



SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Fairbank Road, Southwater,
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Minutes of the remote Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 6:00pm.

Present:

Councillors Present by Remote Means: G Watkins (Chairman), G Cole (Vice Chairman), M Neale, D Moore, G Scoon, R Stranks

Members of the Public: were able to view meeting by Live YouTube Stream

Deputy Clerk: Justin Tyler

	Actions
<p>The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was not being recorded and did a roll call at the commencement of the meeting of all those attending both remotely and in person for the benefit of those viewing the streamed meeting. He stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with Government Regulations approved during the COVID-19 Pandemic for the period of May 2020 – May 2021.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all Councillors in attendance both remotely and in person and all members of the Public watching via live stream, to the meeting. He clarified with the Deputy Clerk that no members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting. He stated that when a member of the public does request to speak in any convened meeting that public are invited to speak at, this would be for maximum of 5 minutes</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed with all Councillors that they had received the documentation required to consider the Agenda items.</p> <p>The Chairman clarified the voting protocol required for decisions, etiquette required to conduct the meeting and housekeeping rules and also reminded all Councillors that if an interest had been declared, they would not be able to take part in any discussion or vote. Voting would be symbolised by a thumbs up for approval, down for against or horizontal hand for abstention. He explained that in cases where, in the opinion of the Chairperson, there is consensus, the Chairperson may seek to secure agreement whilst providing an opportunity for any dissenting members to be heard or to request a formal roll call vote</p> <p>The Chairman explained that if meeting was at any point not accessible to Councillors/Chairperson through remote means due to any technological or other failure of provision, then he would immediately adjourn the meeting. If the provision of access through remote means could not be restored within 10 minutes, then the remaining business will be considered at a time and date. If a new date could not be fixed the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.</p> <p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>None.</p>	

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC FORUM – Public Question Time – 15 minutes in total. Members of the public can only view the meeting and not take part unless pre-arranged with either the Clerk, Deputy Clerk or Chairman of the meeting.

Participating members of the public will be limited to 3 people maximum per meeting. Each member of the public can only refer to items on the agenda and will be allowed to ask one question and one ancillary questions that combined will not last any longer than 5 minutes. Once participating members have asked their questions or made their statements as above, they will be removed from the meeting accordingly and will then only be able to access the meeting via YouTube live stream.

No public had requested to speak.

4. MINUTES – To consider and approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 2nd December 2020.

The Chairman requested the Deputy Clerk amend the draft minutes to include 'by the Parish Council' under item 14, line 5 after 'will be made...' prior to approval.

Councillor Moore proposed acceptance of the minutes, with inclusion of amendment above, of the Planning Committee meeting of 2nd December 2020. Seconded by Councillor Scoon. **AGREED** unanimously by those present at that meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman announced that he had taken delivery of 400 high quality face shields supplied by Local Sussex Freemasons and provided by the United Grand Lodge of England and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. There was a total of 20,000 face shields, provided to organisations within Sussex. These would be made available for collection through various shops in Southwater free of charge to all residents of Southwater, Schools and Charities for their protection. The outlets would be published on the Parish Website. The Chairman thanked the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex and the United Grand Lodge of England for this vital donation of PPE.

The Chairman's Discretionary Grant fund was to be enhanced in value by the addition of Councillors allowances that Councillors had opted to transfer to the fund. He expressed his thanks for the extra donations. He advised that access to this fund could be made by contacting the Clerk, Deputy Clerk or the Chairman as this fund was specifically setup to help Southwater residents and especially children during this current Lockdown.

The Chairman thanked all the staff and Councillors for their efforts during the trying situation of the pandemic. He explained that some staff had suffered from COVID-19 over the Christmas and New Year shutdown and the Councillors managed to provide cover on Parish matters. All the staff were recovering well. The Council offices would be staffed but on a restricted basis from 9:00am to 12:00pm as staff would be working from home until further notice.

He advised that an informal consultation had been opened seeking feedback from initial proposals to expand the Rampion Wind Farm off the Sussex coast. Rampion 2 could create clean, renewable electricity to power over one million homes in the UK in addition to Rampion's existing generation. More information was available on the Rampion 2 website and consultation was to end 11th February 2021.

The Ghyll (formerly Southwater Leisure Centre) was now closed due to being in tier 5, shortly alterations would be made to provide a boutique personal training fitness centre within the complex now managed by Southwater Ghyll CIO. He advised to visit the Southwater Ghyll Facebook page for more details.

A recent update had been sent out from WSCC and NHS regarding the COVID-19 vaccine strategy for West Sussex which could be found via the WSCC or SPC website.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

7. ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE NOMINATION FOR HEN AND CHICKEN PUB, SOUTHWATER – to receive update and to note resubmission of application.

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee that an application to nominate the Hen and Chicken Pub as an Asset of Community Value had not been approved by Horsham District Council. HDC had requested that SPC had to send evidence that the Hen and Chicken Pub furthered or improved social wellbeing of residents for it to be considered an Asset of Community Value. It was noted by the Committee that a new application was resubmitted with evidence of previous socials, charity fundraising, live music, and other events. Discussion took place regarding the evidence requirement and as to why a public house being social in its very nature would require further evidence when other District or Borough Councils have approved similar applications. It was discussed that the pub had recently been refurbished but closed most likely due to COVID-19 and it was an asset to the village that should be supported. The Deputy Clerk explained that it was acknowledged as a Parish Heritage Asset in the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan and a non-designated asset, thus a “made” plan would help towards protecting the asset. The Chairman requested the Deputy Clerk arrange a Zoom meeting to discuss further with any Councillors interested in the Hen and Chicken and the Asset of Community Value Nomination.

8. BERKELEY HOMES - To discuss and approve any other matters in relation to Berkeley Homes.

Nothing to report.

9. HIGHWAYS, DRAINAGE, STREET LIGHTING, STREET NAMES & NUMBERS, VERGES, FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY - To discuss and approve any matters in relation to the above

The Chairman advised that flooding at Cripplegate Lane had been covered in detail at the previous Planning meeting. He explained WSCC had been slow to respond due to staff sickness and remote working but assured the committee that County Councillor Nigel Jupp had been actively working to assist with the flooding issues.

The Chairman noted that a tree had comedown during the Christmas period which had damaged a resident’s garden shed. The tree had been identified by the recent tree survey by David Archer Associates but had not yet been felled by Sussex Tree Specialists due to staff shortages because of COVID-19. The Chairman and Councillor Lewis had both visited site and STS came out to resolve the issues at no cost to the Council. The Chairman explained that there was a culvert, and the Council should be made aware of Riparian Rights and the potential costs. He advised the Council needs to make future budget provisions to maintain and assess these waterways. A professional survey of waterways may need to be arranged.

Councillor Neale queried if there were still flooding related grants. Councillor Cole and the Chairman noted that funding several years ago was inadequate to address the flooding and infrastructure requirements but there would be sufficient CIL available should the Neighbourhood Plan be made at referendum.

Deputy Clerk

Clerk/
Deputy Clerk

10. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Due to extraordinary circumstances Planning Applications had been delegated to the Chairman, Clerk and Deputy Clerk with various reports from the members of the Planning Committee. All Planning Application recommendations were to be noted and ratified at Planning Committee Meeting of 3rd February 2021.

The Chairman advised that HDC had eased off on their neighbour consultation deadlines due to COVID-19 and would take recommendations after the Parish Deadline date provided it was prior to the determination date of the application.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – To receive an update

The Chairman updated the committee that Councillor Moore would be assisting on the Neighbourhood Plan strategy and requested the Deputy Clerk arrange a meeting on Zoom to discuss the SNP with Squires Planning Consultants. The Deputy Clerk explained that the Chairman of the Henfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had contacted him, and that the Chairman was contacting MPs with his concerns relating to the referendum and possible further delays due to COVID-19. In the letter the Chairman would be requesting ministers consider a postal referendum to enable Neighbourhood Plans which had reached Regulation 18 stage complete the legislative process and to prevent further delays past May 2021. He also had support from Upper Beeding, Shipley, Bramber, Rusper and Billingshurst.

Deputy
Clerk

12. PLANNING APPEALS – (Information only)

None to report.

13. DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS – (Information only)

The Chairman stated these were to be circulated by email to the Committee when available.

14. PLANNING COMPLIANCE ACTION

The Chairman updated the Committee on Easteds Barn, Easteds Lane, Southwater which HDC had recently been notified of an alleged breach at this Council owned property and leased to Little Barn Owls. The breach related to a temporary building which had been erected without prior planning consent. He advised that SPC had not given permission to the tenant prior to the erection of the building. He, the Deputy Clerk, Squires Planning and two representatives from Little Barn Owls met via Zoom to inform them of the alleged planning breach. A retrospective application was to be submitted by Little Barn Owls for the shelter in the North East corner and the bin store situated to the southwest of the main building.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 3rd February 2021.

The Chairman requested the next committee meeting also start at 6:00pm and the Committee were in favour.

This meeting was not recorded and ended at 6:28pm