

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Soberton Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at the Rookesbury Hall in Newtown.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Hyland (Chairman), N Findlay (Vice-Chairman), R Cole, D Cleeve, S Doherty, P Henderson, S Marland, D Salmon, J Sherwill, V Weston.

In attendance: B Gibbs, Clerk to the Parish Council.

District Cllr Wallace and County Cllr Stallard.

116/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr Pearson sent his apologies.

117/22 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

118/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

119/22 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Cllr Hyland spoke about his new role with the South Downs National Park Authority. He had recently been elected as a member of the SDNPA as the representative of Winchester Parish Councils located partially or wholly in the South Downs National Park. Cllr Hyland sat on the Planning committee in addition to being a member of the authority. He said that his basic allowance is £3,748.87 per annum. This increased annually in line with any cost of living pay award applied. He was also able to claim for travel and subsistence whilst attending meetings.

120/22 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th OCTOBER 2022.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 18th October 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

121/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

Cllr Cleeve provided a verbal report following the recent Actions committee meeting.

- The Parish Council has re-applied to have the Travellers Rest listed as an asset of community value.
- The re-registration was confirmed in December 2022.
- The owners of the Travellers Rest are now appealing this decision.
- This appeal process is dealt with by Winchester City Council and the Parish Council is not invited to this hearing.
- The recreation ground play area had been inspected recently and no defects were found. Winchester City Council will also be inspecting the play area for their yearly inspection regime.
- A neighbour contacted the parish council regarding a tree at the recreation ground.
- Cllr Cleeve has inspected this tree and it will need some work doing in the future. However, he said that nothing needs to be done now.
- Cllr Cleeve also spoke about the cars that remain parked in the recreation ground car park.
- The Clerk was asked to liaise with Gary McCulloch (ACSO) to track down the owners.
- Cllr Cleeve concluded his report by saying that people were still exercising their dogs on the recreation ground despite this being banned by the parish council. He requested a new notice to be inserted into a future edition of the parish magazine.

Cllr Findlay spoke about last Policy committee meeting held in November and made the following comments.

- Cllr Findlay commented that the planning agent dealing with application 22/00793/FUL Selhurst Poultry Farm Heath Road Soberton SO32 3AF had contacted the Parish Council to explain the applicant's ambitions for the site.
- The Clerk was instructed to invite him to the next meeting of the Policy committee on the 14th of February to make representations.
- Councillor Finlay also spoke about the Dradfield Lane enforcement notice appeals. Comments regarding the lead case need to be submitted by the end of January. The Planning Group will be producing comments in time for this deadline.

Cllrs Henderson & Cole provided a verbal report on behalf of the Communications Group. The following points were made.

- The next issue of the parish magazine will contain the survey regarding how best to communicate the Parish Council's news on its activities.
- The main effort now was on the redesign of the Parish Council's website. Not too much work will be done until the survey results come in.
- Cllr Henderson spoke about the proposed structure of the new website. He had published a document for discussion and asked for comments from councillors.
- The communications group has considered the way other parish councils put their websites together as part of this exercise.
- Cllr Henderson said that many of these websites contained historical and geographical information about individual villages and parishes.

- They also contained information about clubs, societies, businesses and community services (such as dental and doctor surgeries, shops etc).
- Importantly, the statutory elements (Agendas, Minutes, Standing Orders, background documents) were covered by all the websites.
- It was hoped to receive feedback from all councillors before the next Full Council meeting.

122/22 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023-24

Cllr Hyland led on these items with the Clerk. Cllr Hyland said that the revised budget for 2023-24 had been circulated to members over the past 24 hours.

Although the budget was still in draft, Cllr Hyland drew everyone's attention to the following line items.

The Newtown and Soberton Parochial Church Council's would each be allocated £1,500 for churchyard maintenance. A figure of £700 was allocated to the annual fees for Google Space. £10,000 was allocated towards the Clerk's pay package.

The Soberton Recreation Ground's maintenance costs would need to be assessed before the budget was fully approved.

Cllr Hyland also asked for £4,000 to be set aside for the provision of a second Speed Indicator Device.

The Clerk began the precept discussion by reminding members that the Parish Council had received a total sum of £39,169 from Winchester City Council in 2022-23 as its parish precept.

For information, a spreadsheet was circulated that showed the tax base for Soberton in 2022-23 had been 842.28 and the Band D rate had been £46.50.

It was proposed by Cllr Hyland that Soberton Parish Council should set a zero % increase on its precept for 2023-24. With a slight increase in the tax base to 846.12 this would see the precept rise to a figure of £39,347 and would also enable the Band D rate to stay at a figure of £46.50.

Proposed: Cllr Findlay Seconded: Cllr Sherwill Agreed

123/22 FINANCE

a) Orders for payment

Date	Supplier	Description	Amount
31/12/22	SSE Energy Ltd	Rec Ground Electricity	560.64
05/01/23	Ampfield Traffic Ltd	SID Deployment	100.00
30/11/22	Swanmore PC	ACSO	190.08

31/12/22	Swanmore PC	ACSO	237.60
17/01/22	Rookesbury Hall	Room Hire 17/01	12.75
10/01/22	Vitaplay Ltd	Play Area Inspection	67.80

Total 1168.87

Resolved: Orders for Payment for the period December 2022 -January 2023 were approved by the Parish Council

Proposed: Cllr Findlay Seconded: Cllr Hyland Agreed

b) Bank reconciliation

Cash Book 01/04/2022	30,720.43
Receipts 01/04/2022 - 30/11/2022	57,601.74
Total	88,322.17
Payments 01/04/2022 - 30/11/2022	32,961.38
Cash Book 30/11/2022	55,360.79
Petty Cash 30/11/2022	0.00
Lloyds Treasurer Account 30/11/2022	55,360.79

This information was noted by the Parish Council.

124/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Findlay commented that there had been no planning applications to deal with over the Christmas and New Year period. He also said that an application at Meon Crest (SDNP/23/00083/HOUS) had been received. Cllr Salmon made a declaration of pecuniary interest (DPI) at this point as this is a property in his ownership.

Cllr Findlay said that this application would be dealt with between meetings.

125/22 THE SOBERTON PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT

Cllr Findlay reported on this item. Some progress has been made with the PDS Toolkit and questionnaire prior to this being distributed by the end of February. The documents will be sent out to all councillors along with the members of the PDS Group.

126/22 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Stallard spoke about the following topics:

Council Tax: Cllr Stallard indicated the HCC Council Tax will rise by a figure of 4.99%. This figure will include a ringfenced figure of 2% specifically for funding Adult Social Care.

HCC Directorates and departments: Cllr Stallard spoke about a review of the HCC Cabinet responsibilities. This review is being undertaken following several senior management retirements.

Household Waste Recycling Centres: Residents who want to dispose of upholstered seating will see a change that has been introduced in January 2023. Due to the national requirement for all waste upholstered domestic seating to be separated from other waste and safely disposed of by incineration, in line with Environment Agency guidance.

Help to keep your Home Warm: As more people feel the impact of rising energy costs and increasingly cold weather, Hampshire County Council is reminding those struggling to heat their homes that help is available. Residents can call the 'Hitting the cold spots' phone line for advice and guidance, from temporary heating and first-time central heating to arranging home visits and sourcing boiler repair funding. The number is 0800 804 8601 (lines are open from 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday).

Satisfaction with Hampshire Highways: Hampshire has been rated third out of all 30 English county councils for public satisfaction with highway maintenance and is the highest performing county authority in the South-East region. Of the 3,300 Hampshire residents who responded to the 2022 National Highways and Transport Survey, 48 per cent agreed that they were satisfied with the highway maintenance service – a one per cent improvement on the figures for 2021 and two per cent higher than the average for all county councils.

Cllr Stallard concluded her report by saying that the "20's Plenty" pilot scheme and consultation will be discussed by the Cabinet soon. A report has been published but has not been adopted by HCC. The main finding of the report is that 20 MPH zones do not make a substantial difference to driver behaviour. There is also an issue of enforcement with the Hampshire Constabulary being unable to police these zones.

Cllr Wallace spoke about the following topic:

Home insulation: Residents can apply for grants of up to £25,000 for energy efficiency improvements to their property under the Warmer Homes programme. The programme is open to homeowners and private rental tenants and covers a range of measures from insulation to heat pumps and solar panels. To qualify for the grants your home must currently have an EPC rating of E, F or G (limited funding is available for EPC D rated properties), and either you have a total household annual income of less than £30,000, or you receive a specified means-tested benefit.

He referred councillors to his written report that had been previously circulated.

Cllr Weston spoke about the following topics.

Elections Act 2022: It is now a legal requirement for voters attending a polling station to provide photographic ID. The Voter's name on any ID must match that on the Electoral Roll.

The new requirement to produce photo ID will be introduced at May's Local Elections.

Cllr Weston announced that she would be standing down at May's election.

127/22 SPEEDING ISSUES IN SOBERTON

Cllr Weston spoke about the increasing issues with speeding. She said that she would not be making any specific proposals tonight. However, she was hoping to receive support from her colleagues for a concerted and focused approach to reducing inappropriate speed throughout the three villages of the parish.

Cllr Hyland said that the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device (SID) would help with this problem.

The Clerk was asked to provide data from the SID in an editable format rather than a PDF.

It was agreed that a dialogue needs to be established with Hampshire Highways so that a co-ordinated approach to resolving the problem can be identified.

128/22 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) There was no other correspondence to receive.

129/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Tuesday 21st March 2023 – Actions Committee meeting
- Wednesday 12th April 2023 – Full Council meeting and Annual Parish Assembly
- Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Annual Council Meeting
- Tuesday 20th June 2023 – Policy Committee meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.22pm