon's economy: there is full employment in the county which is very positive. Although it should be noted that there is both a skills and labour shortage in the county.
6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund – This fund replaces the EU structural and Investment Funds after Brexit. It will tackle inequalities between communities, by (for example) raising productivity. It will be the main source of funding to support the heart of South West
7. Farming in Devon accounts for 17,000 jobs (5.5%) which is twice the UK average.
8. Tourism in Devon is worth £2billion.
9. Fishing in Devon is heavily reliant on the European Maritime Fishing Fund and it will have to rely on the above UKSPF fund after Brexit. DCC supports the call for English fisheries to have a seat at UK decision table.
10. Flybe will now only fly routes that are self-funded. Wolf Minerals has closed. Ambrosia has been saved. British Ceramic Tiles also looks like it's due to be saved.
11. Appledore shipyard: There are three lots of interest to take on the yard which is good news. DCC now await the outcome and the economic effects.

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12. Brexit and DCC: Brexit is a challenge, there are contingency plans, but no one really knows what will happen.
13. Cllr Gilbert stepped back from his SHDC role effective from May 2nd to focus on DCC.

38/19

Parish Council Report – Cllr Jo Hocking

Cllr Hockings report is reproduced here in full.

The last 12 months have once again been dominated by planning with a total of 38 applications. The most controversial: The Lantern Lodge application, dragged on for 6 months but rallied a huge amount of opposition from parishioners, the Parish Council, our 2 ward members and fortunately SHDC planning committee.

Some other applications have been contentious, and several developments have been referred to planning enforcement. SHDC continue to ignore specific requests for conditions to apply to some. Applications are taking an unacceptable length of time to be determined, we currently have 12 outstanding - with 10 new applications having arrived this month! The wall behind the Coastguard Cottages is still not satisfactorily resolved and despite our early intervention followed by objections over several years, Kiln Field has been granted a certificate of lawfulness.

The only way for the parish to have more influence over planning is to have a robust Neighbourhood Plan in place. To this end we have secured the services of Peter Sandover together with a grant of more than £6000 and we now have a draft regulation 14 in place. This would not have been possible without the stalwart efforts of mainly Tom Windle and Joe Hart over the past couple of years. Thank you and your fellow helpers. We will continue to push the process on as quickly as possible.

There have been no improvements to the state of our roads. Some drains have now been blocked for 3 years. Potholes have occasionally been filled only to re-appear, including the sink-hole beside Beachcomber. Road markings have faded with no plans to replace them. On a positive note, the new gritter has been a success on the thankfully few outings required of it during the winter. My thanks go to our Snow Warden team. Parking (mainly in Hope Cove) continues to be an issue and after encountering problems getting the lifeboat out, the Lifeboat committee have requested double yellow lines in Outer Hope and around the green triangle with a yellow box at the top of Inner Hope slipway. In addition, double yellow lines have been requested for New road.

We have agreed to erect a sign at Mouthwell due to the continued incidents of BBQs and littering. After much debate about their future funding, SHDC have decided to make the public toilets 'pay on entry'. In any event we have asked for them to be refurbished!

The broadband situation hasn't changed over the last 12 months and remains inferior to many third world countries.

Council meetings are now held each month with alternate meetings focusing on planning.

Penny Hibbert resigned in April and in July we welcomed Liz Brimacombe to the council but she has decided not to continue. Bruce Williams, who was our champion of the campaign to improve the roads and superfast broadband among many other things, took a sabbatical in October and has subsequently decided not to continue due to his many other obligations. We thank them all for their valued contributions.

I thank my fellow councillors, parishioners and particularly the clerk for their support and hard work and suggest you brace yourselves for the next 12 months!

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Cllr Hocking was thanked by the Parish Councillors for her work over the past year as Chairman of the Parish Council.

39/19 Footpath Officer Report – Richard Pollard

Richard Pollards report is reproduced here in full:

The volunteers that help with footpath maintenance have continued to ensure that our paths have remained clear of vegetation and looked after on a regular basis. The work is well supported by the County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership (the P3 scheme) and continues to be funded even though Council budgets are squeezed.

The Council also provides money for additional projects and this has enabled the boardwalk across the stream on footpath 4 below Burton Farm to be completely rebuilt and extended during the Autumn, with some extra work to stop the stream from flooding the path. Additional gates have also been supplied and most of the wooden stiles have now been replaced with self-closing gates which follows the Council's policy of making access easier. There are still two, much older, traditional stone stiles on Withymore Farm, but there is no intention of replacing these.

This all reflects the County Council's commitment to keeping the footpath network in good order. This is important as the Rights of Way cannot be taken for granted. By 2026 a new national definitive map will record all paths in use and any Rights of Way not included will be lost forever. It is estimated that 10% of footpaths in England and Wales are currently inaccessible or impassable. That amounts to about 14,000 miles. Luckily, this does not apply to any of our paths as they are all well used and regularly maintained.

Cllr Hocking thanked Richard and the P3 team for everything they do for the parish.

40/19 Village Hall Report

NO REPORT RECEIVED

41/19 Open Forum and general discussion of Parish affairs

There being no other business, at 19.30hrs the Chair, Cllr Jo Hocking, closed the meeting with thanks to all who attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____