

Southwater Parish Council



Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 24th April, 2019, 7.30pm
Beeson House
Lintot Square
Southwater
Horsham
RH13 9LA

Members

Cllr Graham Watkins (Chairman)
Cllr Michael Neale (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Geoff Cole
Cllr Ross Dye
Cllr Pauline Flores-Moore
Cllr Joy Hutchings
Cllr Nikki Knott
Cllr Mike Lewis
Cllr Derek Moore
Cllr Geoff Scoon
Cllr Hayley Timson
Cllr Barbara Varley
Cllr Claire Vickers
Cllr Neil Whitear



SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Beeson House,
26 Lintot Square,
Fairbank Road,
Southwater,
West Sussex
RH13 9LA



Clerk: **Mrs.C.M.Tobin**
FSLCC.,

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 24th April, 2019 in the Council Chamber, Beeson House, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9LA commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr. G. Watkins

Cllr G.Cole	Cllr. R. Dye
Cllr P.Flores-Moore	Cllr J.Hutchings
Cllr N.Knott	Cllr D.Moore
Cllr. M. Neale	Cllr G.Scoon
Cllr H.Timson	Cllr. B. Varley
Cllr. N. Whitear	

Clerk to the Meeting: Catherine Tobin, Clerk to the Council

Consultant: David Carden

County Councillor: Not present

District Councillors: Not present

Press: Not present

Members of the Public: 1

F16/04/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked those present to turn mobile phones to silent for the duration of the meeting, unless the phone call was deemed urgent in which case phone calls could be received with permission from the Chairman. In the event of a fire alarm sounding, everyone would be directed to evacuate the building via the exits indicated.

The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded in accordance with Standing Orders for minute purposes.

The Chairman asked the members of public present did they wish to speak on any subject, the resident stated that she would like to speak prior to the discussion on the skate-park if possible.

F17/04/19

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received or noted from Cllr Scoon. Cllrs Dye and Vickers will be arriving late. County Councillor Jupp has also indicated he may also arrive late due to District Council business.

Councillors NOTED and APPROVED the apologies.

F18/04/19

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to information issued previously in relation to the Member's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders asking whether any Member had at this point in the meeting anything of note to declare.

There were no declarations of interest.

F19/04/19

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Cole, and **AGREED** by all present that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2019 and 13th March 2019 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings at that meeting, this followed changes to the numbering sequence and also to record a vote held on the 30th January regarding two other options relating to the leisure centre e.g., Option 1 and 4 which had been discounted.

F20/04/19

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements at this point in the meeting.

F21/04/19

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee – Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019

It was **RESOLVED** by all present, having been proposed by Cllr Whitear, and seconded by Cllr Varley, that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting dated 3rd April, 2019 be **APPROVED** by all those present as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

The date of the next Planning Committee meeting would be 1st May 2019 and 5th June 2019.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 20th March and 10th April, 2019

It was **RESOLVED** by all present having been proposed by Cllr Whitear, and seconded by Cllr Varley, that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 20th March and 10th April, 2019 be **APPROVED** by all those present as a true and correct record of the meeting. This followed changes to the minutes of the 10th April in terms of the number sequencing and also Cllr Flores-

Moore wished a correct to a comment made in relation to elections in that what she had stated was “were we consulted upon this” not divisive as in the minutes.

The date of the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting would be 19th June 2019.

HR Committee Meetings**

It was **RESOLVED** by all present having been proposed by Cllr Whitear, and seconded by Cllr.Flores-Moore, that the HR Meeting Minutes of 27th March and 10th April 2019 be **APPROVED**. These would remain confidential and could be discussed further should members wish to do so under the Confidential session on personnel, pension etc.

The date of the next meeting is unknown at the point of the meeting.

F22/04/19 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk informed members that at year end the Council’s Expenditure as per the Income & Expenditure Summary provided to councillors was; Expenditure £843,241 Income £786,205 a deficit of -£57,036. This has necessitated a transfer from reserves of £62,016.95. The Council’s General Fund stood at £45,051 with Earmarked Reserves of £98,199.16 as per the end of year accounts. There were no long term debtors of over 60 days.

Council will receive the Auditor’s Report in due course. The full year end documentation will be sent out with the agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting; these will be public documents and as previously explained Council will have to look at the Auditor’s Report and comment thereon; this in turn will be sent to the External Auditors when signed off by the Council.

Councillors NOTED but did not comment on the information provided by the Clerk.

F23/04/19 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

This matter was deferred until after the skateboard park conversation, unfortunately due to other commitments the County Councillor could not attend to give his report.

F24/04/19 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

This matter was deferred until after the skateboard park conversation, unfortunately due to other commitments Cllr Vickers could not attend to give the District Councillor report.

The Chairman proposed the suspension of Standing Orders, this was seconded by Cllr Whitear and APPROVED by all present.

A local resident stated that having attended the Annual Parishioner's meeting she had been made aware that the Skate-park had been closed via Facebook, but that she could come along and address the Council. The resident was concerned that whilst the new skate-park was excellent this really only met the needs of the younger generation of skaters etc. Many the older young people who had originally been involved in the design were still in the village and still used the facility in Staker's Lane. The resident asked that the Parish Council consider keeping the Skate-park open for use by young people especially as Skateboarding was to be an Olympic Sport in 2024. She believed that one young lady who now lived in Horsham had originated from Southwater and frequently used the site.

The Chairman indicated that following a site visit last week it was necessary due to health and safety concerns to close the Skate-park in Staker's Lane; this being in accordance with standing instructions from the Council. At this point no decision has been taken to remove the structure merely fence this off for safety reasons. Daily checks were put in place by the Council staff. Cllr Watkins stated that he had visited the site on Sunday, and he felt that there may be an opportunity for the Council to work with a community group with a view to their managing the site, this would involve RADi Ramps, who have been maintaining the ramp. Apparently, there is the ability to raise fund via mobile phones to a "giving site".

Cllr Dye arrived in the meeting.

However, on being provided with a copy of the land lease with the District Council it was evident Cllr Watkins stated that he would like to discuss what he felt were the implications of removing the skate-park based on the land lease which was for a term of 50 years and had been prepared by Ian Davison the solicitor used by the Council in other matters; this being extremely well drawn up as he would expect. The rental was based on a peppercorn rent of £1 and the lease allowed the council to operate not only a BMX area, skate ramp but other suchlike activities. The agreement refers to a Planning Application DC/05/2308 with not just the skate-park identified but others area. Cllr Neale stated that he had thought that this additional land accommodated the Millennium Wood; the Clerk confirmed that this was the case. Cllr Watkins continued by advising Council that the monies relating to the park had come from a Section 106 Agreement but he still awaited sight of this document to see whether there were any further implications.

If the Council were to remove the structure, the result would be that the Council would lose the land, if the structure remained out of use for a lengthy period of time again the District Council could take back the land. The estimated cost of taking down the structure was in the region of £1,500 to £2,000. Cllr Neale asked whether the Council

had received an invoice in relation to the Heras Fencing; the Clerk stated that this was awaited.

What he was proposing therefore, was a slight extension to allow him to examine with user groups etc., as to whether a community organisation would be prepared to take a licence to operate from the Parish Council. He had contact with RADi Ramps and they were happy to get involved in the potential project.

Cllr Whitear stated that he also visited the site and was amazed at how many young people were actually using the site at the weekend, and he would support Cllr Watkins if there were any possibility of a community group coming forward. Cllr Timson stated that the Council had indicated that it did not want to spend more monies on the skate-park, and she felt that it was an eye-sore, with broken bottles on the top of the ramps which had to be removed when her children used the ramp and which they thoroughly enjoyed. Every time she passed the site it was obvious that there was little respect for the site. Cllr Cole stated that it was a shame that the site had been closed and advertised as such for there had been more damage since the notice went up; he had personally visited the site and seen many using the ramps. He stated that whilst there was graffiti on the back of the ramp there was little on the actual ramps which were used by the various users.

Cllr Flores-Moore also stated that she in particular had been keen to see the site closed, having seen the condition of the ramps etc., and having also attended on many occasions accidents. Cllr Watkins stated that he had taken advice on the potential risks and he had been informed that there would always be a risk where you had such sport. Cllr Flores-Moore stated that many came from far and wide to use the skate-park from as far away as Hastings; it was therefore not just the young of Southwater who used the park and it was important that these individuals also respected the site. She knew that many camped out at the site in the summer.

Cllr Moore stated that it was a pity that the Council had not been advised previously about the lease and the details therein, this may have made a difference to the manner in which the Council approached the whole project and future funding.

The Clerk asked that where members noted refuse, or had information on accidents these should be reported to her office so that records could be kept and the area cleaned if necessary; the Council had a duty of care in relation to the site.

The Chairman proposed that the site be repaired (he would carry out this work as he had done previously) and reopened allowing him time to set up a community group to operate and manage the site going forward. Once formulated this group could then apply for funding from various authorities including the Parish Council. This proposition was seconded by Cllr Whitear and agreed by all present that the Chairman be allowed a three-month period in which to see if there was support from the Community in terms of setting up a group to operate and manage under Licence the skate-park site.

The Clerk was asked to compose an article on the lines discussed and have this put on Facebook and via the County Times who had already shown an interest, to try and engage with those involved.

This session closed at 8.00 pm., with Mr.Carden taking over as Clerk to the Meeting.

****EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman indicated that due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, Members were asked to consider a resolution to exclude members of the press and public in accordance with Standing Orders (Meetings). This was proposed by _____ seconded by _____ and agreed to by all present.

“Confidential Session”

F26/04/19 PERSONNEL, PENSIONS AND TRAINING**

“Confidential Session”

F27/04/19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

16/may/2019 *JS*

The date of the next meeting of Council would be:- ~~31st July 2019~~

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Dated.....*16/5/2019*.....