

SOBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Soberton Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at the Rookesbury Hall, Church Road, Newtown that commenced at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Hyland, D Buttriss, D Cleeve, P Henderson, S Marland, J Russell-Smith, D Salmon, J Sherwill, V Weston

In attendance: E McKenzie, Substitute Clerk to the Parish Council, with District Cllr Wallace and one member of the public.

130/24 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cole (Maternity) and Cllr Findlay sent their apologies for the meeting.

District Cllrs Lee and Pearson, and County Cllr Stallard, also sent their apologies.

No declarations of interest were raised.

131/24 Public Participation

The member of the public was welcomed but stated he was only observing the meeting and had nothing specific to bring to the Council's attention.

132/24 To approve the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 20th February 2024

The majority of the minutes were noted as to be approved. However, there was a minor query raised regarding the financial record which would need to be checked and clarified before final approval. The Chairman made amends to the tabled minutes and signed them.

Resolved: To approve minutes with minor amends as noted on signed document

133/24 Chairman's Comments

The Chairman provided an update on the Climate Change group and advised that a contract should be issued to the C.A.N.S group. This matter would be brought back to Council in the April meeting.

134 /24 To receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Wallace raised three key points:-

- 1) Flooding during a period of continued rainfall was noted as an ongoing issue.
- 2) The phasing out of landline telephone provision was a concern. Copper lines were at a stage of 'end of life' and the move of data to new systems was noted. An investigation was being conducted to assess the full impact of this change.

Cllr Wallace had spoken directly to an engineer who had recognised the challenges this would have. Cllrs noted the Station Road end of Soberton would be badly affected as they had little mobile phone signal so without landline provision they would be vulnerable in an emergency. Battery power was considered but it was noted that this had its issues too. The provision of the village telephone box was highlighted. It was agreed that this matter needed careful consideration within the Village Emergency Plan.

- 3) Meon Valley Transport Forum meeting – attended by Cllr Wallace and Cllr Sherwill. Further information or initiatives to follow.

135/24 Finance

a) Orders for Payment

Two queries were raised on the payments listed which would be clarified before final approval.

Resolved: To clarify two payments, as noted on the paper tabled, and approve the Orders for Payment March 2024.

ACTION: To clarify and confirm payments for March 2024

ACTION: Clerk and Chairman

b) Budget 2024/25

Two items were queried for the budget 2024/25.

Firstly, the training budget was requested to be increased as the cost of training courses per person needed to reflect the budget set.

Secondly, the noticeboards could have an increased budget to include repair or new boards.

The Chairman stated that the budget was an active and flexible plan and could accommodate some changes throughout the financial year ahead.

Resolved: To approve the budget for 2024/25

136/24 To receive any reports from the following working groups:-

Lengthsman

It was noted that the Lengthsman scheme was continuing and money was available for this. The Council were reminded that they had all received a copy of the email and contract to consider. It was confirmed that the contractor will have the necessary qualifications and training. Cllr Salmon to continue as the key contact for this role.

Asset Management (to include the Soberton Recreation Ground).

A report was given on the future season's football provision. The local teams were keen to play at Soberton Recreation Ground and a statement of intent was suggested to plan for two teams to play. The Council could assist with a grant funding application to ensure a joint approach.

ACTION: To progress idea above in the writing of a Statement of Intent and a draft grant application

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Cleeve

The Chairman added that he would contact the Chairman of Shedfield Parish Council to ascertain the situation re. Soberton United's playing contract and ensure diplomatic relations were in place.

It was requested that a 'road map' was drafted to plan for teams returning and actions required i.e. grant application, pitch maintenance. It was also noted that wider opportunities for the field could be considered. Issues noted as ongoing i.e. dog walking and specific areas for such.

The Children's Play Area was highlighted as an area for improvement. The recent play area inspection report was referred to with high and medium risk points noted. Other points raised were the deterioration of pathways, the areas of play could be condensed into one larger area and the play park location could be redesigned to avoid the road crossing. Cllrs Buttriss and Cleeve had undertaken a review and were drafting a scheme, taking into account points raised. The Chairman suggested a plan should be formulated and then shown to the residents for comment.

ACTION: To report back on review and ideas at next meeting

ACTION: Cllrs Buttriss and Cleeve

ACTION: To investigate costs for remedial works due (slide, bench, netted basket swing and pathways)

ACTION: Clerk

Communications

A 'Safe Neighbourhoods' pdf had been requested from a group to link from their organisation to the Council's website. Cllr Marland was liaising with the group and the links to groups was under discussion – key organisations only, not to set a precedent for all and any groups.

Cllrs Henderson and Marland were leading on this website update project, with the Clerk, and further enhancements were being actioned. More policies were due to be transferred from the old to the new site, and formatting of headings and ordering to be adjusted (such as Minutes) for ease of reference to the reader. Cllr Henderson requested suggestions for improvements at any time between meetings as an ongoing activity.

ACTION: To review format and enhance. To continue transfer of documents.

ACTION: Clerk, Cllrs Henderson and Marland.

PC's Facebook page – Cllrs Henderson and Marland to consider posts to Soberton Echo's Facebook page to ensure communications coverage.

C.A.N.S.

Cllr Cole will be the point of contact for this group, continuing throughout her maternity leave.

It was noted that funds granted to the C.A.N.S. group had been given prior to the leader showing political candidacy. Further funds would come to the PC for approval.

137/24 Planning

The Chairman noted the HM Planning Inspector had agreed with Blanchard Wells usage of the site since 1997 as a builder's yard. The appeal was dismissed. Cllr Sherwill noted the need to be vigilant to any land changes or developments and report/monitor as possible enforcement issues as appropriate.

Mill Lane equestrian centre application was refused by WCC's planning committee, against officers' recommendations (voting 8 against and 1 abstention) the application being in conflict with purpose 1 of the National Park.

Applications received from Winchester City Council

- 1. 24/00326/TPO Little Hadham, Chapel Road, Soberton, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 3PP**

The site was agreed as needing maintenance in any event

Council recommended a neutral stance with no comment to be made.

- 2. 24/00300/HOU Rose Thicket, Hoe Street, Hambledon, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 4RD**

The application was viewed favourably. A comment was requested in the response to ensure the building following its extension should remain as ancillary to the main dwelling.

Council recommended a neutral stance with a comment on the building being extended to remain as ancillary to the main dwelling.

- 3. 24/00209/HOU 11 Hundred Acres, Wickham, Fareham, Hampshire PO17 6JB**

The application was favourably considered.

Council recommended a neutral stance with no comment to be made.

Resolved: To respond to the Planning Applications as stated above

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Russell-Smith left the meeting at this point.

Maybush Lane property noted to be monitored as approved for holiday accommodation, not full-time accommodation.

Applications received from the SDNPA

None received.

The Soberton Parish Design Statement.

Cllr Weston welcomed comments on the circulation of the recent updated plan. She explained that this version, once updated with councillor comments, would be formatted into a final document then offered for consultation with residents before final review and adoption.

The document was discussed with a previous review referred to. It was agreed that both documents should be considered alongside each other and all points included.

ACTION: To ensure all councillors read available documentation in relation to the PDS and feedback to Cllr Weston as soon as possible (ideally Monday 25th March).

ACTION: All councillors and Clerk.

138/24 Highways and Rights of Way

Report about Future SID deployments in the village

The Clerk had provided notes to confirm that a new contractor was under investigation and further feedback would be presented at the next meeting. Cllr Marland requested that the SID be left up as long as possible.

Report response from HCC with regard to Church Road speeding data

Cllr Sherwill referred to the Transport Forum meeting recently attended. He explained that a list of attendees was due to be issued and this would enable the group to keep in touch and share ideas.

Speed Reduction Initiatives between local parishes were considered beneficial for a consistent approach in the area. A focus on legal processes to ensure safety and quality of life was highlighted. Cllr Lee was noted as very proactive and supportive.

An email from Cllr Nick Adams-King was tabled. The decision made is to request a speed and volume survey by HCC as suggested in the email.

ACTION: To write a letter to HCC requesting a Speed & Volume survey in specifically chosen locations (not with SIDs on) **ACTION: Clerk**

It was acknowledged that HCC budgets were constrained but safety priorities had to be addressed. A budget suggestion for speed gates was considered with the choice of possible materials for such deliberated.

The member of the public queried the position of village gates and requested these were carefully considered for safety reasons.

It was noted that an article on speeding issues for the village had been drafted for inclusion in the forthcoming local publication.

139/24 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th April 2024 in Soberton – Full Council meeting – **CORRECTION**

NEXT; MEETING ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 7.30PM Rookesbury Hall

A short parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00 in the meeting room

Cllr Wallace and the member of the public left the meeting at this point.

140/24 Exempt Business

Specific discussions related to Planning Enforcement Matters at :-

- Field at the back of The Old Buttery
- Dradfield Lane
- Long Road

The importance was reiterated in monitoring and reporting on any activities not approved by the formal planning process.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.