

## **SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

#### **OPS**

- Mr and Mrs G Jinks brought in copies of plans for a new dwelling at the entrance to their field so Councillors could be aware of their proposals. These have still to be submitted to SHDC.
- TL advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was still operational and will be working towards the implementation of the list of local projects (Appendix 2 of the NP).

**1. Present/Apologies:** Cllrs M. Brice, T. Lewis, G. Collyer, P. Booker, A. Berryman, D Cliff (SMPC) and Cllrs J. Pearce and M. Long (SHDC) all present. Apologies were received from Cllr R Luscombe (SMPC). Cllr R Gilbert (DCC) arrived after the start of the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 had previously been circulated and were taken as read. They were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3. Matters Arising not raised in agenda items below**

- Ponding at Lane End: We know that the jetting machine has been deployed but the flooding is as bad as ever. DCC have been continuing their investigations but they are tremendous pressure at the moment due to the extreme wet weather. RG is being as supportive as possible.
- Speeding controls: seven children from the village had submitted posters which would be voted on at the end of the meeting. Nick Walker Printing had quoted £100 for the enlargement and printing of five. The Clerk suggested that small prizes should be given to the children whose posters gained the most points and a suitable sum had been set aside for the printing, the prizes and the posts/fixings. It will be necessary to identify the best locations and to get permission from the relevant landowners.
- Clearing work in cemetery: a major clear up had taken place which has provided much more space.
- End of Backshay Close: A small area at the far end of Backshay Close had also been cleared. More work needs to be done to clear and retain it and a volunteer has come forward to plant it up and take care of it. MB pointed out that several water pipes lie underneath so it would not be a suitable site for a tree or anything with deep roots.

**4. Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Interests on agenda items** MB declared an interest in Item 7 – Wakeham Farm Development – (shared boundary) and will take no part in any discussions thereon. The Clerk also recorded a similar conflict of interest but may continue to act in an administrative capacity during meetings.

#### **5. 2020/21 Budget and Precept**

- The proposals had been circulated in advance of the meeting to the Councillors.
- Balances in the bank on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 were £18,071.87.
- As it is impossible to predict the income from the cemetery, a token amount of £250 was proposed for 2020/21. So far in the current financial year, income is £650. Grass cutting amounted to £630 but a major clear and cut back has just taken place which has cost £937.
- Funding for defibrillator – see Item 8.
- Speeding awareness posters – see Item 3.
- Website – GC had negotiated a good deal with the web hosts for an upgrade (£23.98) but we must allow £250 for a corresponding upgrade by the software engineer.
- Small deficit balance is shown for 2019/20 due to the unexpected expenses listed above.
- Councillors resolved to accept the budget and agreed there should be no increase in the precept for 2020/21.

**6. Planning matters** Thurlestone Golf Club 0151/20/FUL provision of one car park meter – Councillors resolved to SUPPORT the application.

## 7. Development at Wakeham Farm

- Councillors resolved to form a Sub-committee, to be chaired by PB. Terms of reference will be to attend site and other meetings with Hertford Investors and to report back to full Council on all matters concerning the proposed development. The Sub-committee may be made up of Councillors and non-Councillors. The latter may discuss and advise but may not vote as part of the Parish Council.

## 8. Defibrillator

- A letter had been sent to the various organisations which use the Hall asking if they wanted to retain a device and, if so, how much would they be prepared to donate. To date, very positive responses have been received and a total of £250 has been banked, with a further £350 promised. JP and ML agreed to donate £100 each from the Sustainable Community Locality Fund

## 9. South Milton Sands/National Trust

- Jess Tatton-Brown was not at the meeting. General discussion on Gazette article from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January relating to a problem with dog waste being left over the Christmas period.

## 10. County Councillor's Report - RG

- Lane End. – see under Item 3.
- Superfast Broadband – Expressions of Interest are currently being sought as part of the new tendering process. RG confirmed that the focus will be on the rural areas where no superfast is yet available. Hopefully contracts will be awarded in autumn 2020.

## 11. District Councillors' Reports – JP and ML

- Sophie Hosking, Chief Executive, is leaving mid-March.
- The 2020/21 budget proposes a £5 increase for SHDC.
- Car parking charges will be rising by 4% once only over four years.
- New Pre-application planning policy: there will be at least one officer dealing with all pre-apps.
- SHDC procuring new IT management platform, hopefully this will be more user-friendly.
- Commercial Acquisition Programme (only projects within the District) now acquired M&S at Dartmouth.

## 12. Finance

- The surplus of £118.40 is to be repaid to Groundwork UK in respect of NP expenses.
- Payments to approve

South Milton Village Hall rent	20.00
Groundwork UK	118.40
A Woollam (tree clearing etc)	1,162.00
Clerk's salary Dec/Jan	420.00
G Collyer (web)	23.98
- Bank Account Status After approval of the above cheques, balances at bank were £16,327.49.

## 13. Date of next meeting – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

OPS None

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