

## Southwick & Widley Parish Council

### Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held Virtually on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 7.30 pm

#### Present:

Mr J. Watson in the Chair  
Mr A. Hinton  
Mr Neil Cutler  
Mrs P. Stallard  
Revd. S. Brocklehurst  
Mr T. Parkinson

#### Also Present:

#### In Attendance: -

Eddie Mason – Clerk to the Council.

**20.053 Apologies for absence:** Mrs J. Houghton, Mr A Richards, Mr G Clark, Lt. Cmdr. M. Thompson, PCSO B. Towler, District Councillors: A Clear and T Evans.

**20.054 The Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** - Proposed Mr A. Hinton, seconded Mrs P. Stallard and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 should be signed as a true and accurate record.

**20.055 Co-option of a new Councillor:** Mr T. Parkinson had said that he would stand as a Parish Councillor.

- i) Mrs P Stallard asked Tony to explain a little about his background and why he would like to become a Parish Councillor.
- ii) Mr T Parkinson said that he had lived, since his marriage, in the village for 12 years. Before his marriage, he had lived in East Boldre where he served as chairman of the Parish Council for three years. Mr Parkinson is at present employed as a boatyard manager looking after a boatyard in Warsash. He has also worked with Lymington sea-scouts for thirty years.
- iii) Mr A Hinton proposed, and the Revd S Brocklehurst seconded and was unanimously agreed that Mr T Parkinson be co-opted onto the Parish Council

#### 20.056 Matters Arising:

- i) Mr Watson asked to have "matters arising" raised at the appropriate points on the agenda.

#### 20.057 Public Participation:

- i) Mrs Stallard reported that the County Council is performing well and is managing to meet its demands both in terms of Adult Social Care and Children Services. Achieving this has not been easy and there has had to be a prioritising, particularly with up to twelve per cent of their staff being absent any one time. As a consequence of this, two children's homes have had to close because of a lack of resources.
- ii) Mr Cutler said that about 87% of Winchester City Council staff are working, with 80% of those working from home and they are concentrating very hard to ensure vital services continue to run efficiently.

Other departments, including fly-tipping, are continuing to run well. Planning Department is still running, and they have had an enforcement stop notice put on in Soberton travellers who had started working on a travellers site.

One of the critical areas is getting Government money out to businesses; included in this is the business rate relief and the grants that go out to the hospitality industry. So far they have paid out £14 million.

Another critical area is the Council's attempt to co-ordinate and help with best practice through Community First.

The one big problem that they are facing is that they have a reduction in income of nearly a million pounds a month out of a total spend of 29.5 Million pounds a year, and if this continues, it will cause tremendous problems for the Council with its budgets.

- iii) Revd. Brocklehurst asked what else the Council could do to show its appreciation of the NHS.

Mrs Stallard said that she had already made a video that has gone out on social media network, thanking all Social Workers.

Mr Cutler asked that the Council writes to thank both Winchester and Hampshire for the efforts they are making on behalf of the Community.

Mr Watson said that he was glad to do this.

**20.058 Community Safety:**

- i) Mr Watson is concerned about the increase, due to the lockdown, in domestic abuse and asked that everyone be observant.

**20.059 Correspondence:** All correspondences had been issued to the Councillors before the meeting.

**20.060 Playing field matters:**

- i) Mr Watson said that the hedge around the playing field on the Parish Council's side had been removed. However, the MOD is in no hurry to complete the work on their side.

To put saplings in now may result in them being destroyed by MOD contractors in the Autumn so the best solution would be to put up a temporary post and rail fencing.

Mr Watson said that he would apply for funding for the temporary fencing from the Playing Field Fund.

**20.061 Street Lighting Matters:**

- i) No reported problems.

**20.062 Roads & Highway matters:**

- i) Mr Cutler said that there had been incidents of fly-tipping.
- ii) Mr Parkinson reported that there had been driving on the kerb in Castle Road after the tarmacking.
- ii) Mr Hinton said that Norton Road is now a one-way street.

**20.063 Planning Matters:**

- i) Mr Cutler raised that although not directly affecting the Parish Council, the concerns locally caused by Travellers.
- ii) Mr Watson said that there had been a change to the routes of footpaths 9 and 10.

**20.064 Members Business:**

- i) Mr Parkinson gave high praise to the village shop, which is doing an excellent job.

**20.065 Financial Matters**

- i) Proposed Mr Watson seconded Mr Hinton and unanimously agreed that the Council would acquire Zoom to host its Virtual meetings.
- ii) The Council unanimously decided, during the COVED- 19 pandemics to pay its bills electronically.

**The meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**Date of the next meetings: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**