

# SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Date: 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024		Venue & Time: South Milton Village Hall, 19.30hrs
<b>Present:</b> 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 Samantha Dennis County Cllr Rufus Gilbert  Parishioners/Guests Present: 1	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Anne Berryman Cllr Emma Halmshaw Dist. Cllr Mark Long National Trust Rangers  Councillors RESOLVED to accept the apologies received.

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

### 314 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

### 315 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):

- Potholes require attention on Luggers Lane. This can be dealt with via the tarmac order due to be submitted.
- Has any progress been made regarding the play area for young children? It was advised that there is no update at this time.
- A vehicle with no MOT displaying a SORN notice is parked on what is understood to be public highway land at Backshay Close. This will be investigated and reported if appropriate.
- The signage at the A381 junction has still not been repaired. This will be followed up again.

#### a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

- The Devolution proposals for Devon (now excluding Plymouth) have in principle been agreed with the government and should come into force April 1st. There will no changes to the make-up of Districts, Parishes and DCC.
- The transfer of LEP's Local Enterprise Partnerships to Devon County Council will be completed by April.
- The £2.00 bus fare will continue until the end of 2024.
- Devon will get £6.6M from Hs2 cancellation towards road repairs.
- DCC has bought six replacement gritters.
- Regarding DIY waste taken to recycling centres, contrary to media coverage, this will not include tyres/asbestos.
- The Modbury road closure commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> January for a period of 6 weeks. The closure is going as well as can be expected. Light traffic is passing through Modbury relatively quickly via a small deviation/lights.
- Lane End Ponding has been reported (reference W241697234) Devon County Council have subsequently advised that the issue has been repaired. It was noted that the flooded area is slowly subsiding and is not as bad as it has previously been.
- Kerse Lane repairs are being undertaken with HS2 funding.

Cllr Gilbert left the meeting.

#### 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)

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

1. Waste & recycling collections over Christmas have run very well, all issues are being reviewed with the crews at the earliest opportunity. Black bins are collected fortnightly and recycling should be collected weekly, if this is not the case South Hams District Council should be notified via the 'Report It' section of the website. The brown bin service is due to restart following the Christmas break.
2. Due to the current dental crisis, South Hams District Council is encouraging the Devon Health & Wellbeing Board, plus local MPs Anthony Mangnall and Gary Streeter, to work with local dental practitioners to set up a pilot scheme for accessible no frills dental care suitable for all age groups in the South Hams.
3. The new planning website is operational, there have been some glitches with it, if anyone has any issues please contact one of the Ward Councillors directly.
4. The budget proposals are currently being considered. On 25th January, the Executive will look through the proposed budget and recommend proposals. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February a meeting is due to be held to agree the final council tax for 2024/25, documentation will be printed and issued immediately following this meeting.
5. Regarding the beach steps Cllr Dennis has been in contact with the owner.
6. South Devon National Landscape has been awarded £2.2m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund towards their Life on the Edge project which concerns the protection of rare insects and invertebrates on the surrounding coastline.

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

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**317 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 27<sup>th</sup> November without alteration, they were then signed by the Chairman.

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**318 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. A revised version of the full Register of Electors has been published and is available, by appointment, for inspection under supervision during office hours at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5NE
3. The future purchase of poppy wreaths has been put on hold, however, the Royal British Legion have been advised that the Parish Council will consider the provision of a small donation if a request is received.
4. It has been noted that there has been an issue recently regarding the monthly enforcement report and updates contained within, Cllr Long is working with the team to ensure the issues are rectified.
5. Information re pressures on the NHS in Devon has been shared via social media. Details regarding 1-2-1 swimming lessons for SEND children who need extra help has also been shared
6. Peter Hinchcliffe is the new Parish Council representative on the South Devon AONB (National Landscape) Partnership. Peter is also the Chair of Newton and Noss Parish Council. Peter Sandover, Chair of the Partnership, is making a round of all Parish Councils and Peter will try to accompany him on some of these visits. For information, the next Partnership meeting is to be held on Friday 15th March.
7. The defibrillator lease has been renewed. New defibrillators are on hold due to a temporary supply issue. 2024 training sessions have been agreed as being: South Milton on 14th June and Malborough on 24th June, further details to follow.

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8. Snow Wardens/Road Wardens: A list of volunteers across the four parishes has been provided re training requirements, Cllr Luscombe has offered storage for a full pallet of 52 bags of pothole repair materials - they have an expiry of 6 months and we must order a minimum of 13 bags (with a total charge of £40) or a full pallet of 52 bags and no charge.
9. Bank Account, no update at this time.
10. The cemetery entrance was cleared by Cllr Booker during December,
11. At the meeting of the SHDC Executive on 30<sup>th</sup> November it was resolved to 'make' (adopt) the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan modification. The modification to the NP is now part of the development plan for the South Milton parish and will be used in determining planning applications. The Regulation 19 Decision Statement has been added to the South Milton Parish Council website. A hard copy will be brought to all future meetings.
12. Patching (and some tree work) between KERSE CROSS TO LOWER KERSE & THURLESTONE TO LOWER KERSE, THURLESTONE are now due to take place between 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> February although it was noted that some works are already taking place.

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### 319 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. 4120/23/VAR, Brewery Quay, Salcombe request to remove Principal Residency condition. Neighbouring Town application, the impact of which is relevant to South Milton Parish. An objection to this application was ratified.
  2. 4091/23/CLE, Rafters, Holwell Farm Service Road, South Huish, Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of garden associate with existing dwelling. The following response was ratified: 'Local knowledge dictates that the land has been used as a garden since the previous owners purchased the property and possibly longer. This would appear to date back to 2003, unfortunately we have no concrete evidence to support this'
  3. Wakeham Farm update: All development is proceeding at a reasonable rate (considering the weather), the developers are considering alternative parking arrangements.

#### Local Planning:

- Dairy Site – No update.
- Airband applications including Whitley Cross to Huxton Cross and Huxton Cross to B3197. We continue to have issues with Airband communications. Cllr Dennis will assist.

#### b. **Decisions:**

1. 3840/22/FUL, Higher Southdown Farm, 29/12/22. **No Decision Yet.**
2. 3475/23/HHO, Greenacres, South Milton, 30/11. **Conditional Approval.**
3. 3502/23/TPO, Brook House, South Milton. **Conditional Approval.**
4. 3560/23/HHO, Well Park, Ilbert Road to Whitlocksworthy Cross. **Conditional Approval.**
5. 2691/23/HHO, Old Orchard, South Milton, 21/12. **Conditional Approval.**
6. 3783/23/ARC, Wakeham Farm, Non Statutory Consultation. **Discharge of Condition 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](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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### 320 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

a) South West Water Update, Cllr Townsend: South West Water have commenced work on the new stormwater tank, the site has been cleared and works are due to be completed in March.

A problem with the infiltration has been confirmed, Cllr Townsend and Cllr Dennis are due to meet with South West Water representatives regarding location of the issue and how to deal with it.

South Hams District Council will be providing signage advising people not to swim in the lagoon area, it is anticipated that signage will be located at the entrance to the beach house, by the privately owned steps and an A frame at the National Trust land.

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### 321 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

#### a) Receipts & Purchases Month 10

Accounts to pay: Burial Ground Maintenance £112.50, Parish Magazine Printing £57.80, SWAST Defibrillator £1,200, Jerry's Garden Services £90.

Monthly Payments: Clerks Salary including HMRC, Monthly bank charge £8, Hall Hire £20, Hugo Fox £11.99  
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve all payments.

#### b) Governance: Financial Review & Setting of the annual precept:

1. The monthly accounts show the Council's spend to date in the financial year. In November/January the Parish Council uses this information to estimate and assess the projected outturn spend for the year. This then gives the Council a likely carry forward figure for the next financial year and informs the precept discussions.
2. The meeting therefore reviewed the year-to-date financial position and worked through the modelling supplied by the Clerk to assure itself of the validity of the projected outturn.
3. The meeting then considered the commitments, inflationary pressures and the likely increase in services needing to be both provided and funded locally.
4. The base band D on which precept calculations are based has reduced from 249.35 to 248.53.
5. The meeting noted that the Government has deferred the setting of council tax referendum principles to town and parish councils for 2024/25. However it has issued a challenge to those councils to demonstrate restraint when increasing precepts that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities.
6. With proposed annual expenditure reaching £10,542 the Council concluded that they needed to increase the precept to £7,896 so the average household will pay £31.77 per year (i.e.: £0.61p per week). This will mean our budget increases by £718 allowing us to fund the costs of more benefits to the community and any services devolved from County or District etc.
7. A proposal was made to request a precept level of £7,896 as per the above information. Proposed by Cllr Townsend, seconded by Cllr Harding, approved unanimously.

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### 322 MEETING ENDS 20.29 Hrs

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**323 FUTURE MEETINGS 2024:** 26th Feb, 25th Mar, 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.