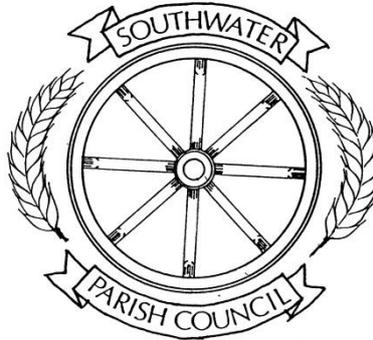


Southwater Parish Council



Parish Council Meeting Draft Minutes

Wednesday 28th November, 2018, 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
Cllr Heather Williams



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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DRAFT MINUTES

The Draft Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Wednesday 28th November, 2018 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. M. Lewis	Cllr. D. Moore
Cllr. M. Neale	Cllr. G. Scoon
Cllr. H. Timson	Cllr. B. Varley
Cllr. C. Vickers	Cllr. N. Whitear
Cllr. H. Williams	

Guest Officer: **Mr.G.Chipp, Chief Executive, Horsham District Council**

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

County Councillor: **Cllr Nigel Jupp**

District Councillors: **Cllr Claire Vickers**

Press: **Not present**

Members of the Public: **7**

F167/11/18 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.

No members of the public spoke at this point in the meeting.

The Chairman stated that he would allow further public participation later in the meeting as he believed that the Council's guest, Mr. Glenn Chip would answer questions.

F168/11/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies had been received or noted from Cllr Knott.

Councillors NOTED and APPROVED the absence.

F169/11/18 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.

F170/11/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr. Whitear, seconded by Cllr. Scoon and AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings at that meeting.

F171/11/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that he would like to once again thank everyone for their efforts on behalf of Southwater in terms of the Christmas Festival, which had been a huge success.

F172/11/18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee – Wednesday, 3rd October & 7th November 2018

It was RESOLVED by all present, having been proposed by Cllr. Whitear and seconded by Cllr. Cole, that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting dated 3rd October and 7th November, 2018 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 5th December, 2018.

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 17th October & 21st November 2018

With this amendment it was RESOLVED by all present having been proposed by Cllr Whitear, and seconded by Cllr. Cole, that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 17th October and 21st November, 2018 be APPROVED by all those present as a true and correct record of the meeting held following amendments being made to the sums mentioned in the payments schedule (FG108/11/18) to ensure that the revised payments figure be shown alongside the credit balance for HMRC with the overall total. A further

amendment was agreed in relation to the discussions regarding Community Wardens in that Cllr Flores-Moore wished the minute to have the words “whole issue” removed from her statement.

The date of the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting would be 12th December 2018.

F173/11/18 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL – MR. G. CHIPP

The Chairman stated that he was delighted that Mr. Chipp, the District Council’s new Chief Executive, could join the Parish Council this evening and stated that he understood that Mr. Chipp would take a few questions.

Mr. Chipp stated that he was in the process of agreeing a corporate plan with Cabinet, so it was early to give a full vision of what the future would look like, but there were certain things he had identified as priorities. He inherited a very good Council and it was performing well. The Council was well funded, had reasonable reserves and a really good management team and by and large the services that it delivered were done well. He was not, however, saying that there were not things that could not be done better. These were his priorities.

In the past the Council had struggled with driving economic development and creating employment. Some large employers had been lost, particularly in Horsham, which reduced work opportunities. It wanted to invest more in economic development schemes as identified by the Local Enterprise Partnership. Previously the Council had talked about the rural businesses. The Council would get more money out of Local Economic Partnership (LEP) if it aligns with their priorities. What needed to be done was to create more employment space, i.e., business park, North Horsham development, working with the County Council to unlock the Novartis site, etc. In order to make rural businesses more effective it was investing quite heavily across West Sussex with partners for super-fast digital infrastructure, enabling better connectivity for businesses.

By 2021 Horsham District Council would be in deficit by £1.5 – 2 million if it did nothing, so proposals had been put forward which it was hoped would be accepted. It had been able to identify actions to balance the books without cutting front-line services.

Horsham District Council was currently reviewing its Local Development Framework. Developers had come forward suggesting sites for development and the council was in the process of reviewing policies. That process was under way. Barbara Childs had been appointed as Director of Place for the Council which in Mr. Chipp’s opinion was a major step forward. The Council hoped to have a place shaping approach to planning and would attempt to get funding. There was a district-wide infrastructure deficit at the moment, but it will not be possible to address that in one go. The Council would try to get sustainable communities where major development occurs.

Horsham District Council wished to promote more partnership working and was undertaking a programme of visits to Wards and organizations in the voluntary sector and work more closely with the County Council and improve working with Parish Councils which was one reason why he had been happy to come along to this meeting as he was keen to hear how to improve that working. Saxon Weald was a big registered provider that they hoped to improve working relationships with them in order to bring forward affordable housing. Businesses were always saying they have a problem in attracting employees as affordability index of housing was 16.5 times of average earnings. There was no university campus within the District so a lack in skills agenda. Horsham District Council was looking at setting up a housing company, using funds to enter the housing market. It has already done some deals with Saxon Weald to obtain some temporary accommodation. Horsham District Council was keen to actually build houses as there was an under provision of affordable housing and developers were only interested in profits for their shareholders.

Internally the Council was trying to drive improvements in efficiency and make sure it adopts, where appropriate, a commercial approach to some of its operations. It had a trade waste business at the moment and in effect did not really understand the profitability of the different product lines within that collection or understand the cost base. It had undertaken an exercise to look at that on a detailed level and identified some products that were not profitable, so would stop those and promote other products. Costs would then be reduced and ensure can continue to provide the current level of service. The Council was looking at its assets and making sure it maximizes returns. It was appropriate to sell off excess assets and use those receipts to invest in other assets which would drive its revenue income to maximize its revenue stream. There was a need for a cultural change in the organization and would be a long-term thing to do. The culture in Horsham District Council was not bad, but things could be done quicker.

Horsham District Council's Cabinet was willing to invest which was important to improve footfall and try to increase this across the District, not just Horsham. The investment in the new Leisure Centre (The Bridge) resulted in a net provision that benefits the whole of the District and would reduce the Council Tax bill. Any development had to be appropriate and it needed managing properly.

The Chairman stated that Southwater Parish Council had always had a positive attitude to consultations with Horsham District Council. He thanked Mr. Chipp for the way Horsham District Council, had dealt with the Southwater Neighbourhood Plan and come back ahead of the targets it needed to meet. He asked that Mr. Chipp thank his officers for doing this. Mr. Chipp stated that Southwater's planning consultants did write to him about the Neighbourhood Plan regarding the possibility of paying for legal advice which had been declined. It was only when he met with the Chairman and Clerk that he realized the consequences were that Southwater produced the Neighbourhood Plan in isolation which was not the District's intention as it wanted to work with the Parish to bring this forward. The District had been happy to turn around the Plan quickly. The Chairman pointed out that the Neighbourhood Plan had been very expensive to this Parish due to changes that occurred since it started.

Cllr. Neale wished this Council was in the same financial position as the District as the year end looked like being considerably over spent. The sum of £30,000 had been put in the budget towards Neighbourhood Wardens as Horsham District Council had advised that there would be a one-off payment whereas it had now been advised that this was in two parts £15,000 in year one and £15,000 in year two. The loss of £30,000 this year was quite a significant factor. Mr. Chipp pointed out that the £30,000 was pump priming to assist with the costs of the first two years of the scheme, but that the Parish should not have included it as budgeted income as it was a cost to offset the total yearly cost of £70,000 so should have budgeted an expenditure of £40,000. By the time the recruitment and training process are dealt with it will probably now be next financial year before Wardens will be ready for Southwater. Mr. Chipp was willing to give the £30,000 in year one of the scheme, but this would be offset against the cost of the scheme; it would never be income. Next year there would be a need to budget £40,000. Horsham District Council was not likely to invoice the Parish until the end of the financial year.

New Homes Bonus – Southwater was to receive a new community building and other assets from the Berkeley's development, but there were huge costs associated with this to cover the Parish' legal costs to transfers which could be considerable sums that needed to be budgeted for. In future negotiations, it was asked that this be taken into account. Mr. Chipp would be happy to work with the Parish on that as where land transfers were involved it always negotiated with the developer to ensure that they cover the costs of those legal expenses. Neither the District nor Parish Councils should not be paying for benefits of development. The Chairman understood that Horsham had received about £4.8 million and asked if there was any possibility of Horsham District Council passing some of that down so that Parishes can provide additional services. Southwater had its own village centre and the Parish Council would like to do things that it could use the New Homes Bonus for. Mr. Chipp had strong views on this, and one of the trickiest things was trying to predict where the New Homes Bonus was going. The floor that was set, i.e., the amount of development above which you get was down at 2.5% and had gone up to 4%. There was some speculation that the New Homes Bonus may stop altogether or the rate may be reduced. Your figures are nearly right in terms of what it had received and he left a schedule; there was a projection of what the New Homes Bonus would be and what it was spent on. The position Cabinet had taken was that in order to make sure it balanced its budgets, expenditure against income, it was not treating the New Homes Bonus as part of on-going revenue and drawing a one-off amount and using it to invest in things that would generate income streams or reduce costs or derive benefits. The best example of that was The Bridge Leisure Centre, a strategic facility for the whole district and on the back of that generated revenue savings to help keep the Council Tax low. What his Members usually say was, if a Parish has a suggestion for something which will drive an on-going benefit which has wider impact, talk to them about it. The decision making around that was would it drive some savings for Horsham District Council. It would not make one-off capital contributions for a particular wish list, but if there was on-going benefit and it would generate income let's talk about it. He was convinced that if their Leisure Management Contract helping you run that, they could make some on-going revenue savings which would reduce costs.

Cllr. Watkins stated that Southwater was part of the bigger picture of Horsham and he could see the effect of bigger companies moving out. It was important that pressure was not put on existing businesses through business rates, but looking at generating business and getting local businesses to promote themselves better. The benefit here was that the community does not have to pay to shop and it was a pity that some of Horsham does not have the same mentality because to generate local retail benefit people must find it easy to come and shop. Southwater has a fantastic facility in the Country Park, but people are charged to park there and hence people park on the roads, etc., and have to have yellow lines around and he wondered whether there was any gain to charging to park. Mr. Chipp stated that he felt that Horsham had historically looked at how it could generate income out of parking, but if look at the changes to High Streets, what was happening with the retail environment, that sector had been saying for a long time that business rates were creating problems as companies such as Amazon do not have those overheads, hence on-line retailers have an unfair advantage. There were a couple of reports from a resident, that had been looking at High Streets and one of the things he had been saying was that need to stop thinking about town centres as retail environments, they need to be community hubs. There was a need to create footfall and leisure activities to give people an experience and reason to come into the town. Car parking charges were part of that, and such charges should reflect the transport strategy and what uses were wanted in the town. Perhaps charges on long-term car parks should be increased for commuter parking whereas short-term should be considering free parking to encourage people in. One thing that Horsham has done really well was the cultural theatre. There was a need for an overall strategy. With regard to the Country Park, this summer it was extremely busy with people come quite a long way to visit. We have a scarce resource with high demand so there was a need to be careful about capacity. He was concerned about health and safety issues due to the numbers there were in there. Parking charges was a way to try and control that but there may be other ways of doing this; perhaps a residents card for people who live in the district to enable them to go free or discounted rate, but with charges for people from outside. He would be interested should anyone have any views on this. Mr. Chipp did not think enough was made of the tourism prospects in the district. The Chairman suggested that there should be free parking for the disabled and disabled parking nearer the café. It was suggested that a meeting of the Country Park Committee should be organized in order to come up with some suggestions.

Cllr. Lewis thanked Mr Chipp for raising the subject of housing in the district. Southwater had a larger demographic of younger people which clearly would get older, the number of hidden households within the Parish was growing. Mr. Chipp mentioned that Horsham District Council was setting up a company to build houses and he asked whether these would be for outright sale, affordable rent or shared ownership. Mr. Chipp stated that they would be mixed tenure. However, he laughed at the term 'affordable' because this was 80% of market rate and when you look at average earnings compared to the average house price, what was affordable! The Council had commuted sums available so could get on and build and had sites that the Council owned and were talking with Saxon Weald as they had experience in developing those larger sites. The District had done smaller developments but Saxon Weald had contractors they worked with. He was hopeful they could do something very quickly. Cllr. Lewis asked if they would keep these in-house, i.e., owned and operated by Horsham District Council. This was confirmed. There should be a clause included to ensure that people with a local connection had precedence. Mr. Chipp was not able to

make that commitment as that would be a political decision and he was not sure whether legally they could do that. Building the correct type of homes would help.

Cllr. Flores-Moore wished to go back to the subject of the rates, some businesses say that their rates have gone up so much that they are not sure how much longer they can afford to remain. Secondly, regarding development without infrastructure; Section 106 money had conditions, i.e., money for infrastructure, schools, etc. Southwater had money for conceptual art, about £28,000, going to be in an area that only a small proportion of the village will see, she wondered whether it was possible to change some of these conditions so that the money could be used for something else to benefit more of the community. She wondered whether the condition could be changed or made more flexible. Mr. Chipp stated that there are specific set of requirements and a particular time when the monies have to be spent. If you want to vary those agreements, quite often you need to go back to the developer and ask if it can be changed. However, they usually say 'no' because if it is not spent within a specific timeframe they get the money back. If you share the details of that particular agreement with him he would be happy to take that back to see what could be done. Cllr. Flores-Moore asked why Horsham District Council, did not come to the Parish Councils and say this is what is available, what would you like it to be used for. Cllr. Vickers stated that there was no reason why Parishes were not involved in those discussions up front. Regarding the rates of small businesses, but what often happens is that there is an agreement in place whereby rateable values are not changed for a period and then a review comes in to reflect the market rate. Horsham District Council was trying to maximize its returns from its assets and good business sense would mean it would not go above the market rate. He would be quite happy to take specific details of the business referred to, to see whether anything could be done. He would not want to put local businesses out of business over this. The Chairman pointed that on Horsham's website it was possible for business that were experiencing difficulties could make application to reduce business rate, but they had to prove hardship.

The Chairman asked the meeting if it was happy that he suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to ask questions. This was confirmed and Standing Orders were duly suspended.

A resident stated that there was such a great need for affordable housing within the District and agreed with everything Mr. Chipp had said the Council was trying to do. He asked if the Council would be borrowing money and if the Council Tax payers would be underwriting the inherent risk. Mr. Shipp stated that Council could take on levels of borrowing and is called prudential borrowing, and can borrow at Public Works borrowing rates which were lower than commercial rates. The only reason the Council would borrow to invest would be if the Council make a bigger return. The interest on the monies borrowed would have to be offset by the income. If the Council did borrow, it would be on the basis of generating a return.

No other residents wished to raise any question, therefore the Chairman reinstated Standing Orders.

Mr. Chipp stated that he had been asked when Community Infrastructure Levy payments would be made and the answer was that the Council only make the payment once it has received the payment from the developer. If the cash comes in between March and September, it is paid to Parishes on the 28th October and if it is in the second half of the year, it would be paid in April. He brought a schedule of the developments which included payment dates, but monies could not be paid over until the Council actually received these.

Mr. Chipp was thanked by the Chairman for attending this meeting. Mr. Chipp stated that he had enjoyed it and looked forward to working in partnership with the Parish Council as a close working relationship was important.

Mr. Chipp then left the meeting.

F174/11/18 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mr. Jupp referred to the last approved minutes as he had arrived just after they were approved. Velo South, which was a high or low point, depending on your opinion, it stated that he was supposed to go to Letchworth for a meeting whereas he was at a meeting with various organizations and Cllr. Whitear and it was actually in the Leconfield Hall, Petworth. There had been no decision made yet to a similar event being held in future years. There was an interesting debriefing between the Council Cabinet and the Officers and Members of the Wards that were affected by it. He would not pre-empt what that decision would be, but bearing in mind that it was now November 29th, and it was agreed that these events of such a size and impact needed to be organized many months ahead of the date when they take place.

The Junior and Infants Academy classrooms were still on programme, but had gone back in time slightly, and instead of coming on board in January would be coming on later in the year. He had met the Head Mistress who did not have any problems with that.

He moved onto the planning application for the Christ's Hospital sports development would be decided shortly by Horsham District Council, he had received a considerable amount of correspondence and had meetings with resident of Tower Hill who expressed concerns over the traffic generation from the enlargement of that facility. A meeting would be held either next week or the following week and it was proposed that the Chairman and Clerk should attend that meeting with representatives from Highways, West Sussex, the District Councillors had been invited and he wanted to clarify whether some residents from Tower Hill should be invited who have spoken quite strongly on this issue to understand how decisions are made and also would include the issue of speed limit on Tower Hill. The Chairman stated that at the moment he did not understand the Highway report. The meeting could be held either at North Street, Horsham or here at Beeson House.

Cllr. Jupp then referred to the safety of the Hop Oast roundabout. A number of bollards had been placed on the slip road; the number of tyre marks on that kerb had not

increased since those bollards had been in place, therefore perhaps speeding drivers have been a little more careful.

One problem being experienced across the County at the moment was road flooding; quite often these problems occur because the owners of the land adjoining the road have not cleared their ditches and they do have duties in these respect as riparian owners. If the Clerk gets complaints on this particular issue, the owners should be contacted. The Chairman asked whether the riparian ownership of ditches adjacent to highways were joint between the County and the landowners. Cllr. Mr. Jupp stated that these were down to the landowner.

On the question of Gatwick Airport consultation on the proposal to use the standby runway was out and Cllr. Mr. Jupp had attended two meetings with the airport and he anticipated a debate taking place either January/early February at the County Council about the County Council's response to this proposal. It was a planning matter that would be decided by central government, because of the anticipated increase in movements breach the maximum that could be dealt with at a local level. Gatwick Airport anticipate that if they get clearance to use the standby runway as a second runway, it would be in operation by 2025 and anticipate that this additional facility will generate an additional 20,000 jobs. There were historically low unemployment levels in this part of the world so there are question to be raised on that, it was a question about infrastructure and he raised a question with the airport Chief Executive where all the people to fill these new jobs will live, because there is a fear that they would have to be housed in this part of the world. He thought all the new people would come from Croydon or Lancing on the train.

There were pressures on all Council finances, including County. He could not be concise about the increases for County, but suspected that it will be reaching possibly to the maximum allowed, which was 3% and another 2% for Social Care, so it would go up to 4.99% unless it goes for a referendum. A considerable amount of work was going on with regard to expenditures that the County Council undertakes, including those that were non-statutory or discretionary. These matters were under review. Social Care was the biggest expenditure at County, something like 40% of our £500 million expenditure was on adult social care. This figure keeps increasing as people were living longer and having a large number of people moving to this County from other parts of this country to retire; there were huge pressures. There were also pressures on Children's Services as well, some children who have not had the best start in life, in order to look after them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, costs us between £150,000 - £200,000 a year per child. There were also problems with recruiting and retaining Social Care staff. In all the reviews that are going on this included items such as buses and Southwater does have quite a reasonable bus service, and buses were subsidized by something like £600,000 per year. The decisions on these reviews would be made in the next month or so. Another area under review was Hop Oast car park which was owned by West Sussex. There was a gentleman's agreement with Horsham about that property and at the moment West Sussex did not charge rent. That was a site which was used by a lot of people and was going to be used heavily used by Horsham Football Club and included in their planning application. It was having to make its assets work more and were selling some properties at the moment and because it was losing so much of its central government grant it was looking at

other sources of income. County had just bought an £11 million office block in Manor Royal in Crawley principally because it will provide a 6% return and able to borrow at 3% from the Public Works Loan Board. County would be spending another £50 million over the next three years. At the same time, it was disposing of surplus assets to generate some capital. Early in the New Year you will hear more about the setting of the taxes, 75% of which goes to County. There would be difficult problems coming up.

Cllr. Mr. Jupp had been onto the Clerk about Community Transport and also about the question of 30 m.p.h., limits on the Worthing Road. It seems that some paperwork had been missed in correspondence which the Clerk advised him of today and he would be making some enquiries.

Regarding the Mulberry Fields roundabout which was breaking up around the edges this was being looked at by West Sussex County Council, and it would try to do something there.

The Chairman asked a question about the Hop Oast car park gentleman's agreement, obviously there is a planning application for the Football Club which has been approved which allows parking there in perpetuity. Cllr. Mr. Jupp stated that he was sure that this was something that would be discussed in due course.

Cllr. Neale asked whether the Clerk had been given all the information that he had requested regarding the speed limits. Cllr. Mr. Jupp did not think that she had, the reason being that correspondence had been lost. The Clerk advised that the County officers had been given the information twice. Cllr. Mr. Jupp would speak with Dean Wadey about this. Cllr. Neale asked if it was still a possibility or was it dead? Cllr. Mr. Jupp thought it was still a possibility, but if you attend the County Local Committees you would find that there were about 20 or 30 schemes that had been put forward by various Parish Councils and regrettably there was only so much money that County had to spend on such schemes which were graded and there was only sufficient money to carry out about three or four a year.

Cllr. Cole stated that if you go back ten years, if you cut back on services that are relatively on the fringe but affect everybody in the community whereas all the money seems to be going on a very small proportion of the community. He asked if Cllr. Mr. Jupp believed that was the correct way to go? Cllr. Mr. Jupp believed that the ordinary resident has every chance of receiving social care from this Council as does anybody else. Cllr. Cole said that this came at various stages of life but the road did not get sufficient attention, the verges did not get cut, etc., which he thought local authorities were for. Cllr. Jupp pointed out that the verges were cut three times a year now, the question of the road was out of all proportion as it spends about £25 million on the road repairs which was seen by all. What was not seen were the people in your Parish that were cared for by care workers, people with mental problems, etc., because they are not visible. County had to make decisions.

Cllr. Lewis asked about the new roundabout at Broadbridge Heath, the grass there had been cut whereas it had been such that you could not see over the crash barriers there; traffic was now coming through faster and when approaching the Hop Oast roundabout southbound, the traffic indications actually give no indication that you can turn right at the roundabout which was causing confusion for people that do not know the area. It was shown as a turn left only and two straight on lanes. As you come round the roundabout where they did some works on the central reservation, they dug a trench across the carriageway and that ridge is now getting deeper. He had reported this three times to County and been promised a 'phone call back, but nobody has called me back. He asked what was the long-term strategy for highways in this area because in the morning when you come up to the Robin Hood roundabout it was now backing up all the way down to the Tesco's flyover and taking something in the region of twenty minutes to get through. You mention that Gatwick Airport was going to be looking at an extra 20,000 employees, they are going to need somewhere to live, the road infrastructure in this area is not coping with the traffic as it stands without further development which is being undertaken in this area, let alone the future. It would be interesting to hear your strategy going forward. Cllr. Mr. Jupp apologized for the fact that he had not received a call back and if you send me an e-mail he would chase that up. Regarding the height of the grass, there would be times when the growth spirts up, but was not sure how many accidents had been caused by that. Road infrastructure problems has probably been caused by houses being built in the area. That is something that as a County Councillor I cannot respond to. Cllr. Lewis felt that as a County provision a strategy must be being thought of long-term bearing in mind these houses were being built. Cllr. Mr. Jupp agreed that the infrastructure was not sufficient to take all these people; we look at car ownership which he thought was 1.65 per household in Horsham but if you look back 20 years he suspected it was considerably less than that. These were problems that would need to be addressed but he could not see that there was an immediate answer. Southwater's average was 1.71 (2011 figures) and was the second highest in the country. The Chairman did not consider that the road problem was just a County one as there were problems all over the country and the A24 was better than the A29. Houses needed to be built, but there was not the money to build the road infrastructure and did not think it would ever be caught up. There was a need to look at public transport. This was a massive problem.

F175/11/18 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. Vickers clarified that planning application for Christ's Hospital's Sports Centre and Running Track is to go to the Planning Committee Meeting on the 8th January so if the Parish Council would like to make representations, perhaps they could let the District Council know. She was pleased to hear that Cllr. Jupp had arranged a meeting with Highways as they had now withdrawn their objection on highway grounds based on the information provided by Christ's Hospital's transport person. There were concerns that some matters had not been covered. Clarification of those points were needed.

On the subject of Gatwick Airport using the standby runway, there was a legal agreement in place until 2019 and whilst the runway that it there is not actually a new runway, it currently only used as a standby runway. It would need to have some alterations to enable it to be used as a second runway. Cllr. Vickers understood that it

would only be used for short haul flights because it would not be extended enough for a very large aircraft such as an A380. The District Council would be making representations on the consultation and it opposed the previous application for a second runway south of the airport on environmental impact grounds. Gatwick airport helped the prosperity of this area, but there were genuine concerns about the environmental impact, not just noise, but because 20,000 jobs does mean a lot more houses being needed. Horsham had constraints with areas of outstanding natural beauty, green belt, etc., so would be under huge pressure if that gets the go ahead. She thought Horsham District Council would be making similar representations on this consultation.

Cllr. Scoon asked whether this was 20,000 jobs or only during the construction stage? Cllr. Vickers replied that this was 20,000 permanent jobs based on their projections. This would put pressure on the infrastructure which was over stretched currently and did not keep up with housing development, education, etc. There were genuine concerns.

F176/11/18 SOUTHWATER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk informed Members that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be meeting on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018 to review the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation responses.

F177/11/18 SOUTHWATER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman referred to the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee in relation to the reconstitution of the Southwater Community Partnership, which he was delighted to say was to be led initially by Cllr Derek Moore.

Cllr. Moore stated that this was originally formed in 2005 and did some good work, but was wound up as it failed to connect with the community and drive an action plan focusing on things that the community really needed. At the Christmas Event 15 people volunteered to get involved and there was a wider list as well. Looking at the successes of other partnerships, providing we make sure that the Community Partnership did what it was there for, it allows the community the ability to get involved in things that they feel are important. That would not include things like roads and schools because those are the responsibility of other sectors of local government. It allows people to be part of their community and feel that they are having a positive impact on it. Cllr. Watkins and Cllr. Moore would sign a Memorandum of Understanding which mean that there is a relationship between the Partnership and the Parish Council, there will also be that with the District and County Councils. It is important that that was there so that each party understand what its part is. The community has an active part in driving it. He was hoping that it would not be long before these Understandings are signed and forming a Limited Company, which was necessary as it protects the board members and can then pull together an action plan, mainly that which was brought together through the Neighbourhood Plan and look at getting the community to do different things. One was the Christmas Fete and other events within the village and forming a Business Association to ensure that all the businesses in Southwater can have one voice. The idea is that the Community Partnership does not run all these things, it helps set them up and therefore end up with a Chamber of Commerce made up of all the businesses who work to serve the community and the community is aware of it. His

example was Billifest in Billingshurst which was arranged by the Community Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce. It is heralded as a big success. This type of thing helps the community bond, feel a sense of purpose and achievement. He was hoping that the Council would confirm that it was in favour of the Community Partnership being started again. As soon as the basics are done it would be up and running.

Members were to approve a list in order that the Chairman may sign the Memorandum of Understanding. The latest version had not yet been distributed.

The Chairman Proposed that the Community Partnership be reconstituted subject to these documents being approved; Seconded by Cllr. Neale. All AGREED.

F178/11/18 SOUTHWATER NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Cllr. Vickers left the meeting at 9.10 p.m.

The Chairman referred to the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee that Council should approve the Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme to proceed from April 2019 for a two-year period; this being the date to be agreed with District Council with the proviso that at the end of that two-year period this Council should consider whether this should be continued.

Cllr. Lewis asked what legal powers the Neighbourhood Wardens were going to have? The understanding was that they had no legal powers, they can only report matters which is exactly the same as the general public. It would cost the Council additional funds, the tightness of the budget had already been raised, yet the Council were to spend upwards of £25,000 on employing people which were roles that should be undertaken by the District Council with regard to Licensing and also Sussex Police. Why is Southwater to pay extra for Neighbourhood Wardens and what hours are they going to be working? He did not believe this had been before Council before, but he was corrected as it had. The Council had agreed to set up a Working Party to look at what the Wardens could and would do for the community and approved in last year's budget. Bering in mind the potential financial shortfall, should the Council not be looking to rein in its spending rather than extending it on actions which are already provided by other authorities. The Chairman pointed out that there were no Police Officers in the village. However, it was pointed out that a Police Precept was paid for it. If the Neighbourhood Wardens see some anti-social behaviour and they report it are they going to get a quicker response from the Police or are they going to just look at it and pass these on. The Chairman pointed out that the Council had already had these discussions. He understood the points being made, but this had been gone through at least twice and agreed in the budget last year that it would go forward this year. All approved at full Council. He was calling for a proposer and seconder to take forward the Finance and General Purposes Committee approval and if you wish to vote against it that would take place at this meeting. It was requested that the vote be recorded.

It was proposed by Cllr. Moore seconded by Cllr. Neale for Cllrs. Dye, Varley, Cole, Flores-Moore, Neale, Whitear, Watkins, Moore, Timson, Hutchings, and

Williams (10); Against: Cllrs. Lowis and Scoon (2) and agreed that the Council should APPROVE subject to discussions in relation to the agreement between Horsham District Council and Southwater Parish Council a two-year scheme commencing in April 2019.

F179/11/18 DRAFT PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2019/20

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked the Vice Chairman to lead the discussions in relation to the Draft Parish Council Budget for 2019/20.

The Budget received by Members had had a couple of changes since being sent but had been agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Taking into account what heard this evening regarding the Wardens, the total cost next year would be £20,000. The Clerk suggested that as this had only occurred this evening, that she and the Chairman look at this and send out a new draft. The changes would be made for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Neighbourhood Plan would cost more than expected. Two developers had challenged the Plan and had to a barrister advice on both of these but fortunately had come down in the Council's favour. There would be a few of these coming up, as every time there is a challenge the Council has to take advice on it. It was thought that it could need an extra £10,000, therefore this would change to £40,000.

In relation to the Youth Project, the Parish Council currently paid £17,000 plus paying for the office (£7,000) and service charge which comes to about £15,000.

Members had been asked to advise the Clerk of any changes and one Member had commented in relation to the discussion that had taken place about reducing the Election Costs from £4,000 to £2,000. The other point raised was about Consultancy Staff and that was reduced from £17,100 to £15,000. The Chairman questioned the reduction of the Election Costs as there would be an election next year, it would use all the Council's reserves on the elections and hence should a by-election be called (which the Council would have to pay for) there would be nothing to cover this. Cllr. Scoon thought the Council should only be budgeting for expenditure that was expected, which was true, but the Council would have no reserves to fall back on should such an election be called. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to keep this figure at £4,000.

A Member raised a query on the CCTV budget as this had gone from nothing to £1,000. It was asked where the CCTV was and the Clerk advised that there were 4 in Beeson House and the rest of the footage was the District Council's so the Council does get a proportion of any costs incurred.

It was advised that the Salary figure had not yet been finalized. The Chairman asked that any Members wishing to suggest amendments or make comments on the figures should advise the Clerk and perhaps those that have no comment should e-mail the Clerk to that effect. A Member asked when it was thought that the Council would be in a position to agree the Budget? The Chairman advised that this needed to be agreed in January, 2019. It would be gone through again at the next Finance & General Purposes meeting and then presentation back to full Council on the 30th January, 2019.

There was to be an Extraordinary Council Meeting on the 23rd January, but this was about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Varley queried the Luncheon Club figure as the people paid for their meals. The Clerk advised that when they have entertainers, this cost came out of the ring-fenced funds.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the confidential 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 Section 1 (e) of Standing Orders (Meetings).

F180/11/18 PERSONNEL, PENSIONS AND TRAINING

There was nothing to report.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

F181/11/18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 19th December, there was to be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 which would be in relation to the Draft Southwater Neighbourhood Plan and the next Full Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, 30th January 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Dated.....