



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT SOUTH MILTON VILLAGE HALL,
AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

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

In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Parish Clerk
SHDC Cllr Samantha Dennis
County Cllr Rufus Gilbert
0 Members of Public

500 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Luscombe and Long.

501 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):

- A request was made for paving slabs by the post box, Cllr Townsend will obtain the exact requirements and bring to a future meeting for consideration.

a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

- DCC are expected to adopt a 5% council tax increase, confirmation of which will be issued shortly.
- A white paper is being issued with the proposals for devolution, this would ultimately lead to more unitary authorities. The proposals for the county of Devon are not yet known.
- The Airband works to provide superfast broadband (30mb or above) have halted for financial reasons, there is currently no other company ready to take on those works. It should be noted the connectivity target was 95% and currently stands at 93.5%. Anyone wanting to find out if they are going to be connected can contact Cllr Gilbert and he will obtain an answer. Cllr Booker noted Starlink from SpaceX as an alternate option.
- Devon County Council have been in discussion with property owners who have been experiencing flooding, this includes site visits to best determine how to address the issues. In areas like Upton Barton this is a complex problem not helped by the vast amounts of rainfall in short periods which the current drainage pipe diameters are often not large enough to cope with.

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. At the recent Overview & Scrutiny meeting with South West Water, South Milton was used as an example of how South West Water are improving relations communities but not necessarily listening and appreciating the local knowledge and expertise being shared.



The next Overview and Scrutiny meeting involves Livewest. Cllr Dennis was asked to raise the issue of 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.

2. Rockbox – further to issues being raised by a number of parishes, the licensing and enforcement departments invited Rockbox representatives to a meeting. It was agreed that the owners would provide details of how they will be operating next year, the venues they will be attending and dates for arrival and departure (which the council would monitor). Officers felt that it was a productive meeting and the operators understood their obligations, the level of monitoring which would be undertaken in 2025 and also the penalties for breaching the regulations within which they need to operate.
3. Cllr Dennis has been appointed Chairman of the Task & Finish group regarding hunting.
4. Regarding solar lighting on toilets no progress has been made. The two officers, Stuart Noyce & Emma Widdicombe have advised that no contributions have been received from either the National Trust or the Beach House for some years. Councillors expressed their surprise at this news as they understood that both parties were making annual contributions. The two organisations, encourage in excess of 125,000 people per annum to the area, furthermore, the Beach House would be unable to operate without the toilet facility! The entire situation requires renegotiating as a matter of importance, it was noted there is a full review of the toilet/refurbishment programme due in 2025.
5. **Items for an update in January:**
Light installation and business contributions re upkeep at South Milton Public Toilets,
Planning Consistency
Social Housing

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

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

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st October 2024, these were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

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

No declarations or updates to the register were received.

504 CLERKS REPORT: See Appendix A.

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

505 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: Wakeham Farm, there are ongoing discussions in respect of landscaping, Cllr Townsend has received copies of correspondence.
 2. Local Planning: Dairy Site, Cllr Townsend recently met a developer who had been in communications with the owner. The area was noted as being an attractive site, however, there is some way to go prior to an application being submitted.



b. South Hams District Council Planning Decisions:

1. 2793/24/FUL, Land At Sx 704 443 Churchstow , 17/10. **No decision yet.**
2. 2970/24/FUL, Brewery Quay, Salcombe. **Refused.**
3. 2870/24/HHO, 1 Backshay Park, South Milton. **Approved.**
4. 3021/24/HHO, Lyndhurst, South Milton. **Approved.**
5. 3228/24/CLE, Beech Hut, St Judes Cottage, South Milton. **No decision yet.**
6. 3011/24/VAR, Wakeham Farm, South Milton. **Approved.**
7. Secretary of State Appeal: 4120/23/VAR, Brewery Quay, Salcombe. **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 If you would like to submit a report but do not have access to the website, please contact the Parish Clerk.

506 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. Burial Ground Extension Update: Cllr Jinks reported that the offer of up to £8,000 for the additional land has been refused. The Diocese have stated our offer would have to be considerably larger as they must ensure they receive the best value for the land, unfortunately, they won't indicate what they consider to be an acceptable figure. The area in question is 0.9 acres.
Councillors will establish what the current agricultural land value is and will discuss options for an increased offer at the January meeting.
- b. South West Water Update: Cllr Townsend attended the recent open day at Thurlestone and was able to talk with South West Water engineers who were in agreement with our views regarding the ongoing problems. South West Water are currently investigating the sewer between South Milton and the treatment plant where they recognise there seems to be a major problem. It was noted that the treatment plant only overflowed for six hours yesterday – this is still longer than it should have overflowed but an improvement on previous storm periods.
- c. A free defibrillator unit has been offered to the parish for siting at the beach café, to proceed with this we require authority from the beach café to proceed but to date have been unable to get a response. Cllrs Booker and Halmshaw will speak with the Beach Café and National Trust to obtain permission. The Parish Council would need to pay for installation, insurance of the unit and any replacement pads as/when required.
- d. Flood mitigation & resilience planning:
There is no overall concept as to how to deal with excess water/flooding, this is not satisfactory in the current climate. As a parish, we are unable to stop flooding but we must act to limit it.
 - **Flood Mapping:** It was agreed that Councillors will identify problem areas (ponding, flooding, run-off, insufficient pipe capacity) and consider available options e.g. at Upton and by the Berryman camping field it would be advantageous to install a second buddle hole/drainage pipe above the existing one to enable excess water to drain sufficiently.
Once flood mapping plans are in place, Cllr Gilbert and the Highways Officer will visit to view the situation, providing relevant advice and the potential of future funding for improvements. Additionally, it was noted that having a flood mapping document would put South Milton Parish Council in a strong position to receive funding from S106 contributions for infrastructure improvements as/when monies become available.
 - **Resilience Planning:** Councillors agreed we need an updated resilience document and action plan that can be used in the event of a range of different emergencies, flood and landslip being the most likely in the area.



Parishioners and businesses will be encouraged to consider how to best protect their property without reliance on the authorities. This includes considering bunds, improving drainage capacity, reviewing the flow of water and options to create preferential run paths

- e. Councillors **RESOLVED** to pay a one off increased payment for an anniversary edition of the newsletter.

507 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

a) Receipts & Purchases Month 8

Accounts to pay: Accounts to pay: £8.97 Avon Mill (War Memorial), DHF Signs £391.20, Parish Magazine Printing £60.75.

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. Councillors were advised Lloyds Bank is in the process of writing to all Town and Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £250,000 to advise that their account is being changed to a Community Account and that bank charges will be applicable to all these accounts. With this in mind Councillors **RESOLVED** to remain with HSBC for their banking needs.
2. 2025/26 pre-budget overview: Councillors had been provided with an overview of year-to-date expenditure and a draft precept model based on the 2024/25 Council Tax base rate. Feedback has been requested prior to the 6th January 2025 to enable the 2025/26 proposals to be supplied prior to the January meeting.
3. Councillors then **RESOLVED** to go into closed session during which time they noted a pay increase (spinal column point 26, to be backdated to April 2024) for the Parish Clerk in line with the recently approved national salary scales.

508 MEETING ENDS 20.52 Hrs

509 FUTURE MEETINGS 2025: 27th Jan, 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.