

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: 13th May 2020		Venue & Time: Fisherman's Reading Room, 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 (Parish Clerk) SHDC Cllr Mark Long SHDC Cllr Judy Pearce 5 parishioners	<u>Apologies:</u> DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert

REF 2020/21 MINUTES

132/20 WELCOME & APOLOGIES:

We are currently looking to co-opt a new councillor to South Huish Parish. Please provide expressions of interest to a councillor or contact the clerk to discuss further.

133/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Coleman declared an interest in planning and left the meeting during the discussion re planning application 1079/20/FUL Little Shear.

134/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the 11th March meeting were agreed without alteration and will be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity once social distancing rules are relaxed.
Proposed Cllr Rossiter , Seconded Cllr Green

135/20 STANDING ORDER PROPOSAL

A proposal was raised to amend the standing orders as per new Regulations 2020 to allow for local councils to hold remote meetings due to the issues surrounding social isolation/distancing re the Coronavirus pandemic. The regulations give automatic authority to hold remote meetings and amend standing orders as required.

These regulations remain in force until May 7th, 2021, or earlier if repealed, and require a number of temporary changes to Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr Rossiter, seconded: Cllr Darke

The proposal was approved unanimously, updated documentation will be uploaded to the website.

136/20 OPEN FORUM:

No issues were raised by those attending the meeting.

137/20 CLERKS REPORT:

With many restrictions in place as to what we can/cannot do due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the matters in hand have had been put on hold until such time as they can be properly dealt with. They have by no means been forgotten; updates will be provided when available.

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

The defibrillator to be sited at The Parsonage, Galmpton has now been collected for installation. The two remaining defibrillators installation has been delayed due to issues with electricians and location to be sited. We hope that by June the Reading Room defibrillator will be in place. We have no update as to the Hope and Anchor unit.

There have been various communications received re the green at Galmpton and the management of it. Issues have been raised including the frequency of cuts and what height of grass is acceptable. A resolution was made in respect of this area at the January meeting and cannot be changed unless three Councillors require this in writing OR a six-month period has lapsed.

If the required number of requests for review are not received this matter will be added to the July meeting for review along with a parishioner request for a donation towards wildflower bulbs to be planted between Rose Cottage and the tree.

End of Clerks Report.

138/20 DISTRICT & COUNCY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Report from District Cllr Judy Pearce:

1. Finance: The second tranche of £1.6 billion to local authorities has now been paid. In the first tranche South Hams received £33,962, and in the second tranche £866,545. Whilst the second amount is encouraging, we estimate that we may need as much as £3 million to balance the books at the end of the financial year because of lost car parking, property rentals, Salcombe Harbour, Dartmouth Lower ferry and other income, combined with the cost of moth-balling the leisure centres which have had to close. Unlike central government, we have to show a balanced budget at the end of the year.
2. Parish finances: With the second tranche an interesting letter was sent to town and parish councils regarding their funding and advising them that any 'in distress' could profit from the principle authority's funding. There has since been a row-back from MHCLG's original position – apparently this was meant only for larger towns such as Salisbury, Weymouth and Shrewsbury which have recently changed from being centres of their own districts and have been absorbed into larger unitary councils.
3. Planning site notices: Over the past month these have only gone up sporadically, but they are now being checked and put up as usual by the mobile locality officers. Some were sent to applicants to put up, but obviously this has not worked well for second homes, which has been the case for several applications during this period in the parish. They are all being checked, repositioned or put up again where necessary and the public consultation period will be altered accordingly. Most are now running until the end of the first week in June.
4. Meetings at South Hams: You may have seen sensationalist reports in the local press that 'democracy has been suppressed' and the like and I understand you received an open letter from a member of the opposition and a list of FAQs about the process from the council. In order to be able to hold remote meetings we had to comply with the Regulations attached to the Coronavirus Act 2020. These state that only necessary functions shall be carried out. The Council's drew up a set of rules in order to amend the constitution so that remotely held meeting would be legal. They set out very much what happens in normal times, but there is no doubt that for about a month business at the Council has been severely disrupted and a lot of officers have during this time been diverted onto different duties. We have now published a schedule of meetings up to the end of July in the hopes that by the

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

beginning of September the restrictions will permit the council to return to a more normal programme. No Development Management meetings have been held, but no controversial applications have so far merited one. The council already had a wide scheme of delegations before the emergency, so that even major applications can be delegated.

5. Shielding, food parcels and voluntary work: To begin with, we were responsible for delivering food parcels to the very vulnerable 'shielded' residents. This has now been taken over by a central food supplier. The SHDC Wards have been grouped with a couple of officers overseeing any arising problems. We are grouped with Kingsbridge. So far, no major problems have arisen. Locally this is undoubtedly due to the parish voluntary helpers. I have only heard praise for those who have been helping in the parish. We are incredibly grateful at the District Council that local help has been in such good and willing hands. Thank you very much to all concerned.
6. Government grants to businesses: Letters went out at the beginning of April to every small business the Council thought qualified from the most up to date business rate payers records we held. I know many have been paid. The regulations are quite complex and some have fallen 'between the cracks', though news of the most recent discretionary funds we have received (although we still await the regulations at the time of writing) may enable us to remedy a good number of these. Overall South Hams and West Devon are second and third in successfully paying grants to a higher percentage of businesses in their areas than any other local authorities in Devon, including Plymouth and Torbay. Cllr Mark Long and I have been issued with a long list of businesses in the ward which have not replied to the initial letter but many of these are second homes. We have managed to contact a number of others and their grant has now been paid. There is no doubt that lockdown has been devastating for many local businesses and the continued inability of tourist businesses to function properly will continue to be a grave problem.
7. Recovery Plan: The council is now preparing a recovery plan to take the whole district forward in the 'new normal'. None of us know yet exactly what or how this will be and for sure for some time, if ever, the old normal is not likely to reappear.

The council has been able to function very well during lock down. All officers have been able to work remotely from home for several years now, so for us it has been business as usual, notwithstanding all the redeployment of a number of officers to other duties. Only single figures of personnel have had to go in to work at Follaton House: a couple of maintenance men and someone in the print room to send all the letters out. Like you, we have all suddenly had to become experts in Zoom, Skype and Microsoft Teams for meetings.

Beach car parks and all public toilets remain closed pending relaxation of restrictions from central government.

Harbour Authority: The slipways are being reopened by the weekend.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Report from County Councillor Rufus Gilbert:

It will come as no surprise to you all that the time of my officers and myself has been tied up with Covid-19.

I have sent and will continue to send various information concerning this awful issue and will try to keep it to the essential detail only.

Highways have been catching upon the backlog of potholes and, in my opinion, and assuming they have been reported online, they have been quite successful. Greatly helped by dry weather, particularly regards quality of repair.

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

The road at Silverhill is due to be dealt with this year although further delays may happen due to Covid-19 issues.

I hope you're all well and indeed stay well.

139/20 PLANNING

a) LIST OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **0863/20/VAR, 5 Coastguard Cottages. SHPC No Objection (ratification only).**
2. **2133/19/VAR, The Cottage Hotel (response by 24/4 – extension agreed to 14/5)**
A further extension has been requested to enable Councillors to discuss with the Planning Officer.
3. **3980/19/HHO, Cove House, Grand View Road (response by 3/6),** Councillors have no objections to this application subject to clarification regards access and approval from Highways, plus conditions to be added to require that the property remains ancillary to the main building in perpetuity and only occupied as a principle residence. Approved by all.
4. **1079/20/FUL, Little Shear, Hope Cove (response by 29/5):**
Councillors felt that the new plans were a vast improvement but ultimately the footprint is still too large. Councillors voted 3:2 to object to the application.
5. **Alston Gate update 0105/20/VAR & 0106/20/VAR:**
Trees and hedgerows have recently been removed, this has been undertaken within the boundaries of the law. There was an issue in the construction management plan re parking on the biodiversity area to the west of the site.
There is a section planned to the north of the agreed biodiversity site which could accommodate the parking without using the biodiversity site although there is an issue requiring clarification re access. This is being addressed by the planning officer.

b) ENFORCEMENT

Please will all parishioners continue to provide the Clerk with 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

c) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:

The regulation 16 Consultation has been extended and is running from 11th May to 22nd June 2020 as there were concerns that Covid-19 lock down regulations may have restricted some people from providing responses. A letter explaining how to respond will be posted to every parishioner to remove any suggestion that people were not properly informed how to comment on the consultation.

To view the full plan proposal please visit:

<https://www.neighbourhoodplanning.swdevon.gov.uk/south-huish>

or if you wish to view a hard copy of the plan contact the Parish Council.

You can comment by emailing SHDC at neighbourhood.planning@swdevon.gov.uk, or send SHDC your response in writing to: Neighbourhood Planning, South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE.

Please make any representations to SHDC by 22nd June 2020.

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

140/20 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. South Huish COVID-19 Volunteer Group. A proposal was made to approve the March 2020 Formation of Covid-19 Volunteer Sub-committee (previously approved by majority approval via email). Proposed: Cllr Rossiter Seconded: Cllr Darke Approved by all.
 2. Open letter from Cllr McKay re democracy at SHDC – covered in Cllr Pearce's report.
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141/20 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

Receipts & Payments – Month 1 & 2

Accounts to pay – Clerks Salary & HMRC £512.68, Zoom Subscription – ON HOLD (50% share with Marlborough), Viking Stationery £6.57 (payment to Marlborough PC as joint order), SHDC Election recharge £73.62, DALC Subscription £124.28, SLCC Subscription £80.50 (50% share with Marlborough), Nick Walker Printing £90

Proposed: Cllr Coleman Seconded: Cllr Green

Miscellaneous –Internal Audit – The internal audit has been completed and signed off. The External Audit will be signed off at the June meeting.

142/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

POST MEETING NOTE LANTERN LODGE HOTEL UPDATE:

The following update has been received re the Lantern Lodge Hotel.

Demolition works are planned to start in July and will follow straight into the main works. Lilburn and Elliott have been appointed as contractors, they are local and have also worked on Grand View Road previously.

A full CCTV drainage survey for Grand View Road has been instructed for early June and this along with a visual record of the Road will be submitted to SHDC before works commence. This in line with the Construction Management Plan that has also been logged with South Hams.

Finally, almost £1,500 pounds has been raised for the lifeboat fund by selling the furniture from the hotel. A plan is also being formed to supply some of the excess roof tiles to assist with the repairs of the Fisherman's Reading Room.

At 20.22 hrs the Chairman declared the meeting closed

Next Meeting Dates :

- 10th Jun, 8th Jul, (12th Aug if required), 9th Sept – Zoom Virtual Meeting OR Galmpton Village Hall 7.00pm depending on Covid-19 restrictions.
- 14th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec – Zoom Virtual Meeting OR Fisherman's Reading Room 7.00pm depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

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

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

