

SOUTH MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting.

Date: 25 th September 2023		Venue & Time: South Milton Village Hall, 19.30hrs
Present: Cllr Anne Berryman Cllr Paul Booker (in the Chair) Cllr Emma Halmshaw Cllr Steve Harding Cllr Graham Jinks Cllr Marion Luscombe Cllr Nick Townsend	In Attendance: Katharine Harrod – Clerk & Minute taker Dist. Cllr Samantha Dennis Dist. Cllr Mark Long County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Parishioners/Guests Present: 13	Apologies:

REF 2023/24 MINUTES

284 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

285 PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM (allocated time not longer than 15 minutes, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 2 minutes as per Standing Orders):

- The Mobile Library service goes to scrutiny at DCC tomorrow as the service is potentially going to be cancelled. Once it has been scrutinised it will be returned to The Cabinet for a final decision on the future of the service.
- Cllr Berryman attended two meetings re the bus service that has been discontinued, however, at the beginning of September an email was received from Kingsbridge saying there was no obvious interest in the continuance of the bus service and future meetings were deferred. Cllr Dennis advised that she has followed up on this, it was also raised at a local Chamber of Commerce meeting. Local businesses in the area will be contacted to ensure their input has been received.

National Trust: Welcome to Jonathan Fisher, new General Manager for the area
Valda Smith, National Trust Ranger provided the following information:

- Tim Roth, the car park manager who has been in post for over ten years is due to retire, the National Trust are now recruiting for a new welcome manager. The aim is to have a presence there all the time.
- Broken railings and the rope fence along the café have been replaced.
- The new boardwalk at the top (opposite the toilets) is suffering from water runoff, more protective work may be required.
- The main boardwalk by the car park has been well received, particularly as it allows improved access for those with disabilities.
- The National Trust AGM has a resolution regarding active transport – are there alternative and practical ways to get people to their properties/land?

a) DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Email: rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk

1. Cllr Gilbert visited the residents at Shute Lane this evening to discuss the state of the road.
2. The planned Modbury road closure has been agreed (6 weeks), more details to be provided.
3. Expansion of 20mph zones – this is a contentious issue and the situation in Wales is being closely watched by the Government, it's assumed to be a matter of time before a paper is put forward for England.

Road Closure Notifications, within 6 months:

4. Temporary traffic notice 6th – 14th November, 09:30 and 15:30, road closure - road from A381 to Sutton Cross" & "Whitlocksworthy to Sutton Cross", South Milton.
5. Query re traffic notice 20th/21st November, Road Closure Ilbert Rd to Whitlocksworthy Cross for EW duct from box to pole. An email will be sent to DCC Highways requesting traffic lights and not a road closure.

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REPORT IT:

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

1. A letter is being issued to all those who currently pay business rates asking for proof that they have commercial waste management contracts in place.
2. The new Executive met last Thursday and have brought forward their new draft corporate strategy. A formal consultation will take place, ending on 24th October. The final strategy will be considered by the Executive Committee on 30th November.
3. The new draft strategy has proposed significant changes with respect to housing stock and how it is managed. It includes consideration of creating an umbrella community land trust – which would not give a “right to buy” option. SHDC will request first refusal of any social housing due to be sold off to ensure that the housing stock in the area does not reduce further.
4. Issues such as Enforcement are also under review – a full review of existing policy, handling of complaints and the resources that are required for the service.
5. A new planning IT system is due to go live in November, this will ensure applications are uploaded and dealt with more effectively. There will also be more transparency.
6. With regard to planning decisions, there will be a new approach whereby amendments are considered by the Assistant Director and the Chairman of the Development Management Committee. They will be responsible for determining which are minor technical and which are material or contentious amendments. Anything that is material or contentious will be dealt with by the Development Management Committee.
7. The Corporate Strategy Consultation: In person session at Kingsbridge Market on 12th October, 9.30am – 4.30pm where paper copies are available. If anyone would like a paper copy please advise the Parish Clerk.
8. Re the Housing Survey, there were 123 responses, the information is due to be analysed and information will be provided in due course.

REPORT IT: It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful

<https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>

Missed Bins, Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged/Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

THE MEETING CONVENED

286 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest were received.

287 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 21st July without alteration, they were then signed by the Chairman.

288 CLERKS REPORT:

1. The Housing Needs Survey closed on 22nd September, we await the analysis of the responses.
2. Road Warden Scheme: We are in touch with Devon County Council to arrange training for this council and four adjacent parishes.
3. South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership, Councillors have been invited to an online session (26th October) to highlight the importance of this organisation. For more information see

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<https://saferdevon.co.uk/south-devon-dartmoor-csp/> or

<http://www.facebook.com/SouthDevonDartmoorCSP>

4. Councillors have been invited to a briefing on the Cost of Living crisis and how it's affecting people in the South Hams. Monday 2nd October.
5. Antisocial Behaviour can be reported via the South Hams District Council website, details of how they deal with the information received can be obtained via this link: <https://southhams.gov.uk/article/9274/Anti-Social-Behaviour-Policy>
6. Southern Cluster Group with Cllr Julian Brazil: Due to take place on 9th October, all Councillors have been advised. This will be the first opportunity to discuss the new corporate strategy .
7. Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team Devon County Council: Due to heavy rainfall from the 16th – 18th September some areas of Devon have been affected by flooding. In the event of flooding such as this, utilising local knowledge is essential for Devon County Council to gather key information on the affected areas and overall impacts. If anyone has experienced flooding to property or nearby roads please contact the Parish Clerk with details.
8. Police Hubs Initiative (previously Project Community Access): Details regarding this initiative (which will see village halls and community buildings across South Devon being used as 'hubs' by police officers while they are out on patrol) have been passed to the Village Hall Committee.
9. A defibrillator/heart-start training course was provided by the South West Ambulance Trust on 19th September 7pm at Malborough Village Hall. People attended from South Milton, Salcombe, West Alvington, Malborough and South Huish. We have received very positive feedback and we have thanked Kevin Bowyer for his ongoing support to the local parishes.

289 PLANNING:

- a. **Applications** received by the Parish Council and under discussion and consideration for the last period. Any recommendation by the Parish Council to the Planning Department is noted after the application details. Those without comment remain under discussion.

NOTE: When providing a response to applications, the South Milton Neighbourhood Plan will be referenced.

1. Councillors **RESOLVED** to adopt the Examiners comments with respect to the recent minor modification.
2. Local Planning Updates (if required).
3. 2927/23/TPO, Brook House, South Milton. Various tree works. **Support.**
4. 2899/23/HHO, Well Park, TQ7 3JR, extension, alterations & roof conversion, 12/10 **A site visit will take place prior to a decision.**
5. 3035/23/COM, Airband Pole, Hamlocks, South Milton, TQ7 3JT. **Object.**
6. 2583/23/FUL, Thurlestone Beach House, South Milton, TQ7 3JJ, window & door replacement 19/10. **Support.**

b. **Decisions:**

1. 3840/22/FUL, Higher Southdown Farm, (29/12) **No Decision Yet.**
2. 3947/22/TCA, Land at SX 697 429, Webbers, South Milton (11/12) **No Decision Yet.**
3. 2268/23/ARC, Tolcarne, South Milton. **No Decision Yet.**

c. **Enforcement issues:**

Please will all parishioners make a report to SHDC with full details of any violations that do not adhere to the original application for which permission was granted. ALL violations can be reported confidentially to Enforcement via www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3043/Report-a-Planning-Breach If you would like to submit a report but do not have access to the website, please contact the Parish Clerk.

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290 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

a) Rockbox – Feedback from the 2023 operation. South Milton Parish Council have received one representation stating it was fantastic and a second representation that said it was better than previous years but on one occasion there was excessive music. Those present noted that on the last night it was operational there was a live band and it was loud.

- A query was raised regarding length of time on the South Milton premises.
- A complaint was made regarding Enforcement not following up quickly on the issue of overstaying.
- The toilet facilities were not sufficient and not lit, this was very problematic later in the evening. A request will be made for the owner to provide additional toilet facilities and additional bin facilities.
- The Beach Café make a contribution to the toilet cleaning, Jonathan Fisher stated it would be logical that some funding should be received from the National Trust car park and some from the café – this should be transparent. Cllr Mark Long and Jonathan Fisher will arrange a meeting the National Trust and South Hams District Council to discuss further.
- A request was made for a dog bin at the café site.
- Signage for Rockbox remains in place and should be removed.

General feedback this year has been very positive largely thanks to the new systems the organisation has put in place, however as above, there are some areas that can be improved on for 2024. SMPC will write to Enforcement welcoming improvements over 2022 but further improvement needed, particularly on overstaying.

- b) Cllr Townsend attended a meeting with local MP Anthony Mangnall and South West Water. A point made was that South West Water don't have enough local knowledge and this doesn't always lead to problems being solved – i.e. overflows, leakage. A South West Water representative has agreed to meet with Cllr Townsend to discuss further.
- c) Prior to September 2017 there were no eligibility rules at the South Milton Parish Council burial ground, anyone could be buried there. In September 2017 it was resolved by the Council that eligibility would be restricted to those who either lived in the parish at time of death or who died within a year of leaving the parish plus those who had already reserved plots by that date. Furthermore, anyone who died in the parish, irrespective of where they lived, could be buried in the parish (this is a legal right).

The Parish Council will now review the land availability, eligibility rules, layout of the plots and the need to raise funds to pay for any land purchase. Dave Goddard offered a contribution to purchase additional land. The Chairman thanked him for his offer.

Cllrs Jinks & Townsend will investigate the options to expand the burial ground.

Cllrs Berryman, Halmsshaw, Luscombe and the Parish Clerk will meet to agree the basis of the proposed eligibility rules, this will then be forwarded to the Councillors for additional comments.

We seek expertise to assist with creation of an updated schematic.

- d) A request has been made for a memorial bench in the cemetery. The existing bench is South Milton Parish Council owned and can be replaced. The Council resolved to approve a new bench subject to sight of the proposed replacement prior to installation.

291 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

a) **Accounts to pay Month 6** – Clerks Salary including HMRC, Burial Ground Maintenance £90 & £90 Monthly bank charge £8, Hall Hire £20, Parish Magazine Printing £57.80, Eden.co.uk Burial Register £37.92

Councillors resolved to approve all payments.

b) **Governance:**

It was resolved to renew the website at an annual cost of £120 plus VAT (excluding Planning Applications)

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292 MEETING ENDS 20.45 Hrs

293 DATES FOR THE DIARY: 16th Oct, 27th Nov 2023, South Milton Village Hall, 19.30 hrs.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please could these be submitted to Mrs Katharine Harrod by the 3rd Monday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to Mrs Katharine Harrod for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List

South Milton Parish Council Councillors

For Information: e-circulation to: County Cllr R Gilbert, South Hams District Council Ward Councillors, National Trust, Riccardo Carrelli, Jenny Brown.