

## **SWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Sway Parish Council was held in Saint Luke's Church on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### **Present were:**

Chairman Cllr Mrs C Gates  
Cllr K Langford  
Cllr I Straw  
Cllr G Levers  
Cllr P F Dance  
Cllr and District Cllr B Rickman

Also present were: approximately 25 members of the public.

Chairman opened the meeting by confirming that sufficient councillors were present to establish a quorum, and by welcoming all present. She extended a special welcome to Denise Hewlett, and to the 25 or so members of the public who were attending the meeting.

### **021/10 Apologies:**

Chairman noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Gulliver, County Councillor Ken Thornber, and from PCSO James Mitchener.

### **022/10 PCSO James Mitchener – Local Beat Officer**

As PCSO James Mitchener was neither present nor represented, Councillors noted with disappointment that there was nothing which could be considered under this agenda item.

### **Status of Sway Neighbourhood Watch**

In the absence of PCSO Mitchener, Councillors concluded that there was nothing under this agenda item which could be progressed.

### **023/10 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010, were approved by Councillors and signed by Chairman.

### **024/10 Matters Arising**

Councillors confirmed that there was nothing arising from the minutes which hadn't been covered adequately elsewhere within the agenda.

### **025/10 Declaration of Interest**

Councillors Levers declared an interest in all matters pertaining to the Sway Lawn Tennis Club. Councillor Rickman reminded all present of his responsibilities in both the New Forest District Council, and in the New Forest National Park Authority. Councillor Straw declared an interest in Sway Cricket Club.

In addition, Councillor Rickman declared an interest in agenda item 13, and Councillor Dance declared a possible interest in agenda item 17.

**026/10 Report by County Councillor**

Councillors noted with regret that pressing business of the County Council had prevented County Councillor Thornber from attending the meeting, and concluded that, as a result, there was nothing to be considered under this agenda item.

**027/10 Road & Hedges, including Footpaths.**

Councillors Dance and Straw both drew attention to the exceptionally hazardous condition of the road surface at Arnewood Bridge Bends. They pointed out that the road is often running with water, with water coming out of, rather than flowing into the drains. When this water freezes, the road becomes very dangerous. Other Councillors reminded the meeting that on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the Hampshire Air Ambulance had attended an accident at these bends, which it is believed had been the result of inadequate maintenance of the drains and ditches in this area.

Clerk was instructed to write to Hampshire Highways.

Councillor Rickman informed Councillors that he had been in touch with residents of a property along Birchy Hill, where there is a tendency to flooding due to water running off the highway. He pointed out that drainage work undertaken by Sway Parish Council in Jubilee Field could add to the problem. He also undertook to pursue the question of improved highway drainage with Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Langford asked why Shirley Holmes hadn't been included in the Village 30MPH programme. No definitive answer was available, but it was agreed that Sway Parish Council had achieved a far wider coverage than originally proposed by Hampshire County Council's consultants. It was also pointed out that there are rules requiring a minimum density of properties which have frontage onto a road intended for the introduction of a new 30 MPH zone, and most properties along Shirely Holmes are set well back from this road.

**028/10 Footpath Presentation by Denise Hewlett BA Hons MSc MA MPhil of Hampshire County Council.**

On behalf of Sway Parish Councillors, Chairman welcomed Denise Hewlett to the meeting and invited her to address Sway Parish Council.

She explained her background, responsibilities, and her relatively small budget. She stressed however, that she and her team were very willing to direct people with meritorious schemes to other funding sources, of which there are several.

Amongst her priorities is access improvement for all sections of the community. This includes: surface improvements; bridges along rights of way; replacement of styles with kissing gates, and provision of notice boards and signage.

Denise Hewlett continued by explaining about the call centre which has been established to deal with urgent issues including the obstruction of footpaths.

In answer to a question from Councillor Levers, Denise Hewlett confirmed that money was potentially availing to improve or repair any right of way.

Chairman thanked Denise Hewlett for her most informative presentation.

**029/10 Presentation by Sarah Newman of Saint Barbe Museum.**

Clerk informed Councillors that sickness had preventing Sarah Newman from attending the evening's meeting. Councillors expressed their disappointment, and hoped Sarah Newman would make a speedy recovery, and instructed Clerk to reissue the invitation for a later meeting.

### 030/10 Planning

Councillors noted the decisions of the Planners for the New Forest National Park Authority which had been made earlier on applications for development in Sway.

Councillor Levers gave the meeting a report covering the work performed by the Planning Working Group, together with the recommendations they were proposing. After hearing views expressed by other Councillors on the applications, the Working Group recommendations were endorsed by Councillors and are detailed below.

<b><u>Planning Applications Received</u></b>			<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>
94868	Mr C Tasker – Shirley Holms Farm, Shirley Homes Road, Sway.	Replacement Agricultural Buildings.	We are happy to accept the decision of the NFNPA Officers acting under their delegated powers. Reasonable replacement for existing building.
94808	Mr R Wareham – Claywood Lodge, Arnwood Bridge Road, Sway.	Replacement dwelling and outbuilding.	We recommend refusal. The design is inappropriate for a countryside location. If granted, please require conditions limiting the use of outbuildings to non-accommodation purposes.
94779	Mr K Wozencroft – Heather Cottage, Shirley Holmes, Sway.	A small wooden lean to /shed. 5feet by 6 feet by 6 feet high. (retrospective)	We recommend approval, but would accept the decision of the NFNPA Planners. No detrimental impact.
94853	Dr D Moynagh – White Cottage, Jordans Lane, Sway	Raise roof of existing garage by one metre; centralising ridge; adding two velox windows	We recommend approval. We support this application on the basis that there would be no change to the footprint of the garage and minimal impact from raising the roof height.
94882	Mr S Plummer – 5 Highfield Gardens, Sway.	New Single Storey Porch to front of property.	We recommend approval. Vast improvement on existing.
94851	Mr J Evans, Greylands, South Sway Lane, Sway.	Two storey Side Extension; Conservatory.	We are happy to accept the decision of the NFNPA Officers acting under their delegated powers. However, NFNPA should be clear about what this application is for.

94836	Mr & Mrs Hansford – The Stables, Fairlight Lane, Sway	Siting of secure container.  (Retrospective)	We are happy to accept the decision of the NFNPA Officers acting under their delegated powers. We recommend screening from adjacent properties.
94566	Mr S Curtis (Sway Bowmen Archery Club) – Great Break Field, Off North Common Lane, Pitmore Lane, Sway.	Club House & Two Containers for storage of archery club equipment; Septic tank.  (Retrospective)	We recommend approval.
94763	Mr G Kirkby – Chapel Farm, Boundway Hill, Sway.	Demolition & replacement outbuilding used as a farrier's workshop.	We recommend approval, but would accept the decision of the NFNPA Planners. However, the application is inconsistent in that it describes the proposed building as both a garage and a farriers workshop.
94885	Mr & Mrs R Fry – Oaklands, Shirley Holms, Sway.	Partial demolition of existing building; New extension and alterations.	We are happy to accept the decision of the NFNPA Officers acting under their delegated powers.
94900	Mr J Allison – Oaktree Cottage, Marley Mount, Tiptoe.	Garage/Carport.	We recommend approval. Previously approved in 1998.
94881	Mr M Bartlett - Holm Farm, Boundway Hill, Sway.	Replacement of shed.	We recommend approval. In keeping with local surroundings.

It was agreed that the Clerk would convey the above responses to the Planners of the New Forest National Park Authority<sup>1</sup>.

### **031/10 Result of Consultation on Youth Shelter.**

Councillors recognised that of the members of the public who had responded to the consultation, 12% were in favour, with the overwhelming majority against a Youth Shelter by the junction of Station Road and Railway Approach.

There were however many more respondents in favour of doing something more for the youth of Sway.

Councillor Langford questioned whether the youth of Sway had been consulted sufficiently to determine their wishes.

<sup>1</sup> All but one Planning recommendations were emailed to New Forest National Park Authority on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The remaining one was emailed on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

Councillor Straw informed Councillors of a drop-in scheme which is currently running in the Youth Centre. He confirmed that there have been no difficulties resulting from the scheme's participants. He explained that it runs from 15:00 to 17:30, and provides food etc. He considered it is an excellent programme, which provides somewhere for young people to meet up while waiting for their parents to return home from work.

Councillor Straw pointed out that the only difficulty lay in funding the cost of £12.00 per week. In addition, finding sufficient volunteers to run the scheme over the long term could prove a challenge.

Councillor Levers expressed the view that although the Youth Centre has existed for a long time, there are still problems in the village. However, if parishioners don't want the youth shelter, it cannot be established.

A member of the public questioned whether what is provided for the youth of the village is what they want.

Others questioned whether the time available for youth activities is being squeezed by commercial activities, including the Robin Nursery. Chairman replied that the Youth Centre had to cover its running costs, and Councillor Rickman explained that 50% of these are currently met by Robin Nursery.

Councillor Straw stressed that the drop in sessions are very well received. Councillor Rickman concluded that the Youth Shelter had been a bad idea, and that any available support should be directed towards the Youth Hall.

### **032/10 Summer Play Scheme.**

#### **Confirm decision to go ahead**

Councillors confirmed that it is their intention to go ahead with the Summer Play Scheme in 2010.

#### **Dates and duration.**

After a brief discussion in which it was recognised that Sway families frequently take holidays in the second half of August, it was agreed to continue with the normal practice, and confine the scheme to just two weeks. It was further agreed that these should be: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August, and 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010 inclusive.

#### **Tariff.**

After careful consideration, it was agreed to freeze the basic tariff at 2009 levels, which were:

- £3.50 for a Sway child, per session;
- £4.50 for a Sway Family, per session;
- £4.00 for a Non Sway child, per session.

It was further agreed to allow a 50 pence per session discount on the above prices for those persons or families booking and paying in advance.

#### **Appoint person to run scheme.**

It was agreed to invite Sharon Rickman to run the 2010 scheme on behalf of Sway Parish Council.

### **Consider inclusion of Girls' Football taster sessions.**

Clerk reminded Councillors that at the 2009 meeting with the Football Foundation, the Foundation had continued to express disappointment at the relatively low level of participation by girls from Sway in the football activity in Jubilee Field. By introducing taster sessions into the summer play scheme, it could be possible to alleviate some of the Foundations concerns regarding a proactive approach by the Parish Council to the subject. This would not of course preclude sessions for boys.

Councillors decided that, subject an agreed method of working being agreed between Sharon Rickman and the Junior Football Club, this should be tried.

### **Confirmation and release of budget.**

It was agreed that the provisional budget of £1,815 could be spent as and when required in setting up and running the 2010 Summer Play Scheme.

Formal acceptance of all agreed elements of the Summer Play Scheme was proposed by Councillor Straw, seconded by Councillor Levers, and carried unanimously.

### **033/10 Co-option of Parish Councillor.**

Clerk reported that although a number of members of the public had expressed an interest in the vacancy, only one proper CV had been received. All written expression of interest had been copied to Parish Councillors, as had the CV.

Clerk suggested that Councillors had three basic options: to try once again to generate interest in the vacancy; wait for the next election which is due in May 2011, or co-opt the only applicant.

It was proposed by Councillor Straw, and seconded by Councillor Levers, that Stephanie Middleton be co-opted. This proposition was carried unanimously.

Clerk was instructed to issue appropriate notifications<sup>2</sup>.

### **034/10 Valedictory presentation to former Councillor Farwell.**

After a detailed consideration, it was agreed that former Councillor Farwell should be offered a photographic sitting for himself and family, leading to the production of a series of portraits to form a fitting reminder of the 30 or so year which Councillor Farwell had served the community as a member of Sway Parish Council.

This course of action was proposed by Councillor Dance, seconded by Chairman, and passed unanimously, with the exception of Councillor Rickman who took no part in the discussions and abstained from voting.

### **035/10 Consider severing links with NALC/HALC.**

Both Councillors Straw and Levers question the motivation behind the proposal to leave the National Association of Local Councils. Councillor Rickman suggested that no decision should be taken until more reasoned argument had been received. Councillor Straw proposed, seconded by Councillor Levers, that that no decision should be taken until additional information and rational has been received. This was carried unanimously.

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<sup>2</sup> Newly co-opted Councillor and Electoral services notified by email on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

**036/10 Meeting with Football Foundation (Basingstoke is only venue option offered).**

After a brief discussion, Clerk was instructed to try and book an appointment with the Football Foundation on 15th October 2010, as near to the middle of the day as possible<sup>3</sup>.

Clerk was also instructed to invite representatives of both the senior and junior football clubs<sup>4</sup>.

**037/10 Allotments****Gate & Fence Repairs**

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to accept the estimate from Mr Drayton, priced at approximately £35.00. Clerk was instructed to put the work in hand as soon as practicable. This course of action had been proposed by Councillor Rickman, seconded by Councillor Levers, and carried unanimously.

**Poly Tunnels**

Having consulted the representative of Sway Allotment Holders, Councillors agreed to the proposal that poly tunnels should be restricted to a maximum length of 12 feet, with a maximum width of 6 feet.

This course of action was proposed by Councillor Rickman, seconded by Councillor Straw, and carried unanimously.

Clerk was instructed to notify of the allotment holder who had posed the question, of the decision<sup>5</sup>.

**038/10 Grant Applications.****Application from Saint Luke's School for car park resurfacing.**

Before any consideration could be given to the application from Saint Luke's School, Tina Colverson from the Sway Social Club explained that the car park under consideration was owned by the Sway Social Club, and the club had decided to exclude the public from using the car park. Tina Colverson continued by saying that the Sway Social Club did however expect recompense for the damage done to the Sway Social Club's car park over many years of public use.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Sway Social Club's own application to Hampshire County Council for a grant to repair this same car park. However, Chairman reminded the meeting that the current agenda item was specific to the application from Saint Luke's School, and ruled that none of the discussion about the Social Club's application was relevant to the current agenda item.

On this basis it was agreed that no decision could be taken at this time. Clerk was instructed to inform the Saint Luke's School of the current position.

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<sup>3</sup> No appointments were available for 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The last day in the year for which there were vacancies was Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010. On this basis, a booking was made for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010, at 13.30, in Basingstoke.

<sup>4</sup> Both clubs notified of date by email on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Information posted on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**Consider making an advance payment of part of previously agreed grant of £5,000 to Sway Lawn Tennis Club, & Making the Balance Conditional on Progress towards Club Mark Status.**

Clerk reminded the meeting that Sway Parish Council had previously agreed to make a grant to Sway Lawn Tennis Club of £5,000.00, to cover part of the cost of improving the courts. However, the timing of the payment had been left open.

Due to bad weather delaying other projects, it would be expedient to advance £3,000.00 now, and make the remaining £2,000.00 conditional on good progress being made towards Club Mark Status. Clerk reminded Councillors that moving all sporting clubs using the Jubilee Field facilities to Club Mark status was very much a priority of the Football Foundation.

Acceptance of this course of action was proposed by Councillor Rickman, seconded by Councillor Langford, and carried unanimously.

**Consider making a grant to Junior Football Club in respect of Access Improvements.**

Clerk drew attention to correspondence distributed earlier regarding a request from the Junior Football Club to contribute towards the cost of access improvements to the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground.

Councillor Rickman, stressing the large number of children who benefit from using the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground, proposed that the whole cost of £1,025.70, plus VAT be paid from Parish Council funds. This was seconded by Councillor Straw, and carried unanimously.



**039/10 Finance and Accounts.****Accounts to be paid.**

Councillors authorized payment of the following cheques:

	Item	Cheque Value
H M Revenue & Customs - Tax on Clerk's Salary for February 2010	102.40	
H M Revenue & Customs - Employer's National Insurance for February 2010	4.67	
Clerks salary for February 2010.	410.10	
Petty Cash - Eurooffice in respect of envelopes, staples and adhesive tape	37.99	
Petty Cash - Tonik in respect of Printer Ink	20.05	
Petty Cash in respect of 100 second class postage stamps	30.00	605.21
Loaders Garage - Red Diesel for Parish Council's tractor, (for December 2009).	10.00	10.00
Mr Peter Cartridge for Facilities Management Services at Jubilee Field for January & February 2010 and dispersments.	386.47	386.47
Mellor Tree Surgeons for work at Jubilee Field and Stanford Rise	2,203.12	2,203.12
Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water plc in respect of Allotments	213.09	
Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water plc in respect of Jubilee Field Pavilion	132.82	
Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water plc in respect of Pitmore Lane	11.00	356.91
Southern Water for sewerage at Jubilee Field	224.27	224.27
Southern Electric in respect of Jubilee Field Pavilion	411.02	411.02
First instalment of grant to Sway Lawn Tennis Club (A total of £5,000 previously agreed in principle)	3,000.00	3,000.00
Barry Rickman Photographic in respect of Photographic Services	59.50	59.50
Hampshire Playing Fields Association	20.00	20.00
Grant to Junior Football Club in respect of Grass Cutting	200.00	200.00
Zurich Insurance in respect of General Insurance	4,144.29	4,144.29
New Forest District Council in respect of Tree Inspections	1,123.30	1,123.30
BHF Plumbing in respect of emergency repairs to Standpipe at Allotments	72.10	72.10
Peter Noble in respect of new Battery for Parish Council's tractor, including testing of Dash Panel & replacement of fuses	159.86	159.86
British Gas for gas supply to Jubilee Field Pavilion from 3rd November 2009 to 4th February 2010.	805.56	805.56
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,781.61</b>	<b>13,781.61</b>

At this point, Clerk drew attention to a graph which he had prepared and distributed earlier, and which showed the Parish Council's spend for each month for the year to-date against budget<sup>6</sup>.

**Appointment of Internal Auditor, and Level of Remuneration.**

Councillor Straw proposed that Mr Peter Hyde should be invited to continue in the role of Sway Parish Council's Internal Auditor for a further year. He further proposed that, in light of all the money being paid directly to Oakhaven Hospice, the level of remuneration should be set at £150.00 for the year. This was seconded by Councillor Rickman, and passed unanimously.

<sup>6</sup> Attached as Annex A.

## **040/10 Recreation Grounds.**

### **Stanford Rise**

#### **Fence repairs**

Councillors agreed that the fence should be repaired, to bring it back to serviceable standard, but without changing the style of fence.

Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation for the work<sup>7</sup>.

### **Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground**

#### **Renewal of Lease – Consider offering to pay Forestry Commission significant level of rent.**

Councillors recognised that in the current economic circumstance it would be unrealistic to expect the rent to continue at the current level of £1.00 per year. It was agreed that it was appropriate to offer to pay the Forestry Commission a fair rent in return for a renewal of the lease.

#### **Letter to Forestry Commission**

After a detailed consideration of all identified options, Clerk was instructed to write to the Forestry Commission: thanking them for their early warning of the Verderers opposition to the lease on the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground being renewed; explaining the importance of the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground to the Parish Council and the Villagers of Sway; confirming the wish of Sway Parish Councillors to renew the lease; reminding the Forestry Commission of the origins and history of the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground, and inviting the Forestry Commission to propose a “fair rent”<sup>8</sup>.

#### **Fence Repairs**

Parish Councillors, having examined in detail the quotation provided by The Last Post, to repair the vandalised section of the fence on the railway side of the Pitmore Lane Memorial Recreation Ground, instructed Clerk to accept the quotation for £248.00 plus VAT.

This was proposed by Councillor Straw seconded by Councillor Levers, and passed unanimously.

Clerk was further instructed to report the vandalism to the police, pointing out that this was a recurring problem, which posed a continuing drain on Parish Council funds, and on council tax payer’s resources. Clerk was also instructed to stress that the professional way the fence had been damaged made it very unlikely that children had been responsible. The perpetrators were believed to be individuals who were trying to gain access to additional grazing for their stock.

#### **Centenary Close**

Clerk reported that there was nothing to report under this item.

### **Jubilee Field**

#### **Decide on rent for coming year.**

Clerk informed Councillors that the leases for: the Lawn Tennis Club and the Cricket & Junior Football Clubs, provide only for an increase of rent in line with RPI. As at the material time the RPI had fallen by 0.8%, he needed Councillor’s Guidance on what to do in respect of rents due after 1st May 2010.

After careful consideration, Clerk was instructed to freeze, until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the rents due from the Lawn Tennis Club, the Junior Football Club, and the Cricket Club, at their current levels.

<sup>7</sup> Quotation obtained and distributed to Councillors.

<sup>8</sup> Draft letter distributed to Councillors.

**Report by Parish Council's Jubilee Field Working Group.**

Councillor Levers opened his remarks by reminding Councillors that the minutes of the Jubilee Field Users Group meeting held in January 2010, had been distributed to them earlier by Clerk.

Councillor Levers drew the meeting's attention to the only item of significance which had been raised, and which concerned the possible use of the Parish Council's tractor to cut the grass at Saint Luke's School. This has been made desirable as a result of the Junior Football Club's use of the school grounds for training and other sessions. He questioned whether the Parish Council's insurance would cover this.

Clerk replied that the tractor insurance covered use by anyone driving with the permission of Sway Parish Council. However, any use must be seen clearly as in furtherance the responsibilities, aims and objectives of the Parish Council.

**Mole damage**

Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Sway Football Club for guidance on how to proceed with the eradication of moles from Jubilee Field.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the best way forward was to request the Football Club to obtain a quotation for the work, and to submit this quotation to the Parish Council. Councillors could then decide whether to make a grant, or commission the work.

Clerk was instructed to convey this information to the Sway Football Club<sup>9</sup>.

**Quotation for light modification.**

Clerk informed Councillors that although the contractor had visited to establish the work required, no quotation has been received.

**Children's Playground.**

Clerk reported that the Children's Playground continues to be free from signification problems. Chairman informed the meeting that the only problem she had witnessed was that adults sometimes use the play equipment.

**041/10 Memorial Trees.**

Chairman confirmed that work on the selection of suitable species and appropriate locations were hampered by the very bad weather.

**042/10 Future of Forest Heath Hotel.**

In opening the discussions, Councillor Rickman explained that he had been in contact with the planning authorities within the New Forest National Park Authority, reminding them of their powers to require owners of Listed Buildings, including The Forest Heath Hotel, to maintain their property in a good state of repair. He continued by explaining that, in his opinion, the level of deterioration which had now occurred, had reached a level which made the exercise of these powers both necessary and urgent.

Councillor Straw explained that it is his understanding that a developer had agreed to purchase the Forest Heath Hotel for £800,000.00, subject to getting suitable planning permission. He continued by explaining that he understood that what the developer had in mind was six flats within the existing building; two houses in the garden area, plus garages where the car park is currently located.

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<sup>9</sup> President of Sway Football Club notified by email.

Councillor Straw continued by expressing the opinion that Sway, as a village, needed a community public house within the village centre, accessible to all. He also identified that, should this scheme go ahead, it would make the parking situation in the village even worse than it currently is.

Councillor Rickman reminded the meeting that any developer would need to submit his or her proposals to scrutiny through the democratic planning process. He agreed however that to be satisfactory, any proposal must include an element of community use. He also informed the meeting that ArtSway have a right of way through the Forest Heath Hotel site for the passage of a lorry. This would inevitably limit some proposals.

Councillor Dance suggested that a Tea Room should be considered as part of any development.

Chairman remarked that there is an urgent need to do something, as the existing building had become an eyesore. A member of the public concurred with Chairman, but suggested urban slum was a more accurate description.

Another member of the public drew attention to the current ownership of the property. He reminded everyone that the Forest Heath Hotel is owned by Admiral Taverns, which in turn is 49% owned by the Lloyds Banking Group. He considered that Admiral Taverns were probably under considerable pressure to sell quickly.

Another suggestion from the public was that Sway Parish Council should join with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council, and the New Forest National Park Authority, to take over the Forest Heath Hotel, and run it for the benefit of the public. Chairman considered that there were already too many venues in Sway, so that maintaining them all was difficult.

Councillor Straw suggested that one option was to use the ground floor for social use, with ArtSway taking over the upstairs. Councillor Rickman expressed the hope that a developer will come forward, willing to do the right thing.

A member of the public explained that the Forest Heath Hotel has many friends in the village willing to work together and find money. He asked, can we work together to provide somewhere for visitors, and a pub which is so necessary for villagers?

Chairman replied that the Parish Council would support such an initiative.

### **043/10 Correspondence and Any Other Business.**

#### **Transport Representative**

At the invitation of Chairman, Mr John Warden addressed the meeting regarding the options available for adopting Sway Railway Station. Chairman, responded by saying that there were issues in the report prepared by Mr Warden and distributed earlier, which needed more detailed study.

Chairman thanked Mr Warden for his excellent work, and instructed Clerk to include the topic in the agenda of the March meeting of the Parish Council.

At the suggestion of Councillor Straw, and in the light of the Pay-and Display notices which had appeared recently, it was agreed that Clerk should pursue with South West Trains, the enquires from Sway Parish Council regarding the ownership of Station Approach which had previously been directed unsuccessfully towards RailTrack. It was also agreed that the question of the lighting in this area should also be reopened.

### **Back Lane**

A member of the public expressed disquiet at reports she had seen concerning Back Lane, and its possible permanent closure at one end. She expressed the view that this would be a waste of money, and not wanted by the villagers of Sway.

There was general agreement from those persons present.

Clerk was instructed to convey these sentiments to Councillor Thornber.

### **Football Grandstand in Jubilee Field**

A member of the public asked to address the meeting on the subject of the proposal to erect a grandstand in Jubilee Field.

He noted that from reading the minutes of Parish Council meetings, it was often the practice of Sway Parish Councillors to oppose planning applications which they considered would have a detrimental effect on the occupiers of neighbouring properties. He suggested that the proposed grandstand was such a case, and shouldn't be allowed to proceed.

He continued by expressing the wish that Sway Parish Councillors would not simply submit a planning application and then leave it to the New Forest National Park Authority to decide on the merits of the scheme.

He continued by casting doubts on the need for the grandstand in terms of the rules of the league in which the Sway Football club is currently playing, and said that if the club has aspiration to advance into a higher league, then the league's requirement would be inappropriate to a public recreation ground.

Claims were also made that the Sway Football club hadn't carried out obligations imposed as a condition of earlier planning applications.

Complaints were also made about the existing spectators, typically numbering around twenty per match, indulging in loud and foul-mouthed language.

In conclusion, it was suggested that the grandstand, if built, would: have a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties; be a target for graffiti; be a magnet for anti-social behaviour; be an eyesore, and result in increased drug taking and under-age drinking. He foresaw the need for regular attendance by the police, and questioned whether the Sway Football club were prepared to monitor the situation.

Chairman thanked the member of the public for his input, and assured him that his comments would be given due weight when it came to making any decision on the issue<sup>10</sup>.

### **Clerk's Salary**

Chairman introduced the subject of an increase in the Salary of the Clerk. After careful consideration, it was agreed that the Salary should be increased to £6,300.00 per annum, effective from 1st April 2010.

However, as Councillors hadn't been given the three clear days notice of the proposal, as required by law, it was agreed that this decision would need to be ratified at the meeting of Sway Parish Council scheduled for 25th March 2010.

### **044/10 Dates and places of Future Meetings.**

Thursday	25th March 2010	
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<sup>10</sup> Planning application prepared by Clerk in accordance with an earlier Parish Council instruction is sitting as a draft on the Planning Portal awaiting decision as to whether it should be released.

Thursday	29th April 2010	
Thursday	27th May 2010	<b>Including Annual Parish Meeting</b>
Thursday	24th June 2010	
Thursday	22nd July 2010.	<b>Brought forward to avoid New Forest Show</b>
Thursday	26th August 2010	
Thursday	30th September 2010	
Thursday	28th October 2010	

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at approximately 22:05

Minutes prepared by E W Woodcock, Clerk to Sway Parish Council  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Distribution of minutes:  
All Sway Parish Councillors  
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PCSO J Mitchener.  
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## Progress Against Budget

