

Southwick & Widley Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held in the Montgomery Room, D-day Memorial Hall, Southwick on Tuesday 15th January, 2013 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr J. Watson (Chairman) in the Chair
Mr B. Welch
Mr A. Richards
Mrs C Hatcher
Mrs J. Houghton
Mrs S West
Mr A Hinton
Mr F. Bunyan

Also present:

Reverend R. Green

In attendance:-

Eddie Mason – Clerk to the Council.

13.001 Apologies for absence: Mr N Cutler, County Councillor Stallard, PCSO Towler and Shane Boulton

13.002 The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: - Proposed Mr Hinton, seconded Mrs West and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th December 2012 should be signed as a true and accurate record.

13.003 Matters Arising:

- i) Mr Watson reported that he has invited Simon Hayes Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of White to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Assembly but so far has received no reply.
- ii) Mr Watson said that he is still trying to find out who owns of the pillar by Church Lodge that is in a dangerous condition.
- iii) Mr Richards reported that a planning application submitted by Church Lodge for pruning a tree has been refused.

13.004 Public Participation:

- i) County Councillor Stallard could not attend the meeting, due to other commitments, but provided a written a report see Appendix A.

13.005 Community Safety: -

- i) PCSO's Barry Towler did not attend the meeting.
- ii) Mr Watson said that on behalf of the Council he has replied to the email sent by Simon Hayes asking for views on what his priorities on policing and community safety should be.
- iii) Mrs Houghton said that someone had stolen cards from a delivery van and then as a practical joke wrote a message saying that a parcel had been left with a neighbour and then delivered them to properties in the village.

13.006 Correspondence – Most of the correspondence had been issued to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Additional correspondence not issued.

- i) Mr Watson highlighted the need for all Councillors to acquaint themselves with the revised code of conduct.

13.007 Playing field matters:

- i) Mr Richards said that he had received a letter from PC Garden Contracts offering to undertake the grounds maintenance grass cutting contract.

It was unanimously agreed that the grounds maintenance grass cutting contract should be awarded to PC Garden Contracts.

- ii) Mr Watson said that he had not received any quotations for supplying and erecting fencing around the playing field.
- iii) Mr Houghton said that the safety surface is slippery under the children's play equipment.

It was decided to wait until the annual play equipment report has been received to see what action is recommended.

13.008 Street Lighting Matters: Mrs Houghton reported that the light outside the D-Day Memorial Hall car park is not working.

This light belongs to Southwick Park; Mr Hinton said that he would report it.

13.009 Roads & Highway matters:

- i) Mrs Houghton reported that the footpath to the military bungalows is very slippery. Mr Watson said that he would talk to Mr Cutler in his capacity as District Councillor about it.
- ii) Mr Watson said that the vegetation along the footpath from Castle Road to Boulter Lane is now so overgrown that it cannot be used.
- iii) Mr Richards reported a large pothole outside of Castle Farm House on the Denmead Road by the junction with Castle Road.

The Clerk to report it to County Highways.

13.010 Planning Matters: Nothing to report.

13.011 Members business:

- i) Mr Watson said that the D-Day Memorial requires new curtains and the committee have asked that the Parish Council donates a sum of £200.00 to enable them to qualify for a County Council grant.

Proposed Mr Watson, seconded Mr Welch and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council gives the D-day Memorial Hall a grant of £200.00 towards the cost of new curtains.

- ii) Mr Richards commented that the old village pound is in a dilapidated state. Mrs Houghton said that she would ask her husband to see if he knows, or if he doesn't, can find out who owns it.
- iii) Mr Hinton said that he has had no response to his letter to try to sort out the parking problems in Castle Road.

Mr Watson suggested that he approaches County Councillor Stallard to see if she can use her office to arrange an on-site meeting with County and District Council Officers.

13.012 Orders for Payment:

- i) Proposed Mr Richards seconded Mrs West and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should pay its bills:

Cheque List January 2013

Transaction	Cheque No	Creditors Name	Payment For	Nett	VAT	Gross
663	001171	Eddie Mason	Clerks Expenses (Postage)	29.80	0.00	29.80
661	001171	Eddie Mason	Clerks Expenses (Mileage)	8.08	0.00	8.08
662	001171	Eddie Mason	Clerks Expenses	20.00	0.00	20.00
664	001171	Eddie Mason	Clerks Salary	193.93	0.00	193.93
665	001172	HM Customs and Inland	clerks Tax	48.40	0.00	48.40
666	001173	Mr David Tyman (Litter Picker)	Litter Collection	42.56	0.00	42.56
667	001174	D-Day Memorial Hall - Hall Hire	Hire of Room	90.00	0.00	90.00
668	001175	Southern Electric Contracting	Street Lighting	88.40	17.68	106.08
669	001176	Came & Company	Administration	849.38	0.00	849.38
Totals Paid				1370.55	17.68	1388.23

ii) Setting the Precept

It was unanimously agreed that after looking at the forecasted budgets and taking into account additional expenditure that may be necessary for the Parish to have an improved transport service, and work undertaken on the playing field, that the Precept should be set at £15,230 an increase of £1530.00; however changes this year have meant that the Parish Council will receive a Council Tax Support Grant of £1,527.69 this means that the Precept will increase by only £2.31 which equates to an increase of 0.016%.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Date of the next meetings: 18th February 2013

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13.004 Public Participation:

ii) County Councillor Stallard's Report:

a) Council Tax

Hampshire County Council are likely to free Council tax for a record fourth year running. This is despite Hampshire receiving one of the lowest grants per head of population from Government and a 43 per cent cut in grant over four years - the biggest reduction compared with other Counties. Hampshire County Council took early action to respond to the national deficit reduction programme, achieving savings of £100million over the last two years. That has put the Council in a very strong position to tackle future funding challenges, which are expected to be even tougher from 2015/16.

All Council services from social care to roads, transport, education, libraries and countryside, are now having to find efficiencies that will reduce their budgets by two per cent to help meet the major pressures in some areas. Proposals for achieving this without impacting on frontline service delivery and with limited need for any staff reductions will be presented to Executive Members over the next week. Final recommendations will be made to the full County Council on 21 February. If Council Tax is frozen, Band D tax would be £1,037.88.

b) Reduce Energy Bills

The County Council is working with other Local Authorities across Hampshire to set up a 'collective energy switching service' which will enable gas and electricity consumers in the County to combine their purchasing power and get a better deal on their bills. This is good news for households across the County since it will mean that people who register for the scheme will possibly be able to get their gas and/or electricity at much cheaper rates than if they were buying either service as an individual customer.

There are approximately 760,000 households in Hampshire. If two per cent sign up to switch energy supplier through the County Council's collective energy switching service, this would give a combined purchasing power of just over 15,000 customers, enabling the negotiation of greater discounts. The more people who sign up, the more negotiating power the County will have. Being able to access cheaper energy has the potential to bring significant benefits to people on low incomes, the elderly and families in fuel poverty and will also provide an opportunity for greater savings to be made by those people who rely on electricity alone for heating and cooking because they cannot be connected to a mains gas supply.

It is estimated that typically customers could save in the region of £60 to £200 on their energy bills by participation in collective switching and running the scheme could lead to potential savings of up to £25 million for Hampshire residents. To get the scheme up and running, the County Council, on behalf of the other Hampshire local authorities, is proposing to contract an intermediary organisation to manage the collective switching process. A decision on this is to be taken on 22 January 2013 at the Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day.

There would be no charges to the customer nor any council tax payer for this service. More details about the scheme and how people can register will be announced at the beginning of April 2013, subject to the agreement (on 22 January) to contract an agency to undertake the energy switching work, and the tender process leading to the appointment of a contractor with the required expertise, skills and resources.

c) Internship Scheme

The Internship Plus Scheme provides work placement opportunities for young people in the care of the County Council and leaving care. Four young people have recently completed the scheme and undertook a range of internships including working for the County Council's Adult Services

department at the Hampshire Integrated Community Equipment Services, working in its Trading Standards department and working as an Arts Centre assistant.

The scheme provides opportunities for paid work placements within the County Council but also opportunities to access relevant qualifications. Fifteen young people are currently taking part in the scheme.

d) Cash to Develop Musical Talent

Applications are being invited for the 2013 round of Dayas Music Scholarships. This is an annual grants scheme administered by Hampshire County Council - set up from a sum of money left by Mrs Hayton (nee Dayas), a former Hampshire teacher, in her will. These music scholarships give the chance for people above school-age to seek support for new musical interests, to have lessons to help them refresh 'rusty' musical skills in singing or playing an instrument, or to further develop skills in areas such as composition, conducting and performance. The application process is all dealt with in writing so there need be no audition fears! Application forms and further details are available from Hampshire County Council's Music Service on 02380 652037 or by e-mail to music.service@hants.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2013.

e) Falling Temperatures

After a relatively mild spell of weather, and a forecast for snow in other parts of the country, temperatures look set to drop in Hampshire. The County Council salt barns are well stocked with enough salt for 15 days continuous round-the-clock salting, 3,000 community salt bins have salt in them for people to deposit salt on public roads and pavements. Additionally around 100 farmers are ready to assist with clearing the roads of snow using snow ploughs if needed. As always during the winter season, salting lorries are on stand-by ready to salt Priority 1 routes when temperatures are set to fall to zero or below. These are the roads that carry 85% of the county's traffic.

During severe weather events HCCs Emergency Planning Unit co-ordinates the Council's response, working closely around the clock with the emergency services, District Councils and other partners such as the Environment Agency to coordinate multi-agency efforts. Over a hundred 4x4 volunteer drivers, who have been recruited by the Police and trained by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, are ready to transport key staff and resources to wherever they are needed eg hospital, the workplace to keep vital services running, or helping to deliver meals on wheels.

Anyone who has a concern about a neighbour should call 0845 603 5630. Cold weather not only makes life uncomfortable but can lead to serious health problems including asthma, depression, heart disease and strokes. People who are struggling to keep warm or to pay their bills can get immediate and practical help and advice by calling the 'Hitting the Colds Spots' freephone advice line (0800 804 8601).

f) Carbon Emissions

For a second consecutive year, Hampshire County Council has beaten its target to reduce carbon emissions from its buildings, schools, street lights and other operations. A total of over 15,500 tonnes of carbon have now been saved since 2010, which represents good progress towards the County's plan to reduce Council carbon emissions by 20% (26,360 tonnes) by 2015.

g) Finally, I should like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year for 2013.

Patricia Stallard
Winchester Southern Parishes

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