

# SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Date: 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		Venue & Time: South Milton Village Hall, 19.30hrs
<b>Present:</b> Cllr Anne Berryman Cllr Paul Booker (in the Chair) Cllr Steve Harding Cllr Graham Jinks Cllr Marion Luscombe Cllr Nick Townsend	<b>In Attendance:</b> Katharine Harrod – Parish Clerk Dist. Cllr Mark Long Dist. Cllr Samantha Dennis County Cllr Rufus Gilbert  Parishioners/Guests Present: 4	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Emma Halmshaw National Trust Rangers Valda Smith & Emma Reece  Councillors RESOLVED to accept the apologies received.

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

### 334 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

### 335 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):

- The war memorial needs some attention and a stone mason is required for some of the work. This will be added to the April agenda at which time quotes will be provided for consideration.
- Parishioners attended to discuss the unauthorised works that have taken place at Links Court Car Park. See Minute 340 b.
- The Primrose Trail is being signed from South Brent to Gara Bridge. The idea is that this will be a spine route and eventually link into other areas. South Hams District Council have commenced a process looking at potential new walking/cycling routes, Cllr Long will provide an update to Richard Boyt.
- It was also noted that there are currently funds available for all weather pitches, a local group is trying to deliver one in Kingsbridge for football & rugby. This has been progressing for some years, there is now a business plan in place and they are looking at sites at Kingsbridge Community College.

#### a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: [rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk](mailto:rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk)

Cllr Gilbert provided an overview of the Devon National Highways Potholes Repairs:

It is appreciated that the roads are in a terrible state. Devon County Council are responsible for 8,500 miles of roads covering approximately 426 parish councils/towns. Across this network there are in the region of 100,000 gullies and drains. 25% of unclassified roads are now considered to be in very poor condition. Most roads, particularly in this area, were not designed for the number and weight of vehicles that are currently using them.

This has been the wettest winter in 130 years and the highway network cannot cope with the amount of water on this scale. A good proportion of the work will be caught up over the warmer months, however, it should be noted that to repair all the current issues would cost around a quarter of a billion pounds in Devon alone and there is simply not the funding for this amount of expenditure.

Devon County Council will be speaking with South Hams District Council regarding funding generated from the increased council tax on second homes. With a general election due in the coming months, it is also suggested that parishioners raise the issue with candidates who are canvassing the area.

There is no confirmation regarding the date that the road sign from the A381 will be replaced. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact on local businesses. A letter will be written from the Parish Council to DCC detailing all concerns.

**Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.**

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### 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](mailto:samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk)

Email Cllr Mark Long: [cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk)

1. The Enforcement plan (with greater detail) will be provided to Councillors in due course. The legal processes are currently under review.
2. The Car Park issue is due to be discussed later, Cllr Long confirmed that it is with Enforcement. There was a previous application that was granted in August 2020, this included one solar powered pay machine and three signs. What has been installed is contrary to the original planning application. It was noted that the original application was also not complied with, the pay machine was installed at the correct location but the signs were installed on new posts.
3. South Hams District Council have now put together their response to the Devolution plan and will submit it shortly.
4. Full Council Meeting took place last week, a copy of the meeting has been uploaded to YouTube.

### 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...

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## THE MEETING CONVENED

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**336 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER:** None received.

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### 337 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 26<sup>th</sup> February without alteration, they were then signed by the Chairman.

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### 338 CLERKS REPORT:

1. We have still not received an analysis of the responses to the Housing Needs Survey which closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
2. With regard to the defibrillators we await news from the National Trust regarding siting a unit on their land.
3. We have received details of potential course providers and are communicating with regard to potential times/dates/venues.
4. Bank Account: Lloyds are still offering the Treasurers Account with no monthly fee, we are now in the process of setting up an account.
5. Reminder: Anthony Mangnall MP will hold a South Milton Surgery at the village hall on 27th May commencing 6.30pm.
6. The damaged road sign at the A381 junction was reported in November and more recently in January (ref W231681186 & W241709339). Cllr Gilbert has now confirmed that the signage will be replaced by Devon County Council but has also advised this may take some time.
7. A Whole Society Resilience Conference was attended on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Emergency Plan will now be reviewed and updated where necessary.
8. Councillors received the details from the last National Landscapes Partnership Meeting.

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9. The notice of election for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election being held on 2 May 2024 is due to be posted on the noticeboard.
10. Communications via social media and/or the parish website: Air Ambulance Shop Volunteers Wanted, Devon Home Choice housing association homes and Steady on Your Feet, Sustainable South Hams Community Composting Opportunities.

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### 339 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.
  1. 0471/24/LBC, South Down, South Milton. Listed building consent to renovate/restore the Consuta, demolish the bungalow extension, outbuildings & construct a single storey three bedroom structure on the less visible northern side of the Consuta with a detached garage associated landscaping 4/4
  2. 0809/24/FUL, South Down, South Milton, Renovate the Consuta, demolish bungalow extension & outbuildings & replace accommodation with a detached single storey three-bedroom structure, a detached garage & associated landscaping 18/4. **Conditional Support. NB: Minute references 399 a 1 & 2 were dealt with together.**
  3. Wakeham Farm: No update
  4. Dairy Site: No update.
- b. **Decisions:**
  1. 3840/22/FUL, Higher Southdown Farm, 29/12/22. **No Decision Yet.**
  2. 0234/24/LBC, Collacot, South Milton. 29/2. **No Decision Yet.**
- 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](http://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.

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### 340 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. To consider an 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day Event, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Harding will talk to the Village Hall Committee and will bring the response back to the April meeting. The Parish Clerk will review what funding may be available from the budget. It was noted the beacon from Beacon Field is currently on the floor in that location.
- b. Links Court car park and the impact the new equipment is having on the Natural Landscape. We have received a number of complaints regarding the works at the car park which do not have planning permission. There is no planning for the automatic number plate recognition cameras either and some concern was raised regarding the impact on the privacy of neighbouring properties. The impact on the AONB is very significant being very visible from a large swathe of the coastline. Cllr Long confirmed again that South Hams District Council have been in touch with the car park operator, further updates will be provided as/when they can be made public.
- c. It was **RESOLVED** approve continued support for the parish magazine following an increase in printing fees from April.
- d. Cllr Townsend provided a Greenaway update regarding the erosion of the bank due to the prolonged wet weather. The landowner is concerned about the situation and has been very helpful, once the land dries out some works can commence to secure the area. A number of the trees on the bank are coming to the end of

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their natural life and will not be easy to deal with. It is likely that a road closure will be required to undertake any works.

- e. Burial Ground Update. Cllr Jinks has spoken to the new Savills representative working on behalf of the Diocese. Savills have confirmed that the agricultural land could be sold (current value approximately £15,000 per acre) they will discuss and come back to us with a potential price. It was noted that there are some parishioners who have offered to contribute to any purchase.
- f. Hedgehog Signage: Following the February meeting, hedgehog signage has appeared in the parish!
- g. Councillors **RESOLVED** to donate £100 to the Citizens Advice Bureau in support of their work in and around the parish.
- h. Holiday Home Council Tax discussion. A Councillor has been approached regarding second homeowners who are declaring two homes as being their principal residence i.e. husband/wife partnership whereby they each declare one property as their principal residence - this also has HMRC implications with respect to issues such as capital gains tax.

Cllr Long advised from April 2025, SHDC are setting a 100% premium on second homes. This will be monitored and spot checks will take place on properties to ensure that they are occupied if this is what the owners have stated. The Principal Revenues Officer is currently putting a process and task team together to review this situation, this will include spot checks and the provision of evidence regarding full occupancy. There is currently no link between South Hams District Council and HMRC, although HMRC do contact South Hams District Council on occasion for information.

It should be noted that the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan includes Policy H5 Principal Residency Requirement - for those new properties that are sold with a principal residence clause there is specific evidence that should be provided on request to prove that properties are occupied.

- i. Climate & Nature Action Group update: Richard Snow from the NT will meet with the group to help form their plan, a date has yet to be agreed.
- j. South West Water Update. See **APPENDIX A**

At the time of the meeting it was considered that the issue was coming from the Thurlestone end, South West Water have now concluded that this is not the cause of the problem and are going to look again at the area between the cabbage field and the treatment plant. There was another overflow from the treatment plant one week ago lasting many hours, this seemingly caused a nasty brown scum in the stream, it was reported but South West Water claimed the scum came from the reserve not the treatment plant, as/when it happens again samples will be collected as evidence. The storm tank has been upgraded although we are not sure if the works have been completed. A local landowner has been approached regarding the temporary loan of land for equipment while the treatment plant is upgraded. It is positive that they are trying to improve the treatment plant but should be noted that they may also look to increase the capacity.

Cllr Dennis was asked about the signage, this is still being processed but has a deadline of Easter! The plan is for the notice to sit below the statutory notice regarding bathing water.

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### 341 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

#### a) Receipts & Purchases Month 12

Accounts to Pay: Burial Ground Maintenance £tbc, PMP Printing £57.80, SLCC Renewal £34.56

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

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve all payments.

- b) **Governance:** The year-end governance/reviews and audits have commenced. We have received confirmation from the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn that South Milton Parish Council are one of the 5% of councils across the country chosen for an Intermediate Review.

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**342** It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, at agenda item 333 below, that the public and press be excluded.

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**343** The council then discussed and received updates regarding confidential enforcement matters.

**MEETING ENDS 20.29 Hrs**

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**344 FUTURE MEETINGS 2024:** 22nd Apr, 27th May, 24th Jun, 22nd Jul, 23rd Sept, 28th Oct, 25th Nov, 7.30pm, South Milton Village Hall.

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**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.