



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT SOUTH MILTON VILLAGE HALL,
AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2024**

Present: Cllr Anne Berryman
Cllr Paul Booker (in the Chair)
Cllr Emma Halmshaw
Cllr Steve Harding
Cllr Graeme Jinks
Cllr Marion Luscombe

In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Parish Clerk
Dist. Cllr Samantha Dennis
Dist. Cllr Mark Long
County Cllr Rufus Gilbert (part meeting)
3 Members of Public

390 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Townsend, Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies received.

391 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):

- Social Housing Issue: Serious concern has been raised regarding a housing association property that has recently been allocated to a family from outside the county despite there being applicants with a strong local connection to both the parish and the South Hams, this has been raised with South Hams District Council to investigate.

a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

1. The Levelling Up Minister has now signed off the devolution deal for Devon. The Combined County Authority (CCA) for Devon will commence next year. It is hoped that Plymouth will, in time, join the agreement.
2. The Combined County Authority for Devon will be responsible for improving housing provision, training and public transport among other things.
3. It was noted, from the DCC perspective, it has been quieter summer than most with fewer complaints being received.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

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/>

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

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

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

1. South Hams District Council has launched a public consultation for their draft Local Cycling and Walking Plan (LCWIP). An LCWIP is put together with the aim of creating long-term networks and routes for everyday walking and cycling.



Would you like to cycle and walk more? What is stopping you from doing that right now? To learn more and comment on the public consultation please click the link: <https://activetravelshwd.commonplace.is/>

A drop in event is being held at Kingsbridge Market Hall on Wednesday 25th September, 10.30am – 1.30pm.

2. The Council Executive is looking to improve Community Services, they are reviewing the operations to ensure issues such as street cleaning and grass maintenance are more closely aligned.
3. There is an appeal notification for Brewery quay in Salcombe following the refusal of South Hams District Council to remove the Principal Residence condition. The hearing date is 26th November at Follaton House, this will not be streamed online.
4. The copper phone network is going to be retired January 2027, a drop in session is being held on 30th October 10am – 1pm at Kingsbridge Library for anyone who would like more information.

REPORT IT: <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

392 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 22nd July 2024, these were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

393 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/OTHER INTERESTS & Updates to Register of Interests:

No declarations or updates to the register were received.

394 CLERKS REPORT: See Appendix A.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the report as read.

395 PLANNING:

- a. **Applications** received by the Parish Council and under discussion and consideration for the last period. Any recommendation by the Parish Council to the Planning Department is noted after the application details. Those without comment remain under discussion. When providing a response to applications, the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan will be referenced where appropriate.
 1. Local Planning: Dairy Site, the owner of the site was in attendance, he advised he has been speaking with a social housing team and will keep us updated with any developments.
 2. Local Planning: Wakeham Farm, 2483/24/HHO, proposed single storey garage /store including new external steps to existing patio 19/9. **South Milton Parish Council Support.**
 3. 2458/24/HHO, The Mill, South Milton, proposed single storey garden room extension with glass link, rooflight & replacement/enlarged entrance porch canopy 19/9 **South Milton Parish Council Support.**
 4. 2548/24/HHO, Collacot, South Milton, application to erect gazebo & hot tub, 3/10 **South Milton Parish Council Support.**
 5. 2643/24/TCA, Little Thatch, South Milton, T1: Oak – Fell 10/9 **South Milton Parish Council Support.**
 6. 2793/24/FUL, Land At Sx 704 443 Churchstow , Provision of agricultural livestock building 17/10
A number of queries were raised in respect of this application:
 - There is insufficient land for that number of cattle.
 - How will the cattle be housed when the applicant does not live in the county and cannot oversee the livestock?
 - Why are the cattle being bought to Devon when there's no one to look after them?



- Dry bedding (no slurry) to be stored in the existing barn – but that barn is supposed to be used for vegetables.
- A request was made for a South Hams District Council Agricultural Consultant to carefully view the proposal to consider the above issues.

Further investigation is required before a barn can be agreed on this site

South Milton Parish Council OBJECT

7. Clarification of the stance taken by South Milton Parish Council regarding works undertaken without consent and retrospective approval applications within the parish, i.e. Links Court.

It was noted that a landowner/homeowner/developer can build without planning permission but this is done at their own risk.

South Milton Parish Council request that South Hams District Council treat all notifications of works that have already taken place to the same standard – notably by ensuring the landowner/homeowner submits a planning application to ensure works are valid and have been assessed by a qualified planning officer according to the material considerations and planning policies that are applicable at the time of application.

b. South Hams District Council Planning Decisions:

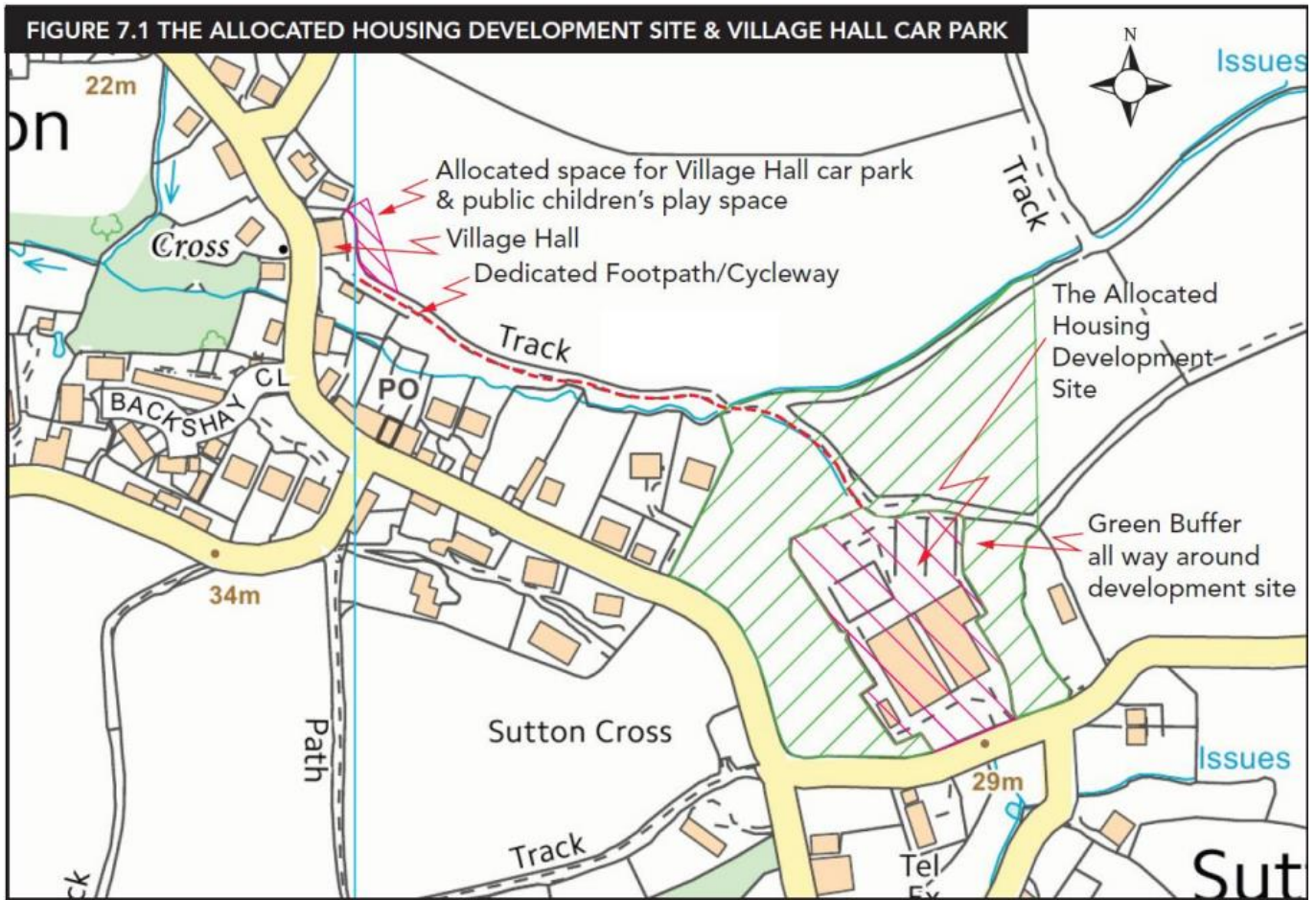
1. 1140/24/FUL, Links Court, Thurlestone. **Refused**

c. Enforcement issues:

Please will all parishioners make a report to SHDC with full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported confidentially to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach. If you would like to submit a report but do not have access to the website, please contact the Parish Clerk.

396 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. Consultation on draft Gambling Statement of Principles, request for feedback.
The Licensing Authority must review its gambling policy, known as the ‘Statement of Principles,’ every three years. The policy sets out the principles which South Hams District Council will apply when dealing with applications, enforcing the law and making decisions under the Gambling Act 2005 over the next three years. Once approved, the updated policy will be in effect from January 2025 to January 2028.
The draft revised policy can be downloaded from the following website:
<https://shgamblingpolicy.commonplace.is/>
The main proposed changes include new sections on ‘safer gambling and social responsibility’ and ‘gaming in alcohol licensed premises,’ as well as further information on what we expect for gaming machines and small society lotteries.
Responses to the consultation must be received no later than 13th October 2024.
- b. The inaugural meeting of the Dementia awareness Friendly Forum will take place on Wednesday 25th September at Follaton House. Councillors are unable to send a representative and have asked for a recording of the event. Cllr Long to investigate.
- c. Cycle Routes and Storage of Cycles in the community – do we need better facilities?
It was agreed to contact the National Trust and the owners of the Links Court Car Park with a request to consider adding a cycle rack at both car parks.
It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan incorporates amending cycle route 28 by diverting it through the Dairy site and on to the Ridgeway. Cycle parking would be included in the redevelopment of the village hall.



d. Rockbox: Complaints received and issues with toilet facilities.

Rockbox should have provided their own toilet facilities while operational but in the two locations with public toilets (Thurlestone & South Milton) their own toilets were not in use for the entire period of trading. At the Churchstow and Malborough sites, their own toilets were in operation the entire time.

By not providing on site toilet facilities at South Milton, the use of the public toilets was significantly increased during the period of operation. In addition to the obvious cost implication to South Hams District Council (and the taxpayer) there were also concerns regarding the increased evening use of a facility with no internal/external lighting supply. Cllr Dennis will speak with South Hams District Council Officers regarding options for connecting an electric supply or other suitable option such as solar panels to the South Milton public toilets.

Councillors were advised that on at least eight occasions, all of which were reported, the noise from the operation was excessive. Cllr Dennis will investigate the outcome from these complaints.

There were also issues with the units causing damage while being transported through the village, additionally, a number of tree branches were torn down. A request will be made for the parish to be advised when the units are going to be transported.

Prior to the 2025 season, the owner will be invited to attend a meeting early to discuss all issues.

e. Highways Group update & Road Warden works:

While South Milton has signed up for the Road Warden Scheme, the parish does not yet have a local person qualified to the requirement set by Devon County Council. Cllr Jinks will consider attending on behalf of the parish.

Prior to any works taking place it is essential that a list of all issues for repair/maintenance be provided to Devon County Council and that a full risk assessment be provided to/accepted by them.



Works could include:

- Pothole repairs (when they do not meet DCC intervention criteria).
- Clearing weeds.
- Cleaning signs.
- Cleaning drainage (gully grating).
- Cutting grass further guidance from DCC available on request.
- Repairing finger posts.
- [Managing verges for wildlife](#)

Councillors will view the roads in the parish and will report issues (with a copy being provided to the Parish Clerk). Parishioners are encouraged to assist by reporting all highways issues via the online portal.

- f. Councillors **RESOLVED** to order four Satnav signs (Kerse Lane and the back lane from the village to Upton).
- g. Burial ground extension update– Cllr Jinks advised the land agent has rejected the offer made by South Milton Parish Council. The Diocese understand the land in question to be 0.93 of an acre, Cllr Jinks will measure the land to confirm this. There's another meeting in two weeks between the Land Agent & Diocese, after which we hope they will clarify a purchase price for the area.
- h. Councillors **RESOLVED** to award the contract for burial ground maintenance to South Hams Elite Property Services at a total cost of £1,440 per annum subject to the foliage from the trees/hedges being removed from the site once cut back.
- i. South West Water Update – Deferred until October.

397 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

a) Receipts & Purchases Month 6

Accounts to pay: Parish Magazine Printing £60.75, SSP Direct Signage £111.36

Monthly Payments: Clerks Salary including HMRC, Monthly bank charge £8, Hall Hire £20, Hugo Fox £11.99

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve all payments.

b) Governance:

1. It was noted that confirmation of exemption status has been received from the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

398 MEETING ENDS 20.47 Hrs

399 FUTURE MEETINGS 2024: 22nd Oct, 25th Nov, 7.30pm, South Milton Village Hall.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please could these be submitted to Mrs Katharine Harrod by the 3rd Monday 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 Mrs Katharine Harrod for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: South Milton Parish Council Councillors

For Information: e-circulation to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, National Trust, Riccardo Carrelli, Jenny Brown.