



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

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Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd June 2021 at 7.30pm at the Lardner Hall, The Ghyll, Pevensey Road, Southwater, RH13 9XZ.

Present:

Councillors Present: G Watkins (Chairman), M Neale (Vice-Chair),
D Moore, S Lewis, P Flores-Moore, J Watkins, and I Slowly.

District Councillors: None

County Councillors: None

Other Community Representatives: **Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens:** Dominic Woodhead, Jacquie Cave
The Village Hall Committee: Mr Longdon

Executive Officers of SPC: Dawn Spouge, Justin Tyler

Members of the Public: Office Staff member Mrs J Taylor and Spouse, Mr C Taylor.

Were able to view meeting by Live YouTube Stream

<p>This was a Parish Meeting hosted by the Parish Council.</p> <p>All papers were circulated with the Agenda to all Councillors and those representing their Community groups at the meeting.</p> <p>All reports received were published on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>Due to the current government extended restrictions, adherence to health and safety, safe distancing and capacity on numbers attending, this meeting was live streamed to the public.</p> <p>The Chairman pointed out the fire exits and protocol for a safe meeting area in case of a fire.</p> <p>1. Welcome from the Chairman and opening of the meeting The Chairman welcomed everyone present and those viewing via live stream to the meeting.</p> <p>He confirmed the names of all those in attendance.</p> <p>2. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from the following: - Cllr Stannard, Cllr Cole, Cllr Vickers, Cllr Scoon, Cllr Knott, District Cllr Greening, District Cllr Lindsey, PCSO Damien Cecil, SYP Kath Jones.</p>	<p>Actions</p>
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3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17 th April 2019. (Please note the APM was not held in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic situation)

The above Minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Councillor Neale, seconded by Councillor Flores-Moore and **AGREED** unanimously by all those who had attended the meeting at that time.

4. Report from the Parish Council Chairman

The Chairman made reference to the circulated and published report sent out with the Agenda and on the Parish Council website. He highlighted some areas of the report and in addition added a few more matters he wished to report on as follows:-

- Renewed Skate-Park project – Stakers Lane, enabled by S106 funding
- SPC had adopted the Roman Lane Play Area and installed new Art-Work on the open space, funded by S106 monies. Positive feedback had been received from the public on this.
- SPC had reduced the precept in the financial year 2021-22 with a carefully planned budget process whilst still providing service delivery to the community.
- The Neighbourhood Plan had now passed a public referendum with an 83% vote in favour. This had completed nearly six years of hard work by the steering group and would bring an enhanced percentage of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). Thanks were given to all those who had helped achieve this progress including Andrew Metcalfe of Squires Planning and Catherine Tobin.
- Reference was given to those Councillors detailed in the report who had come on board to be a Councillor and voluntarily give their free time to invest in community matters. Thanks was given to those who had left over the last two years and the time they had also given.
- This is the first year of the second term of employment for the Southwater Wardens, Dom and Jacquie and they had contributed greatly to community life and had proved to be a real asset to the Parish of Southwater.
- The use of Easteds Barn by SPC's tenant, Little Barn Owls had proved a great success with the nursery group having won 'UK Nursery Group of the year and highly commended for enabling environments at the Nursery World Awards 2020.
- Thanks was given to the District and County Councillors who worked with the Parish Councillors and Officers of the Council to enable good service provision to the Parish.
- A visit had been paid by myself and Executive Officer, Dawn Spouge to investigate putting forward a proposition to bring back Southwater artifacts to Southwater permanently using local and National grants.
- It is planned to make SPC website alterations to enable the public to contact the specific Officer responsible for that area.
- Chairmans Discretionary fund which was set up and has already helped some in the community. This fund will put forward £500 to fund the 1st year Duke of Edinburgh Awards followed up with a proposal for a life time legacy fund of £500 per annum to commemorate the life of HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. In addition up to £1000 will be given to fund projects that engage youth in Southwater in addition to youth sports ie., for equipment required.
- It is hoped to set up a Youth Council which would provide input from the youth on community projects and have a real input into their community.
- Announced this would be the last Annual Parish Meeting over which he would preside as host and wanted to step down later this year and pass on to others the role of Chairman of the Parish Council. He hoped others would consider coming forward for the role and would ask any Councillor interested to inform either of the Executive Officers.
- Finally he stated that he hoped the Pandemic would resolve and allow normal life to return.

5. To receive annual reports and/or annual accounts from the following bodies who receive grants/funding from the Parish Council

i). The Ghyll CIO

The Chairman of The Ghyll CIO reported as follows:-

- Welcomed everyone to the Lardner Hall.
- Stated that a draft report had been circulated, some updates had been made since circulation.
- Still awaiting the annual accounts from the CIO accountant and it would be the same accounts and report that would be sent to the Charity Commission.
- Stated that highlights to pick from the report were as follows:-

- Grants received last year and this year.
- The Performance Zone and Treatment room were up and running and he encouraged people to pay a visit to see the facilities offered.
- Infinity Gymnastics were using the Main Hall.
- The Café area had received an offer for managing a café, this was still in discussion and further small works of refurbishment were required prior to moving forward on this.
- The Bowls Club agreement had expired and a new agreement to be decided.
- The Laurie Apted Building was receiving bookings and these had begun to increase, although unfortunately it had been subject to recent vandalism.
- SYP were using The Ghyll for DofE at present.
- It was reiterated that those licensed users who had agreements with the CIO during the pandemic had not had to pay during the pandemic.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman of the CIO for all the work put in to establish current and future progress of use of the building to benefit the community.

ii). SYP (Southwater Youth Project)

The Report had been circulated and published with the Agenda.

SYP had operated for 15 years and SPC was one of its funding partners.

Councillor Neale gave a brief update on current SYP matters and the current working party that had been set up to consider and work on the future youth provision in Southwater. A proposal was to be put forward to the Council in regards to the future format and location of SYP and to enable SYP to become a Charity and move forward in youth provision and support in the community.

Further updates would be given as and when they occurred.

6. To receive an annual report from Southwater Neighbourhood Community Wardens

Written report circulated and published on the website.

Jacque Cave reported as follows:-

- Last year, usual activities were restricted due to Covid, we the Wardens are looking forward to reinstating these as restrictions are gradually lifted and enabling us to visit vulnerable community residents.
- A recent Drop In took place that was attended and it is planned to conduct a month Drop in going forward.
- A free bike safety check took place for the under 18's, together with PCSO Damien Cecil and Tom Hunter from the Bike Side in Partridge Green. This was well attended, 15 bikes checked and advice given.
- Attending Multi-Agency meetings in regards to youth and recent ASB. We have been engaging with young people at Horsham Boxing Club to encourage this activity with other youths.
- Applying for funding to run sessions such as -Skate-boarding coaching and help communicate respect with the youth of the area.
- Wardens now have a face-book page and also posting on the Southwater village page and twitter and Southwater News articles to ensure information is shared on several platforms.
- Undertaken leaflet drops to new residents in the community.
- We have been making regular phone calls to vulnerable and elderly residents in the absence of not being able to make doorstep visits at present, to check on their welfare.

Dom Woodhouse reported as follows:-

- There has been an increase in Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the last 12 months and nationally this has increased 50% in the last year. 32% of all crimes are reported in Sussex.
- Work is in progress with Multi-Agency Police-youth offender services and youth services within the parish.
- It is a minority committing ASB, of over 1000 youth in the parish, 10 of these are regular committers of anti social behaviour and 3 of those 10 already have previous convictions and are involved with youth offender services.
- We are planning further engagement events with the youth.

- It has been a turbulent year with many challenges and we are both looking forward to moving on and overcoming these recent more difficult times.

Councillor Lewis thanked the Wardens and gave his view of the positive outcomes of working in Multi-Agency meetings.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for all they do within the parish and for attending this evening.

7. To receive an annual report from Southwater Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee Report was circulated and published on the website.

The Chairman of the Council acknowledged thanks to the Village Hall Committee for what it provides to the community.

Nick Longdon then gave a brief verbal report highlighting three areas in particular as follows:-

- The pre-school operated through most of the current Covid pandemic restrictions apart from a short time it was not open.
- Since last June a new Chairman had taken post and lots of improvements had taken place to the hall with more Trustees actively involved.
- Improvements included a new play area for the pre-school with a new shelter to provide out door learning also to be provided in the near future. It is hoped SPC will help VHC in support of obtaining S106 funding for this project.

The Chairman thanked Mr Longdon for his update and stated that he would be happy to help in support of applying for funding. He continued to say that the pre-school had provided good service provision throughout the pandemic and grants had been received for all the improvements.

8. To receive any verbal reports or updates from the following:

i). Horsham District Council

There were no District Councillors able to attend the meeting due to prior commitments, however the Chairman reported that Councillor Vickers was attending a HDC meeting and had sent a message to the Chairman prior to the meeting reporting as follows:-

- HDC would be making ten Neighbourhood plans this evening including the plan for Southwater. HDC intended to bring the local plan before Council on 28th July 2021.
- Being present at the opening of the Community Hub forum as a Cabinet Member for community and wellbeing. The Hub was offering free health advice without appointments to anyone who wants to improve their health and wellbeing.

ii). West Sussex County Council

None received.

9. To receive an update from the following village bodies

i). Southwater Community Partnership

Councillor Moore reported as follows:-

- Firstly he would like to state that all the Councillors realised Councillor Watkins had steered the Council through a difficult time and during growing change in Southwater. He had done a sterling job and all Councillors agreed.
- Southwater Community Partnership (SCP) had been prevented from doing much during the pandemic restrictions, but were in the process of obtaining charity status.
- SCP were planning on holding a Christmas event in Lintot Square this year that would take place on the last Saturday of November. The Parish Office would advertise this event on their Face Book page and website nearer the time.

- SCP worked with the community voluntary litter pickers who do a good job in helping keep the community clear of litter as well as SCP's litter picker.
- SCP were making use of the Speed gun and working with Christ Hospital Speed watch group.

ii). Older Peoples Forum

- Works together with Horsham Town partnerships whom obtain funding.
- Heritage info leaflets in Foyer of Beeson House for those who wish to take them with launch of this initiative coming up soon. Its purpose is to provide older people in the district who do not use social media to have the ability to know what is happening around them and attend events etc.
- Now working with Age UK to improve communication in elderly communities. Age UK have a new website aimed at the older person that is user friendly.

The date of the next APM in 2022 to be confirmed.

The Meeting ended at: 8.20pm.