

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27th JULY 2020

1. Present/Apologies: Cllrs M. Brice, A. Berryman, P Booker, G. Collyer and T. Lewis (SMPC), Cllr. J. Pearce and Cllr M. Long (SHDC) and Cllr R. Gilbert (DCC) attended. Mr N Townsend and Mr G Jinks attended. Apologies were received from Mr D. Ford (National Trust).

2. Co-option of Mr N Townsend and Mr G Jinks as Parish Councillors

On 2nd July and 22nd July 2020, Helen Jarvis of SHDC confirmed that there had been no requests for an election and, as such, SMPC are approved to co-opt two new councillors. Following advertisement on the noticeboards, website, newsletter and further dissemination by word of mouth, SMPC reviewed the applications received and it is proposed to extend an invitation to Graham Jinks and Nick Townsend to join as councillors. GJ and NT have signed the Acceptance of Office and have also been provided with a Declaration of Interests form and information for new councillors. MB welcomed them both to the Council.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Interests on agenda items. MB declared an interest in items 8 and 9 relating to Wakeham Farm and took no part in the discussions.

4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2020 had previously been circulated and were taken as read. They were approved by the Council and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising not raised in agenda items below

- MB thanked volunteers who had done clearing, weeding and strimming work around the parish. In particular, she thanked RG for strimming the verge opposite Lane End. This is a very dangerous junction for cars waiting to turn right towards South Milton with overgrown vegetation obscuring cars travelling at speed from the Malborough direction.
- RG confirmed that there was no date for marked up repairs to the road between Lane End and Sutton.

6. Vacancy for Parish Clerk

MB welcomed Mrs Kathy Harrod to the meeting; Councillors would have the opportunity to talk to her at the end of the meeting with a view to offering her the post to commence on 1st September 2020.

7. Review of Public Space Protection Orders (dogs on beaches) – Following the discussion at the June meeting, it was felt that, until and unless the National Trust altered their policy on allowing dogs at any time on the part of the beach in their ownership, there was little point in trying to introduce changes on the rest of the beach. The Clerk will contact SHDC to confirm the decision but will take the opportunity to explain the background to our survey and the results.

8. Planning

- At this point, PB, Vice Chairman, took over the chairing of the meeting.
- **0386/20/FUL** Minor alterations to existing dwellings and **1154/20/FUL** domestic ground source arrays at Wakeham Farm. Councillors had resolved unanimously to object to the applications; however, it was noted that the developer had submitted a revised application for 0386/20/FUL which omitted openings on the south side of the barns and conditional approval had been received for both.
- **1825/20/FUL** Installation of solar-powered parking pay meter at the Links Car Park – Councillors resolved to SUPPORT the application.

9. Development at Wakeham Farm

- NT asked if the applications would have been considered differently if they had been presented as a commercial development rather than a domestic one; JP advised that the application covered domestic dwellings and ownership whether private or commercial did not make any difference. It was also noted that these dwellings had approval from previous applications.

- NT was also concerned that the SMNP contained a wealth of local information in addition to the policies that should be used in assessing applications. For example, it appeared from the documents, granting conditional approval of the ground source heat array, that the requirements on dealing with local drainage set out in the SMNP had not been properly considered (in particular the proposed pipe trenches which are aligned downslope).
- JP commented that planning officers only take into account the policies of a NP and not the narrative. NT explained that we had been told that our requirements on drainage could not be included as a policy. ML said he had similar concerns about the downslope trenches. He reassured SMPC that approval of the application was conditional on all the documentation submitted with the application and this addressed his and our concerns.

10. South Milton Sands/National Trust

- MB resumed the duties of Chairman.
- Breach of Social Distancing Regulations at Beach House: JP confirmed that several complaints had been received and SHDC's Environmental Health Officers were liaising with the people running the café to ensure compliance with current regulations.
- Traffic and Parking: The situation regarding traffic to and from the beach through the lanes is increasingly frustrating. Due to the necessary problems with staffing the Trust's car parking which has resulted in only four staff patrolling all the Trust's coastal area, much of the good work on ensuring a better circulation of traffic has been lost and the village has been suffering August-type volumes on sunny days since lockdown was eased. SMPC would be keen to support signs warning that the car parks are full and the lanes congested at locations like Lane End, outside The Old Post Office and Huxton Cross in the hope of deterring some visitors. These could easily be located on private land. PB also suggested that a parishioner could design an app to be linked to solar-power signs which could also be sited on private land; landowners along Horswell Lane in particular would be only too pleased to support any such initiative.

11. County Councillor's Report

RG's July report:

- The number and complexity of DCC issues is huge and mostly:
 - a. Protecting social care system
 - b. Protecting vulnerable
 - c. Recovery of economy
- We are expecting a flood of 18/24 year olds to soon be unemployed
- DCC finances are not in too bad a shape so far from Covid-19 expenditure:
 - a. Spent on Covid to date £20M
 - b. Projected spend £43M
 - c. Govt. funding expected £40M
- There are likely to be domestic issues when schools return with the 'hidden young'
- There are considerably increased cyber threats in the public realm
- There have been no Covid deaths in Devon since mid June
 - a. Taking cases per 1000, Devon has a quarter of UK rate
 - b. Devon is rated very low risk
 - c. Loneliness is a significant issue
- DCC has contingency plans ready to deal with the management of an outbreak as a result of the influx of visitors to the county.
- There will be a Devolution/Recovery white paper regards local Government in the autumn.
- In response to a question from PB, RG confirmed that provision of broadband was still on track.

12. District Councillors' Reports

- JP also referred to the Devolution White Paper. Its main thrust will be re-organisation of local government and, among other things, it will consider the possibility of a two-tier system as has been proposed in the past. This system can work well in urban areas but it is hard to see how effective it would be in such a

scattered and rural area such as ours and it could well be detrimental to our services if everything was being administered from Exeter for example. Town and Parish councils would have to take on more responsibilities if the District level were removed.

- SHDC is starting to sort out their finances. There will be a certain amount of government funding to support losses and they plan an emergency budget in September.
- SHDC is the fourth least affected local authority in the country for COVID and the fourth worst affected economically.
- ML reported the problems encountered with keeping up with bin emptying etc. There were huge amounts of additional rubbish to deal with at a time when the roads are so busy and the general public's increased flouting of regulations on littering. MB drew particular attention to rubbish on beach and the menace of disposable barbecues. People were actually digging shallow holes and burying them in the sand.

Before RG and JP left the meeting, as it was her last meeting in post, they wished the Clerk well in the future.

13. Finance

• <u>Payments to approve</u>	Jerry's Garden Services		72.00
	L Anderton salary + Zoom fee		224.39
• <u>Bank Account Status</u>	Balances at 300620	Current	£ 7,181.69
		Reserve	<u>£ 9,482.47</u>
			£16,367.77
			=====

15. Date of next meeting – Monday 28th September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

OPS

- PB brought up the question of providing a footpath between The Barn and the beach. He knew that the Rogers were not interested in getting involved but it was felt worth contacting the Darkes who own the land on the right hand side of the lane. AB undertook to talk to them to see how they feel.
- On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, NT asked for SMPC's support for providing broadband at the Hall. They feel it would compliment the many improvements already being undertaken and provide useful facilities like contactless payments, an internet hub and the ability to hold hybrid meetings. SMVH Committee will be seeking grants for the installation/set up charges and they estimated monthly charges of approximately £25-£30.
- A discussion on the general improvements of the Hall moved on to the provision of a car parking area. This is included in SMNP as part of the development of the Dairy Site. It is understood that landowner might be receptive to the idea of developing the car park in advance of the main development. TL undertook to speak to him.

Approved..... Date.....
 (Chairman)