

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Smannell Parish Council Meeting held at the Smannell & Enham CE Primary School Hall at 19.15hrs on Wednesday 5 January 2010

Members Present: Cllr. Phil Duke, Cllr. David Jarman, Cllr. John Page (Chairman), Cllr. Ian Richardson, Cllr. Stephen West

In attendance

County Cllr. Pam Mutton

110. Apologies

Cllr. Len Gates
Cllr. Phil North
Cllr. Janet Whiteley
Debbie Burgess

111. Public Questions not on the Agenda

None recorded.

112. Declarations of Interest

None recorded

113. To Read and Approve Minutes of the Full Council Meeting – 6 December 2010

The Minutes were Proposed by Cllr. Phil Duke, Seconded by Cllr. Stephen West and unanimously agreed. Motion Carried.

In pursuance of Minute 101, Members accepted the verbal confirmation of the insurance quotation from Aon for the Orbiter Space Frame of £18.00 for cover until the renewal date of June 2011.

Further to Minute 102, Members acknowledged the Parish Clerk's preparatory work for risk assessments and effectiveness of internal audit.

ACTION

The Chairman requested that Members submit comments on the documents and that the subject of risk assessments be an agenda item in February.

With regard to Minute 102 regarding the extension of speed limits, Cllr. Stephen West requested that action on this is not lost and be pursued.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk was asked to e-mail Dave Wilson to formally request action regarding potential of the speed limit extension

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and to ask for an envisaged timescale with a copy to the Chairman.

ACTION

Further to Minute 104 regarding the preparation of an investment strategy prepared by the Parish Clerk, the Chairman requested that members consider the strategy and e-mail comments and for this to be an agenda item at the February Council meeting.

In pursuance of Minute 105 related to Section 106 potential funding of projects, Members felt it was important to organise a working party to cost and prioritise community projects for potential funding.

ACTION

Cllr. John Page offered to organise a working party tasked specifically with costing and prioritising projects for potential funding.

By way of update to Minute 109, it was reported that the publicans at The Oak will remain there until the end of January.

A debate ensued regarding gritting at Augusta Park and a concern raised by a parishioner to Borough and County Councillors. Cllr. Phil Duke commented that as far as he was aware the complainant did not contact any of the Parish Councillors. He felt there was a need to raise the Parish Council profile with Augusta Park. Parishioners need to be aware that Smannell Parish Councillors have spent a long time scrutinizing planning applications on Augusta Park, including siting of street lights, pavements and steps. If the Parish Council is not made aware that these problems exist, it does bring into question why the Parish Council has meetings with the planning department and why the Parish Council is consulted about planning issues on Augusta Park.

With reference to Minute 109, Cllr. Stephen West requested a formal update as to the status of the adoption of the bus shelter at Augusta Park.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk was asked to investigate the current status from Test Valley Borough Council and report back at the February Full Council meeting.

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114. To receive a report from the Smannell & Enham Primary School

Anne-Marie Jones stated that the hut will be removed by next weekend.

115. Correspondence Received

All previous correspondence had been circulated among councillors and no matters were raised.

116. To consider and approve cheque payments for Smannell Parish Council and report on the latest financial position of the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk reported on the parish council accounts position and the projected residual amount in Parish Council accounts following statutory reclaim of VAT as at 31 March 2011.

Payments due were for Wicksteed Leisure for the Orbiter Space Frame of £5,875.85, HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE) of £90.00, the Parish Clerk's salary for December of £120.00 and a refund payable to Cllr. Phil Duke for expenses incurred for the Christmas Lights event amounting to £155.82. It was Proposed by Cllr. John Page, Seconded by Cllr. David Jarman and unanimously agreed to approve the cheque payments as listed amounting to £6,241.67. Motion Carried.

117. To consider and agree a budget for the Parish Council for the financial year 2011/2012

The Parish Clerk introduced the budget papers for consideration for the precept level determination for the financial year 2011/2012. The taxbase level has been adjusted to reflect provision for the new development at Augusta Park therefore allowing the Parish Council greater flexibility without substantial Council Tax increases.

Members felt there should be an increase in budget allocation for playing fields related matters and capital projects. In addition, Members considered it important to build a reserve.

It was Proposed by Cllr. John Page, Seconded by Cllr. Stephen West and unanimously agreed to set the precept for the Parish Council for the financial year 2011/2012 at £8,005. Motion Carried.

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118. To determine Planning Applications

The current plans were being circulated among members. None recorded at this meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the planning application circulation methodology amongst members. There was a planning application received requiring too tight a deadline for return of comments and not allowing members time to consider and the Parish Clerk was asked to make this clear to Jason Owen.

It was felt that the current cover sheet needed amending to reflect the date a planning application is received by the Parish Clerk, the date sent to Cllr. John Page or Cllr. Phil Duke depending on holiday commitments and the dates received by all members. Members agreed that all planning applications should start and finish with the Chairman and the application sent back to the Parish Clerk for onward transmission to Test Valley Borough Council of the comment sheet.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk was asked to amend the current pro forma cover sheet to reflect the new planning application distribution methodology. Cllr. John Page to e-mail the Parish Clerk with the pro forma for amendment of the cover sheet.

119. To provide an update on footpaths and roads

Cllr. John Page reported that most footpaths are muddy but useable. However, some damage has been caused to footpath 2 (Smannell to Doles Wood/Ridges Copse) by horse riders who are using the path without the landowners permission.

Work on improving the Cinder Track (footpath 717) has been agreed with Enham Parish Council and Hampshire County Council to be jointly funded, with Enham Alamein PC taking the lead with the contractor. Motorbikes have been observed using this path illegally, despite the presence of the kissing gates.

Concern was expressed by the continued riding of off-road motor bikes on the footpaths in Doles Wood/Ridges copse without the permission of the landowner. During the recent snowfall, the tyre tracks were traced back along footpath 1 to Little London village, suggesting that the rider or riders may live locally.

Regarding the proposed stopping-up and diversion of the Smannell Road into Augusta Park, it is understood that the

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Secretary of State will announce the decision this week. As an interested party, the Parish Council will be informed of the result.

The Parish Council has continued to report potholes to Hampshire County Council and some repairs have been made, but to a poor standard and many of these repairs are already starting to break up. Potholes will continue to be reported and members of the public should inform the Parish Council where there are problem areas.

The Parish Council is also concerned about the break up of the verges caused by heavy vehicles running off the side of the road. Once the verge has been removed, rain water then scours out dangerous gullies, which are a hazard to vehicles and cyclists. Some damage was caused to verges by the recent Viridor sewage deliveries to the Trinley Estate, which also over-ran and damaged the Safer Routes to School footpath at the junction in Smannell. This was reported to Hampshire County Council and John Clark of Hampshire County Council came out to inspect the damage.

120. To provide an update on the playing fields

A brief update was given on the recent successful Christmas Lights ceremony. Cllr. John Page thanked all those involved in making the event run smoothly. Cllr. Stephen West reported that there is a playing fields committee meeting scheduled for 10 January 2011. He updated members on the need to duly commission the new play equipment and to obtain the fencing quotation in order to potentially apply for a Hampshire County Council grant via County Cllr. Pam Mutton. County Cllr. Mutton stated that that to enable her to consider an application for a grant for this project she needed paperwork by 7 February 2011 at the very latest.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk was tasked with e-mailing Allan Mitchener to chase Jim Mitchell as a matter of urgency to obtain a written definitive quotation for the fencing.

121. To discuss and consider electoral warding arrangements for May 2011

The Parish Clerk made reference to the various options available that were previously circulated and prepared by Alan Winchcombe regarding the election arrangements in May to incorporate Augusta Park.

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As a result of the new development at Augusta Park, the electorate of the parish of Smannell has grown and will continue to grow over the course of the next few years.

It was Proposed by Cllr. John Page, Seconded by Cllr. Stephen West and unanimously agreed that currently it was not appropriate to ward Smannell for the purposes of the elections but agreed that the Parish Council representation of Councillors be increased from five to seven in order to cater for the increased electorate.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk was tasked with advising Test Valley Borough Council of this decision as a matter of urgency to meet the deadline for the compulsory consultation period with residents.

122. Borough and County Council Reports

No report was received.

123. Councillors Questions

Cllr. David Jarman queried the plans for the Enham Arch and Members explained to the best of their knowledge the position.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15 hours.