



SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

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

Telephone number: 01403 733202

Email: Clerk@Southwater-pc.gov.uk

Community Website: www.southwater-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 in the Council Chamber, Beeson House, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9LA commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: **Councillors:** G Watkins (Chairman), M Neale (Vice-Chairman), G Scoon, G Cole, D Moore, C Vickers, P Flores-Moore, N Knott, H Timson, N Whitear and B Varley.

Members of the Public: 14

Clerk: Dawn Spouge

District Councillors: Councillor C Vickers (is also a Parish Councillor)

County Councillors: Councillor N Jupp

Press: Not Present

ACTIONS

The Chairman asked those present to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting, unless in an emergency, when they should go through the Chairman. In the event of a fire alarm sounding, everyone should evacuate the building via the exits indicated.

The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded.

95/19. Apologies for absence

None.

96/19. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Watkins declared a prejudicial interest in item 109/19.

Councillor Flores-Moore declared an interest in item 107/19

Councillor Moore declared an interest in item 107/19

Councillor Timson declared an interest in item 107/19

Councillor Whitear declared an interest in item 107/19

Councillor Varley declared an interest in item 107/19

97/19. To Consider Applications received for Co-Option for Councillor Vacancies

Votes were indicated by a show of hands. There were 10 Votes for Mr Steven James Lewis, it was **Agreed** that Mr Steven Lewis take his place at the table as a Councillor of Southwater Parish Council.

Votes were indicated by a show of hands. There were 10 Votes for Mr Robert Stranks, it was **Agreed** that Mr Robert Stranks take his place at the table as a Councillor of Southwater Parish Council.

98/19. Declaration of Office – co-opted Councillors to sign Declaration of Office

Mr Lewis accepted his office as Councillor and signed the paperwork. Councillor Lewis joined the Council. The Chairman reminded him that he could participate in discussions this evening, however must refrain from voting. Once he had returned his declaration of interest forms prior to the next meeting, he would then be eligible to vote at meetings.

Mr Stranks accepted his office as Councillor and signed the paperwork. Councillor Stranks joined the Council. The Chairman reminded him that he could participate in discussions this evening, however must refrain from voting. Once he had returned his declaration of interest forms prior to the next meeting, he would then be eligible to vote at meetings.

99/19. Public Forum – *(maximum 3 minutes per person with an overall limit of 15 minutes).*
All parishioners wishing to speak, must make their name known to the Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.

No members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.

100/19. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019
Councillor Moore proposed acceptance of the above Minutes, seconded by Councillor Vickers and **AGREED** unanimously.

101/19. Matters Arising – To deal with any matters arising from the Minutes of the 31st July 2019 not covered Elsewhere on the Agenda.

None.

102/19. Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported the following:-

Sussex and Police & Crime Annual Report

The above had been delivered and was available to anyone who wished to see it.

HR Services – hours so far to date used for HR Services on specific matters totalled 50, with an approximate cost to date for those services of £4,000.

Neighbourhood Plan – A meeting was being arranged with the Consultant to approve the method of dealing with the HDC Local Plan review. The Chairman requested the permission from the full Council for this matter to be delegated to the Chairman and Clerk to resolve, this was **Agreed** unanimously.

Meetings as Chairman that have been attended are the Southwater Community Partnership and the Christmas event committee.

Councillor Moore reported the following:-

Horsham Older Peoples Forum

HDC have launched the Community Lottery. Buyers of tickets can select their supported causes

Later Life Planning event Saturday 12 October 10 -13.00. Storrington Community Centre

Age UK Full of Life event Wednesday 2 October 10.00 – 15.30. Lavinia House

Age UK Horsham; new acting CEO Simon Dowe taken over from Sonia Mangan.

New Older Peoples Directory of Services now available from Horsham District Wellbeing

Question Time with Nick Herbert 22 November, providing he is still MP by that time!

Horsham Community partnership Forum

GW/Clerk

Mobility Scooter Project has had over 60 people improve their scooter skills and are looking for more candidates! They now have the ability to reach to local villages with Southwater now accessible for the course.

Heritage Trails. Funded by the Lottery, 20 Heritage Trails around the District are being developed by local volunteers to reflect their local Heritage. Planned launch early 2020.
Horsham Bus Map now available online from Horsham Town Community Partnership.

Meeting attended – Southwater Youth Project management meeting, this was also attended by Councillor Timson and Councillor Neale.

103/19. Correspondence

None.

A Letter had been received from Squires Planning (Neighbourhood Plan Consultants) which has been reported above in item 102/19.

104/19. Accounts – Circulated with the Agenda

- i) Balance Sheet to date
Councillor Moore proposed acceptance, seconded by Councillor Neale and **AGREED** unanimously.

- ii) Income and expenditure – noted and approved as at the date of this meeting
Councillor Moore proposed acceptance, seconded by Councillor Neale and **AGREED** unanimously.

105/19. To Receive and Consider any County Council Reports and Communications not covered elsewhere on this Agenda

Southwater Infant and Junior Academies – Replacement Classrooms

County Councillor Jupp reported the following:-

The detailed design and specification details are being prepared so as to confirm the revised cost estimates. On the basis that these costs will be within the revised budget it will allow for next month's WSCC Capital Asset Board to approve the release of S106 monies to fund the works so that the new classrooms are in use by September next year. Meetings are to be held with the Academies early next month to update them on progress and the anticipated programme.

Tower Hill – Speed Restrictions

The legal documentation for Christ's Hospital School's funding of the 30 mph TRO along Tower Hill together with the supply of two "Smiley" speed indicator signs continues to progress if somewhat slowly. The stretch of roadway subject to the speed restriction was originally just for Tower Hill between the Boar's Head and Christ's Hospital Road/Two Mile Ash Road junctions as measurements of average speeds etc were taken along that stretch of road. WSCC's draft for the proposed TRO also includes Two Mile Ash Road up to the Bax Castle railway bridge and Christ's Hospital Road up to the start of the hamlet's existing 30 mph restricted area. Although residents on those roads might welcome these stretches of road being included in the TRO, confirmation is awaited as to whether or not measurements have to be taken along those roads before the extended TRO can be advertised.

It is understood that Christ Hospital School remains committed to fund the TRO despite its failure to gain planning consent for its enlarged Bluecoat Sports Club's facilities.

Bonfire Hill/Shaw's Lane – proposal for TRO parking restrictions

Following an approach from residents of Shaw's Lane regarding their concerns about parking on Shaw's Lane at its junction with Bonfire Hill compromising road safety for traffic entering and leaving Shaw's Lane, WSCC Highways to investigate the potential for a TRO to restrict parking close to the junction. It is understood at this time that the owners of the vehicles parked at the junction are not residents of Shaw's Lane.

Mill Straight / Pollards Hill – condition of roundabout

The remedial works to the surface of the roundabout are due to be carried out this month. It has been understood that until the roundabout has been "adopted" by WSCC, the developers (Millers/Wates) retain full responsibility for its condition and the warranty period/maintenance period has yet to commence. Highways have reserved road space for these works from 30th September – 7th October.

As regards the chamber below the roundabout, it will be "adopted" by Southern Water. Highways, whom are to confirm their initial advice that it is for the foul sewer system hence no water can be seen during/after heavy rainfall being displaced.

Neighbourhood Plan - WSCC Strategic Transport Assessment

WSCC's officers had been able to resolve the outstanding issues raised by WSCC with the Parish Council Consultant, Andrew Metcalfe following recent discussions.

Downs Link – Southwater to Christ's Hospital

Following an approach from a Southwater resident, It is expected that Highways are due to advise on what, if any, improvements are proposed for upgrading the surface of this stretch of the Downs Link so as to encourage it to be used more by cyclists. The Parish Council will be advised in due course. Works were due to start earlier this week on the missing section of the Downs Link where it goes behind the Christ Hospital Station. Those works are due to take seven weeks.

106/19. To Receive and Consider any District Council Reports and Communications not covered elsewhere on this Agenda

District Councillor Vickers Reported as follows:-

Horsham District Council is currently focusing its efforts on amongst other things its local plan review.

Horsham District Council have had presentations from 8 major developers including Berkeleys who are proposing 1200 homes in Southwater. This site also includes a large business park for approx 1200 jobs and a new road from Hop Oast to Christ's Hospital.

These sites include.

- West of Ifield
- Adversane
- Southwater
- East Billingshurst
- West Billingshurst
- Kingsfold
- Mayfields
- Buck Barn

Officers are currently undertaking evidence base for employment, transport, traveller community etc.

Horsham District Council housing need and duty co-operate figure is 974 +5% plus between 200-300 for HDC's Neighbouring authorities, although HDC continue to challenge these

figures with central government and asking neighbouring authorities to 'leave no stone unturned'.

The Chairman raised his concerns on the high figures given on the amount of housing that this area were being asked to receive according to developers recent proposals and indicated that representations against such high figures would be made. Further discussion on this took place.

Councillor Moore raised a query on the impact in relation to the current Neighbourhood Plan that was going through the approval process and stated that Horsham District Council had a duty to abide by this. Councillor Vickers stated that where it was sustainable, Southwater was obliged to take their share of new development.

Further discussion took place on the infrastructure needs that should be met first prior to additional housing being implemented.

The recent Christ Hospital application was refused and Councillor Moore spoke at committee on behalf of the Parish Council. It is likely that there will be an appeal for the first application and this one will be held. It is hoped the Parish Council will attend the appeal.

The Novartis application on behalf of West Sussex County Council was deferred for clarification on highway safety matters.

Piries place car park is nearing completion.

There had been number of requests from the public for the Southwater sign to be reinstated near Mill Straight. The Clerk reported that this was in hand and a response was currently awaited from the County Council in regards to the license required, as well as investigating any amenities underground to ensure there are no issues in placing it. Clerk to update the public on the face-book site and website.

Clerk

107/19. To Receive from the following Committees; reports, note any delegated decisions taken and make any recommendations

F&GP Committee – updates including:

FUTURE RUNNING OF THE LEISURE CENTRE – OPTION B+ - Report circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Item 81/19 of the Confidential Minutes of 21st August – In accordance with Standing Orders, To revoke the decision by the Parish Council on Option B and replace with Option B+ of the future running of the Leisure Centre was proposed by Councillor Whitear, seconded by Councillor Knott and **AGREED** unanimously.

- **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st August 2019**
Subject to the above amendment, Councillor Watkins proposed acceptance, seconded by Councillor Whitear and **AGREED** unanimously.
- **Expressions of interest for the future running of the Laurie Apted Building including the specification required.**
The Chairman announced that there had been 3 parties who had declared an interest In the future management of running of the Laurie Apted Building. However, Southwater Sports Club had stated they wished to revoke their interest. The Parish Council hoped that they would re-consider.

The Parish Council would now enter into meaningful discussions to ensure that the terms put forward from the interested parties comply with the lease document from the Fletcher Trust and any conditions set within that document.

<p>Councillor Scoon asked if the Council could give due consideration to what they felt must be considered permissible and what was not permissible in any future land sale. Councillor Flores Moore pointed out that in the past, some residents had encroached on Parish Council land without permission.</p> <p>Further discussion took place.</p> <p>Councillor Neale reminded all Councillors that any proceeds from sale of Parish Council assets had to be used for capital expenditure and not revenue.</p> <p>The chairman stated that the Parish Council could place covenants on any future land sale transactions.</p> <p>It was agreed that this item would be discussed further between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Clerk and wording for a suitable new Policy put forward as an Agenda item at the next Parish Council Meeting.</p> <p>ii) To receive an update and consider the future maintenance of Old Stakers Lane</p> <p>The Chairman explained that since 2003 the Parish Council had been maintaining Old Stakers Lane that no other authority claimed ownership of. He suggested that the Parish Council apply for adverse possession to bring the land within the ownership of the Parish Council and comply with the same conditions. Councillor Cole proposed that the above be carried out, the Chairman to liaise with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and Vice-Chairman and instigate the procedure required for adverse possession. Seconded by Councillor Moore and AGREED unanimously.</p> <p>111/19. To discuss and consider the future of the Southwater Residents Pack Councillor Scoon explained the residents pack that had been produced last year, he reported that he had prepared a pack for this financial year and asked if this could be issued on line. It was AGREED unanimously to delegate the progression and publication of this on line to Councillor Scoon, Councillor Neale and the Clerk</p> <p>112/19. Church Lane Building – (Old Council Office) The Chairman gave an update in regards to the above. Berkeley’s Homes had given the Parish Council a date of 1st November to remove the building. An inspection on the building was due to take place shortly. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to meet with Berkeley’s and bring this item back to full Council. The Parish Council gave approval at this delegation.</p> <p>113/19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20th November 2019</p> <p>This meeting ended at 8.55pm.</p>	<p>Next Mtg</p> <p>GW Clerk/Asst Clerk</p> <p>GS/MN Clerk</p> <p>GW/MN Clerk</p>
--	--