

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Date: 13 th March 2024		Venue & Time: Galmpton Village Hall, 7.00pm
Present: Cllr Jan Carter Cllr Jo Hocking (Chairman) Cllr Darren James Cllr Rachel King Cllr Tom Windle	In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk) Ward Cllr Mark Long Ward Cllr Sam Dennis Parishioners/guests: 12	Apologies: DCC. Cllr Rufus Gilbert Cllr Steve Pearson Cllr Anne Rossiter Cllrs resolved to accept the apologies given.

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

248 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

249 PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM:

(allocated time not longer than 15 minutes, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 2 minutes as per Standing Orders).

- Little Shear – a parishioner raised a query with the Ward Councillors regarding the site and what the current situation is with the partially built property. A definitive reassurance was requested to confirm that the retaining wall is stable and will not deteriorate. Cllr Long advised South Hams District Council are assessing the situation.
- A request was made for hard copies of the Community Award nominations. The parish clerk will organise this.
- Comments were received confirming the fast deteriorating state of the primary access road to Galmpton.
- A parishioner thanked Cllr Dennis regarding the support of a planning application which recently went in front of the Development Management Committee at South Hams District Council. A further comment was made regarding the dark skies policy of the neighbourhood plan and the viewpoint of South Hams District Council regarding this policy.
- A representative for the Colliver Orchard planning application was in attendance.
- A suggestion was made for the Parish Council to write to businesses to request that staff park considerably throughout the parish. Last year there were four medical emergencies which were able to be easily accessed thanks to considerate parking, the same applied for access by the waste collection vehicles etc.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: Rufus.Gilbert@devon.gov.uk

- No report received.

REPORT IT:

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

1. Cllr Long reiterated the Council Tax figures and confirmed that the bills are currently being issued.
2. Full council have approved the plan for the coming year, this includes an increase in council tax of 2.99%. They also approved imposing a premium (up to 200% council tax) for second homes, this will be imposed from 1st April 2025. Changes will also be made to unoccupied properties both furnished and unfurnished.

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3. Discretionary housing payment is available to support vulnerable residents, last year 168 residents were supported with the scheme. Council tax reduction scheme information can be found on the South Hams District Council website, <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/available-support-and-benefits/low-income-council-tax-reduction>
4. A wide range of information about support (financial and otherwise) can also be found on the website, <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/support-directory>
5. War pensions disregard policy. The Executive have agreed to recommend continuing to discount the full 100% pension income to continue to support veterans and their spouses who have fought for their country.
6. Ward Councillors have both a Sustainable Localities Fund and a Climate Change and Biodiversity Fund - £2,000 each per fund. Full details are available on the District Council website.
7. The front office of the police station has now open to the public in Kingsbridge, Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm.
8. South Hams District Council has successfully prosecuted a resident who illegally cut down two protected trees within a woodland near Hope Cove in December 2022.
In this case a resident was found responsible for cutting down two trees, breaching a Woodland Tree Protection Order. The resident contracted an independent gardening service to cut down the protected trees, who were unaware of their protected status. The defendant received a fine of £10,000 and was ordered to pay costs totalling over £5,000. They will also be required to replace the trees which will be protected by the same Tree Preservation Order once planted. For information and advice about trees and hedgerows and the laws protecting them can be found on the Council's webpages, social media and by Council arborists' specialist advice.
9. With regard to planning enforcement it was confirmed for the benefit of parishioners, that all enforcement cases must be discussed in closed session and not within a public arena as they contain restricted and/or protected details which cannot be disclosed regarding specific cases.
10. Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Devon Building Control Partnership and Sustainable South Hams are meeting with the committee tomorrow.
11. Cllr Windle confirmed that there are serious concerns regarding safeguarding in the parish. Cllr Long confirmed that the Ward Councillors have taken this up with officers at SHDC to look at what steps can be taken to improve the situation.

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>

Missed Bins, Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged/Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

THE MEETING CONVENED

Councillor Hocking welcomed Councillor Rachel King to her first meeting as a Councillor of South Huish Parish Council.

250 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & ALTERATIONS TO REGISTERS OF INTEREST - None received.

251 VACANCIES AND CO-OPTION OF CANDIDATES:

Since our February co-option a small number of complaints have been received.

To be clear:

- There is no statutory procedure for how councils undertake their co-options.

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- This parish council were all elected at a polling booth – it is literally the mandate of the electorate that these people are chosen as your councillors to make decisions on behalf of the electorate.
- The electorate then opted NOT to request an election for the councillor vacancy, they gave the council full authority to co-opt.
- The council then co-opted according to an unwritten procedure used for some years.

Furthermore it should be made clear that:

- This is a well operated council that operates with the support of the electorate, District and County Council.
- This council is audited annually by a council specialist who has always confirmed that it is well managed.

Moving Forward, the council review their policies and procedures at least annually and a thorough review has commenced. Any changes and new policies will be brought, in due course, to the councillors to consider adopting.

252 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the 14th February 2024 meeting without alteration, these were then signed by the Chairman.

253 CLERKS REPORT

- Sustainable Marlborough & South Huish (SMASH) are meeting Monday, 18th March at The Old Inn Marlborough, 7pm. Support for a potential composting site in either Marlborough or South Huish Parish was confirmed.
- Locality Application for Pre-school, the pre-school are in the process of advising which equipment they would like purchased.
- P3 Footpaths. We await confirmation from Devon County Council regarding the level of funding for 2024/2025.
- The parish is signed up to the Road Warden Scheme, Cllr Gilbert is helping obtain dates for the two day training that we require prior to be able to work on the road. We have eleven people over four parishes and may also be joined by other local town/parish representatives.
- We await sight of the Devon County Council parish led road improvement information.
- 20 is plenty signage is due to be erected by the end of the month.
- Details of the National Landscapes Partnership meeting have been shared with Councillors.
- Communications shared on social media include: Frailty and Falls, Alcohol PSPO Consultation, Wellbeing Week Webinars, SMASH Agenda, Annual Community Award Policy (deadline 30th March).
- MP Anthony Mangnall is due to hold an open surgery in the parish on 10th April, 6.00pm, Galmpton Village Hall.
- Reminder: Defibrillator Training 2024: South Milton on 14th June and Marlborough on 24th June.

254 PLANNING, DECISIONS & ENFORCEMENT

a) LIST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/FOR DISCUSSION:

1. NON STATUTORY CONSULT: 0539/24/ARC, Oakdene, Galmpton, approval of details reserved by condition 3 (CMP) of planning consent 3475/22/HHO.

South Milton Parish Council expressed strong concerns regarding the length of the works and that the works are likely to take place during peak season. This key road is narrow and the parking of a lorry in the road will cause obstruction at time when there will be significantly increased traffic movements due to peak season.

2. NON STATUTORY CONSULT: 0550/24/ARC, Tide Waves, Grand View Rd, approval of details reserved by condition 7 (Soft Landscaping) of planning consent 0581/22/HHO. **No comment.**

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3. 0675/24/CLE, Development Site at SX 6916 4110, South Huish, Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing change of use of land from agricultural to garden in association with The Nook. 1/4
The council can neither confirm nor deny that the land has been used as a garden for the last ten years.
4. 0577/24/HHO, Colliver Orchard, South Huish, one & a half storey house extension. 1/4 **Support.**
5. 0720/24/FUL, South Huish Fm, provision of agricultural building to roof over existing silage clamps 8/4. **Support.**

b) SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

1. 3368/22/FUL, Sand Pebbles Hotel. **No Decision Yet.**
2. 3847/22/FUL, Land to East of Thornlea View, Secretary of State Appeal. **No Decision Yet.**
3. 3910/22/FUL, Sea Thrift, Hope Cove, TQ7 3HH, Secretary of State Appeal. **No Decision Yet.**
4. 3093/23/VAR, Little Shear, 26/10. **No Decision Yet.**
5. 3559/22/FUL, Atlantic Lodge, Hope Cove, Secretary of State Appeal. **No Decision Yet.**
6. 1359/23/HHO, Crab Pot, Hope Cove, Secretary of State Appeal. **No Decision Yet.**
7. 4239/23/FUL, Field West Of White Cross At Sx702396, 9/2 **No Decision Yet.**
8. 4208/23/HHO, 4 Channel View Drive, 8/2 **Approved.**
9. 4085/23/LBC, The Beachcomber, 25/1 **Approved.**
10. 4084/23/FUL, The Beachcomber. **Approved.**
11. 3928/23/HHO, Eldoret, Galmpton. 8/2. **Refused.**
12. 4253/23/CLE, Alston Gate, Malborough. **Refused.**
13. 0469/24/HHO, Paradies, Bolberry Road, TQ7 3HT. 12/3. **No Decision Yet.**

c) ENFORCEMENT

Please note that the Enforcement Lists are confidential and issues concerning Enforcement cannot be discussed at a public meeting. South Hams District Council are responsible for the enforcement of all planning breaches, the Parish Council have no authority to deal with issues of this nature.

Please will all parishioners continue to report full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported to Enforcement via

www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach

255 BUSINESS TO BE NOTED/DISCUSSED:

- a) The primary access road to Galmpton is fast deteriorating and there are constant issues with drainage as well as regular flooding from Galmpton Cross. This also exacerbates the volume of runoff to Kennel Hill. The pipe at Galmpton cross has failed and larger pipes are required. It was noted that a lack of lengthsmen services also contributes to the situation. A parishioner confirmed that he has helped to pull out vehicles that have got stuck this year.
The issues have been reported, the council **RESOLVED** they will be followed up with Cllr Gilbert for urgent attention.
- b) A possible beacon event for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day 6th June was raised, the Harbourmaster will consider the options for a beacon on the beach and will consult with the local history group. This will be discussed at the April meeting.
- c) To approve a meeting with South West Water re recent works & the sewer pipe under the coast path. Three years ago we had sight of a survey that said it was not a question of if, but when, the cliff deteriorates to the extent that the sewage pipe is impacted. It was confirmed that there have already been recent two cliff falls. The council **RESOLVED** to arrange a meeting with South West Water, bearing in mind the issues across the area, this meeting could include other Towns/Parishes as required.

256 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

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a) Receipts & Payments – Month 12,

Accounts to Pay: Nick Walker Printing £238, DALC Training £350,

Standing Orders/Monthly Payments: Clerks Salary & HMRC, Hugo Fox £11.99 Galmpton Hall Hire £20

Councillors **RESOLVED** to make all payments.

b) Governance:

It was confirmed that the year-end procedures are due to commence, this will include policy reviews as mentioned in minute reference 251

257 At **20:02** hrs the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

259 2024 Proposed Meetings: 10th Apr, 8th May, 12th Jun, 10th Jul, 11th Sept, 9th Oct, 13th Nov.

Meetings typically take place on the second Wednesday of each month excluding August and December (dependent on the number of planning applications received), prior to each meeting an agenda must be issued, agendas are added to the noticeboards and uploaded to the website. Please note that while we make every effort to adhere to the meeting schedule, it can be subject to change.

Please watch the website and noticeboards* for confirmation of meetings and other pertinent information.

*** SHPC are not always able to update the noticeboard opposite the Post Office due to vehicular obstruction.**

Please note, the position of Parish Clerk is a part time role.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk by the first Tuesday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List : South Huish Parish Councillors, **for information to:** Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Cllr Samantha Dennis, Cllr Mark Long, South Huish Parish Council Website, National Trust, Richard Pollard, Dave Illingworth