



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT SOUTH MILTON VILLAGE HALL,
AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2025**

Present: Cllr Steve Harding
Cllr Graeme Jinks
Cllr Nick Townsend (in the Chair)

In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Parish Clerk

SHDC Cllr Mark Long
4 Members of Public

520 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Berryman, Booker, Halmshaw and Luscombe.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies received.

521 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):

- Valda Smith, National Trust Ranger:
The car park team have continued to staff the parking over the winter period and are now planning for the season ahead. The National Trust are looking to install power to the car park to enable parking machines to be sited at that location.

The National Trust team is looking for volunteers to join its Shoresearch Survey at South Milton Sands on Wednesday, April 30, from 1-3pm and Monday, June 9, from 10am-noon. Shoresearch is the Wildlife Trust's national citizen science survey of the intertidal shore, the exciting world of extremes where the sea meets the land. It is a great way to explore your local coast, learn more about the wildlife found there and add to our understanding of this important habitat. You will be trained to identify and record the marine life found on our local shores. The data collected by this project helps to monitor our fragile sea life and better understand the effects of pollution, climate change and invasive alien species.
Shoresearch data has been key to designating many of our Marine Conservation Zones.

For more info on the project, visit www.wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch Please note, this event is aimed mainly at those with an interest in intertidal marine life identification and surveying. The National Trust is looking for attendees who would be interested in becoming NT Shoresearch Survey volunteers, so please come along to learn more. To book, email southdevon@nationaltrust.org.uk

For information regarding the work of the South Devon National Trust team please either call the ranger team on 01548 562344 or email southdevon@nationaltrust.org.uk

- There have been a variety of issues with the Links Court car park. This includes fines for driving in and out of the car park when it has been full and fines being issued when payment has been accepted but no ticket prints. Their website shows a long list of complaints. The owners previously stated that they would operate in adherence to their code of practise which should include a period of grace to move out if there is no parking. Cllr Long will obtain details and investigate.

a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL: No report received.
Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk

**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. The Council Tax has now been agreed for 2025/26, bills are currently being printed and issued.
2. Discussions regarding the Local Government Review timelines have not changed. Seven councils across Devon and Cornwall are understood to be putting forward proposals. All proposals and ideas to go to the minister who will ultimately decide how to proceed.
There is concern as to how town and parish councils will operate within the process. Cllr Long stated it is important for parish councils to put their views forward - how the systems should work, what is required and what the procedures should look like.
It should be expected that the number of unitary councillors would reduce but as yet there is no indication as to what the ward sizes would be. There are also concerns of a potential lack of representation in rural locations. More information will be provided as known.
3. The two tier parking has not yet commenced, there is a briefing next week on the implications, more information will be provided in March.

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**522 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 27th January 2025, these were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

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

No declarations or updates to the register were received.

524 CLERKS REPORT:

- 1) Citizens Advice have thanked South Milton Parish Council for their recent donation.
- 2) An email with information regarding Local Government Reform was received from Cllr Long, this included the criteria for the creation of a unitary local government. All Devon councils including Plymouth and Torbay need to work together to formulate proposals. Their proposals need to be submitted by 28th November, but 'interim plans' are expected by Friday 21st March.
- 3) A pallet of instarmac has been ordered from Devon County Council, this will be used to fill potholes in the parish.
- 4) A request for action to cut back and make safe the bus stops on the A381 has been submitted (ref W251830311).
- 5) The new defibrillator has been installed at the Beach House, there have been issues with the power connection so the box is not currently connected. They are due to have their electrics upgraded to a three phase supply shortly, this will rectify any issues.



- 6) Details of a National Planning Guidance meeting have been forwarded to Councillors, this is a virtual meeting due to take place on 12th March at 5pm, Cllrs Booker & Halmshaw will be attending, a summary of slides and a recording will be available following the event.

525 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. Wakeham Farm works are slowly proceeding.
2. 4055/24/FUL, Land at SX 684 426, South Milton, Provision of temporary agricultural worker's dwelling 27/2 **SUPPORT, South Milton Parish Council have noted that they will be increasing the numbers of livestock which will require someone on site full time.**
3. 0218/25/LBC, Collacott House, Listed Building Consent for replacement of two windows, French doors, removal of external brick chimney 20/3. **SUPPORT.**

b. **South Hams District Council Planning Decisions:**

1. 2793/24/FUL, Land At Sx 704 443 Churchstow , 17/10. **Approved.**
2. 3228/24/CLE, Beech Hut, St Judes Cottage, South Milton. **Approved.**
3. 3092/24/HHO, Mole Cottage, South Milton, 2/1. **Approved.**
4. Secretary of State Appeal APP/K1128/W/24/3355774 - 2970/24/FUL Brewery Quay, Salcombe
5. 0102/25/HHO, Ocean Point, South Milton, 26/2 **Approved.**

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.

526 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. Resilience Planning including highways issues and flood mitigation: Cllr Townsend has produced an initial list of flooding black spots in the parish.
The main issue is that waste that comes out of the drains is usually left nearby and eventually blocks the drain again. If Highways could inform landowners when they are going to be working on drains, landowners could work with them to ensure the waste could be moved to a more preferable location i.e. wider county verges as this would prevent it from washing back onto roads.
It would also be advantageous to create proper passing points at given locations as this would also prevent dirt from clogging up drains. Anyone with information about locations of buddle holes and other drainage should contact Cllr Townsend with the details.
- b. Rockbox Operations 2025:
Rupert Stockwell, owner of the Rockbox, has taken on board the comments he received following last year and is investing in a new toilet block (that will be fully operational and open). Mr Stockwell will be in complete control of all live music which is anticipated to be one or two events per week and will include silent discos. The impact of offshore/inshore wind will be considered when live music is taking place.
It was also confirmed that the operation will not be larger than that of last year.
The National Trust car park will continue to be available during the day with the overflow parking open until 8pm at night.
The 2025 dates for the setup and operation will be available for all via the newsletter/social media etc.



- c. Cllr Townsend provided the following update regarding South West Water:
The treatment plant overflowed again today - there is too much sewage/water getting into the system meaning that small amounts of rain causes it to overflow.
Storm overflows should only be expected to overflow occasionally following heavy rain but the treatment plant is overflowing for up to three weeks at a time.
It is suspected that there is a hole in a pipe which is located below water table.
- d. Burial Ground Update: This item was deferred to the March meeting in favour of all councillors taking part in the discussion as to how to proceed.
We have spoken with a local funeral director regarding burial markers and await their response.

527 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

a) Receipts & Purchases Month 11

Accounts to pay: Accounts to pay: Defibrillator Installation TBC

Monthly Payments: Clerks Salary including HMRC, Monthly bank charge £8, Hall Hire £20, Hugo Fox £11.99, SHEPS £120.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve all payments.

b) Governance:

1. It was confirmed that the precept request for £11,844 had been submitted as agreed.

528 MEETING ENDS 20:41 Hrs

529 FUTURE MEETINGS 2025: 24th Mar, 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 2nd 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.