

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Soberton Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at the Soberton Village Hall that commenced at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Hyland (Chairman), D Buttriss, N Findlay, P Henderson, J Russell-Smith, J Sherwill, V Weston.

In attendance: B Gibbs, Clerk to the Parish Council with District Cllrs Lee and Pearson.

90/24 Apologies for absence

Cllrs R Cole, D Cleeve, S Marland and D Salmon sent their apologies to the meeting along with District Cllr Wallace and County Cllr Stallard.

91/24 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures were made.

92/24 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

93/24 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 21st November 2023.

Cllr Sherwill spoke about a couple of items in the November minutes concerning the co-option process. These were to do with the voting process and the proposer and seconder of a motion to co-opt. The Clerk clarified the process about recording the decision to co-opt as well as confirming that the seconder of the motion on the night was Cllr Cole.

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 21st November 2023.

94/24 Chairman's comments

The Chairman made the following comments.

The Chairman spoke about CANS (the Climate Café) and their request to become an active working party of the Parish Council. They would produce Terms of Reference for the Parish Council to approve. One of the advantages of being a working party is they will receive more support from the community.

It was agreed to support this initiative and to ask the Clerk to report back to the next meeting.

95/24 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Hyland said that written reports from District Cllrs Wallace & Lee and County Cllr Stallard had been previously circulated.

Cllr Lee spoke briefly the following topics.

The Bishop’s Waltham branch of the Winchester District Citizens Advice has now closed.
 Hampshire Constabulary has recently appointed a new Deputy Chief Constable.
 Grant funding opportunities such as the Rural England Prosperity Fund and the Small grants scheme.
 EV charging points roll-out across the district has been proposed.
 The WCC budget is currently being discussed prior to approval. A “have you say” item on the WCC website is available.
 The continuing issues with the WCC enforcement department has been raised with the WCC executive.

Cllr Pearson spoke about potential changes to the planning system emerging from the Department of Levelling Up, housing and Communities.
 He also spoke about the 14-week consultation regarding NHS Hampshire Together - Modernising our hospitals and health services.

Cllr Hyland thanked both District Councillors for their report.

96/24 Finance

a) Orders for payment.

Date	Supplier	Description	Amount
31/12/23	RP Commercial Services	Lengthsman 2nd Visit	3900.00
31/12/23	HMRC	PAYE/NIC Month 7 / 8	152.66
31/12/23	B.V.Gibbs	Salary December 2023	767.30
27/11/23	SSE PLC	Pavilion Electricity	47.22
11/12/23	S White	Expenses Climate Café	24.00
07/12/23	Rookesbury Hall	March 2023 Meeting	12.75
31/12/23	Swanmore PC	ACSO NOV 23	300.56
31/12/23	DM Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll fee (2nd Tranche)	60.00
31/12/23	Ampfield Traffic Ltd	SID Deployment Oct 2023	100.00
31/12/23	Portsmouth Water	Water Supply Pavilion	44.27
30/11/23	Holy Trinity PCC	2023-24 S137 Grant	1500.00
30/11/23	Citizen's Advice WD	2023-24 S142 Grant	250.00
30/11/23	HIOV Victim Support	2023-24 S142 Grant	50.00
30/11/23	St Peter's PCC	2023-24 S137 Grant	1500.00
31/12/23	Ampfield Traffic Ltd	SID Deployment Nov 2023	240.00
30/11/23	B.V.Gibbs	Google Space Oct 2023	66.00
31/12/23	B.V.Gibbs	Google Space Nov 2023	66.00
		Total	9080.76

Resolved: to approve the Orders for Payment for December 2023.

b) Budget/Precept 2024-25

The Clerk began the precept discussion by reminding members that the Parish Council had received a total sum of £39,347 from Winchester City Council in 2023-24 as its parish precept.

For information a spreadsheet was circulated that showed the tax base for Soberton in 2023-24 had been 846.12 and the Band D rate had been £46.50. The Clerk said that the proposed figures for 2024-25 showed the tax base for Soberton is 851.48. If the Band D rate was assumed to remain as it is (£46.50) then there was the potential to set a precept of 39,950

The Clerk said that the 2024-25 tax base increase would deliver an extra £603 without making any changes to the precept demand. However, the Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet that had calculated sample figures for the precept up to an including a 5% rise that showed rises between 1% to 5%.

The next steps will be to ask the Finance Group to see if they can set a budget in time for the next meeting.

c) Financial Risk Assessment 2023-24

The Clerk said he had updated the Financial Risk Assessment following on from the meeting in November. He reminded the meeting of the general headings within the document as follows.

- Proper Bookkeeping
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Payments Controls
- Risk Management Arrangements
- Budgetary Controls
- Income Controls
- Payroll Controls
- Assets Controls
- Bank Reconciliation
- Year-end Procedures

He then explained that he had provided up-to-date figures and reports for each listing. He said that the document was now up-to-date and he asked for the Parish Council approve the document as complete.

Some Councillors asked for more time to consider the document so approval was put back until the January 2024 meeting.

97/24 To receive any reports from the following working groups.

a) Lengthsman.

The Lengthsman had visited in late November and had cleared most tasks allocated. The last visit of 2023-24 would be in mid-February. It has now been confirmed that the scheme will

continue into 2024-25 and beyond as a result of fresh funding being allocated for the next five financial years.

b) Asset management.

The Clerk spoke about the proposed improvements to the Soberton Recreation Ground. A grant application to the Rural England Prosperity Fund would be made alongside a grant application to the Football Foundation. It was re-iterated that association football has been played in Soberton for over a century and that the present situation was unfortunate.

Cllr Buttriss spoke about the condition of the pavilion and said that there was scope for improving the level of maintenance that is undertaken. There was a brief conversation about the condition of the Play Area. There was also a brief conversation about the condition of the ditches adjacent to the highway at the recreation ground.

98/24 Planning

SDNP/23/05045/HOUS Cornhill Station Road Soberton Hampshire SO32 3QU: Proposed Single Storey Side Extension (following demolition of existing garage).

The Parish Council is happy for this application to be dealt with by the delegated officer.

23/02430/FUL Erection of replacement dwelling: Rose Cottage Chapel Road Soberton Southampton Hampshire SO32 3PP

Given the construction of a first floor and the vicinity of the neighbouring houses the Parish Council would like conditions to be applied to restrict overlooking from the first-floor side windows. The Parish Council would also request that conditions are applied to ensure that foul and surface water drainage are managed acceptably.

23/02891/TPO Rosina Cottage Church Road Newtown Fareham Hampshire PO17 6LE: Oak tree - 30% crown reduction back to growth points and a rebalancing of the tree.

The Parish Council is happy for this application to be dealt with by the delegated officer.

23/02695/HOU Oak View Liberty Road Newtown Fareham Hampshire PO17 6LB: Single storey side extensions and porch.

The Parish Council is happy for this application to be dealt with by the delegated officer.

99/24 The Soberton Parish Design Statement

Cllr Hyland spoke about the areas of the parish in the two Local Planning Authorities. He gave some interesting statistics about the two Local Planning Authorities (LPA).

- The total area of the civil parish was 2355.2 hectares. This is just over 9 square miles.
- 73% is in the South Downs National Park LPA

- 27% was in the Winchester District LPA.

He said that the Parish Council should pitch its PDS to satisfy the demands of the SDNPA primarily. This will have the effect of raising the standard of that area that remains in the Winchester LPA.

Cllr Sherwill urged everyone to read his draft document for their attention. He commented that the two LPAs should be consulted before the final draft PDS is submitted to them.

100/24 Village charities in Soberton

The Clerk said that he had now signed off the client care letter with Surrey Hills solicitors and that they were asking for copies of originals of the 1860s inclosure awards and any other documents such as lease documents.

101/24 Highways issues in Soberton

Cllr Sherwill spoke the proposed closure of the A32 that was due in the new year. He said that HCC should be consulted before the works start so that proper signing is in place.

102/24 Date of the next meeting

- Tuesday 16th January 2024 – Full Council meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.43pm