



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28th February 2019, at the Jubilee Field Pavilion

Present:

Cllr Stephen Tarling, Chairman
Cllr Alex Pepper
Cllr David Golby
Cllr Len Thomas
Cllr Melanie Seacombe
Cllr Graham Turner
Katie Walding, Clerk & RFO

Cllr Kevin Cripps, Vice Chairman
Cllr Ted Fleat
Cllr Hugh Marchant
Cllr John Warden
Cllr Peter Dance
Cllr Barry Rickman

In attendance: Sway News and 5 members of the public (MotPs)

The meeting started at 7:30pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

19/022. Apologies

Received from Cllr Keith Mans (HCC).

19/023. Declarations of Interest

In regard to the planning matters to be considered under 19/035(a) Cllr Marchant sits on the New Forest Association Planning Committee, and Cllrs Warden and Tarling are members of the New Forest Association.

19/024. Minutes of the previous Meeting

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2019 had been previously circulated and published. Members who had been present at that meeting unanimously approved the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman.

19/025. Chairman's Report

Cllr Tarling started with some thanks that he wished to be noted:

- Firstly, to our County Councillor Keith Mans for supporting the CANGO from his funds as a County Councillor, and thus ensuring that it runs for a further year. Cllr Tarling explained that Cllr Mans had kindly taken up the baton from our previous County Councillor, Ken Thornber – who was also a great supporter of the CANGO. Thanks also to County Cllr Fran Carpenter for similar funding to cover Hordle and Bashley.
- He further extended sincere thanks to Cllr Jacqui England, of Lymington & Pennington Town Council, who had personally donated funds to support the CANGO. Cllr Tarling stated his disappointment that neither Lymington & Pennington Town Council nor the County Councillor for Lymington & Boldre were willing to contribute.
- At long last Hampshire Constabulary had relented and Community SpeedWatch in Hampshire would now be allowed to operate on 40mph roads, where safe to do so. He pointed out that many may not know that Cllr Marchant made a major contribution to this campaign for which he should be thanked. Sway Community SpeedWatch would need more volunteers for just an hour or two a month to help remind drivers of the law.



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- Cllr Tarling noted that the new storage shed was now in place, and he thanked the Clerk for all her work on this, along with all the sports clubs and individuals who may have contributed. He noted that the Clerk would be organising a skip to try and reduce the amount of storage needed, and that the shed would be further stained in a tone more suitable for the New Forest National Park.

And finally a note of forthcoming dates:

- PaTC Thursday 14th March here from 7:30pm: Nik Gruber the Head of the NFNPA Tree Team will be coming to address us on Tree Preservation Orders and tree works. All welcome.
- Stanford Rise Green opening day on Saturday 16th March – 2 to 4pm
- Sway Spring Clean Sunday 24th March 09:30-12:30
- Sway Annual Parish Assembly Thursday 4th April 7:30pm here

Finally, he asked that all Committees and Working Groups have a wash up meeting prior to dissolution of the current members. He proposed that a simple sheet be produced by each, for continuity, and presented to the April meeting.

19/026. County Council Report

Cllr Mans was unable to attend.

19/027. District Council Report

Cllr Rickman stated that NFDC had now set their annual budget which required a 2.9% increase to their Precept to balance the budget. This equated to £3 per week per household band D. He noted that in fact, the Council had balanced the budget for the next four years. Items of note included £229,500 funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau who served the whole New Forest area and £450,000 in community grants.

Other current matters covered the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, to whom Cllr Rickman would be addressing at their AGM, on the vision for the future New Forest. The Leisure review continued. At the next Cabinet meeting there would be a review of the Air Quality plan, and Cllr Rickman was pleased to note that the New Forest will meet the targets set from the Minister. Following the National Waste Strategy which had been recently issued, the Cabinet would review and it was likely that parishes would be asked to do the same. Four key areas for NFDC were a deposit scheme, food waste, garden waste and plastic packaging (where NFDC feel that producers should take responsibility for improving).

Cllr Rickman had attended a briefing with NFDC's solicitor and a valuations officer in regard to the scout hut and village hall. He noted it was a very optimistic meeting. There was a more modest proposal than the original scheme, with less impact on Stanford Rise Green, as about 30% of the scheme would remain on village hall land. The scheme includes a shared facility between Little Flyers nursery and the scouts and plans were proceeding well.

Cllr Rickman noted that his Community Grant as Leader of NFDC had been awarded to the Sway Bowmen, who represent in competitions at county level.



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Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Rickman if he could let members know why the hall at Lymington Leisure Centre was no longer available for hire to the public.

19/028. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk noted her recent meeting with the Internal Auditor to complete the internal audit up to 31st January 2019. She noted that the year-end would be audited on Friday 12th April. Then the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) would be drafted for presentation to Council for approval and signature (at its final meeting of the current members) on Thursday 25th April. She requested that the Finance Working Group schedule a meeting between the 12th and 24th April in order to review the year-end and AGAR in order to make the appropriate recommendations at that meeting.

Election notices would be going up on Friday 22nd March and the Clerk had already published the links to the nomination papers and the full timetable from NFDC, but would do so again – across all communication channels – in March.

The Allotment fencing (north boundary) had been started and was going well so far.

Finally she noted that that Hampshire Association of Local Councils' AGM clashes with the SLCC regional training seminar onto which she was already booked. As the Council representative to HALC, Cllr Dance confirmed he would attend it would take place on Wednesday 13th March at the Hilton – Ageas Bowl, West End.

ACTION: The Clerk to forward the details and book a seat for Cllr Dance.

19/029. Stanford Rise Green

a) Opening Event

Cllr Cripps updated on a brief meeting of the OS&FWG prior to the Council meeting. Children's activities were being organised. He noted that most Councillors were available to attend that day and they would be allocated jobs to do nearer the time.

b) Signage

The Clerk confirmed that both the wooden 'welcome' sign and the mandatory information sign had been ordered and would be installed in time for the event.

c) Wild flowers – Simon Hemsley

Mr Hemsley attended to offer his support and guidance to a wild flower area at Stanford Rise Green. He talked about his experience and enthusiasm for rewilding. He recommended a 100% native wild flower mix which would be suitable for a clay rich environment.

Works would include lifting the turf, raking the ground, resting for a few days and then raking again. Finally, sharp sand is mixed with the seed to enable even and appropriate coverage.



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As 2019 has been designated the Year of Green Action, Mr Hemsley suggested that funding options may be applicable for conservation projects from organisations such as the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, the Butterfly Trust, and other Conservation Trusts with an interest in wild flowers. Once an area was established, an information board could perhaps be added. With the 70th anniversary for National Parks as well, the NFNPA may have funding routes available to help support the maintenance of such a meadow.

Mr Hemsley recommended a spring sew before the end of March, and noted that it would take until the 2nd year to see some species who would need the cold winter to germinate.

DECISION: The Clerk to identify the chosen site on a copy of the site map to share with Mr Hemsley and progress the project between mid-March and mid-April, using the £100 budget set aside for this purpose.

ACTION: The Clerk and Mr Hemsley to arrange the purchase of sharp sand, to retrieve the sack of seed from the previous Friends of SRG representative and to try and enlist some volunteers to help.

19/030 Jubilee Field Site

Cllr Seacombe noted that the option of timber posts was not recommended to be used but was glad that this option had been explored, in line with the Sway Village Design Statement guidance on signage.

It was noted that the wording 'Sway Parish Council Office' would be centred and the clubs listed in proper alphabetical order.

DECISION: The revised proposed sign was unanimously approved. The adjusted pricing was also approved with one exception: the £60 cost of removing and disposing of the existing sign would not be supported as the Council would organise to do this themselves.

ACTION: Cllrs Fleat and Thomas volunteered to remove and dispose of the existing signage, timing to be coordinated with the installation of the new sign.

19/031. Congo

Cllr Warden noted that numbers were down and asked for all avenues of promotion be used to encourage residents to make use of the service. In reference to a recent letter from a resident suggesting possible funding routes would be from the supermarkets and other large retail outlets who benefitted from the Congo users' custom. A brief discussion concluded that this would need to be via sponsorship which could be handled directly with Hampshire County Council whose budget paid for the service, but that the Users' Forum could certainly make initial approaches to suggest. Local donations would be welcomed by the Users' Forum to help support such activity, along with further promotion of the services to residents.



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19/032. Finance

a) Payment Schedule for February 2019

This had been published and circulated previously. Cllr Cripps noted special thanks to Maintain for fitting the blinds and charging the Council just £50 for an excellent job.

DECISION: Cllr Cripps proposed and Cllr Golby seconded that the Payment Schedule for February be approved, and members unanimously agreed.

b) Bank Reconciliation for January 2019

This had been published and circulated previously.

DECISION: Cllr Cripps proposed and Cllr Marchant seconded that the Bank Reconciliation for January be approved, and members unanimously agreed.

c) Audit Review ¾ year

The report and its recommendations were noted.

d) Earmarked reserves

Cllr Cripps reminded members that the Finance Working Group had previously recommended earmarking reserves. They recommended setting aside £5000 for future maintenance and improvements to the playground.

DECISION: Cllr Cripps proposed, and Cllr Thomas seconded the motion that £5000 be earmarked for future maintenance and improvements to the playground. This was approved unanimously.

e) General Reserves Policy

Following the concerns members had about raising the precept, the FWG made a recommendation to implement a policy which would cap reserves to no more than one year of precept. This would help to show the electorate that the Council was not simply growing the reserves without good reason. It was noted that the earmarking of reserves helped to justify the reserves that were held.

DECISION: Cllr Cripps proposed, and Cllr Golby seconded the adoption of a policy to cap reserves at 100% of Precept. This was approved unanimously.

f) Forecast expenditure

The Clerk noted that current information indicated that the approximate likely cost of the various works to be carried out on plumbing and extraction for the Pavilion, could be £15000. She anticipated that the full specification of works and appropriate quotes would be presented to the March meeting. She recommended the consideration of financial arrangements by way of budget adjustment and/or earmarking reserves at that time.



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19/033. Grant Applications

Cllr Cripps noted that the Council had so far allocated £1370 from the current year budget of £2000 leaving £630 available. There was also the option to vire £1000 from the playscheme budget line which would not be needed in the current financial year for its original purpose.

a) Sway Bowmen

DECISION: Cllr Dance proposed, and Cllr Golby seconded the award of £400 grant funding to the Sway Bowmen and this was approved unanimously.

b) Sway Boules Club (withdrawn)

The Boules Club had withdrawn their application.

c) Sway Youth Centre

After some discussion between members and an MotP representing the Youth Centre, it was clear that a simple grant award was not appropriate, given the Parish Council's lease of the site in question, and the possibility of purchasing the table tennis table itself.

DECISION: Cllr Golby proposed, and Cllr Turner seconded, "in principle to allocate funds, subject to investigation and recommendation on how to best support the purchase and in consideration of VAT implications and appropriate quotes." The motion was carried by a majority with 8 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

19/034. Open Spaces and Facilities Working Group (OS&FWG)

a) The storage shed is installed and still requires a coat of suitably coloured preservative.

19/035. Planning and Transport Committee (PaTC)

a) Committee Meeting 14th February

Draft minutes of the meeting had been published for some time. Three applications had had to be deferred at that meeting, and would now be considered:

i. 18/00931 Cherries

DECISION: 4. We recommend REFUSAL for the reasons listed below (unanimous)

Sway unanimously recommend a 4 for the following reason: The proposed building would exceed the limits of DP10 by some considerable margin. Sway consistently supports NFNPA's policies such as this, particularly in respect to proposals outside the defined village.



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ii. 19/00059 Beverleigh

DECISION: 1. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers (unanimous)

Sway's comments:

- Where the plans show matching brickwork on the front elevation, Sway's Cllr Warden (a retired architect) has pointed out that it will be almost impossible to achieve a match with the bricks in terms of their size. He recommends stepping the joining of the two so as to alleviate that problem. While this may not be considered a planning issue, it does affect the aesthetics of the building.
- Since we do not know how much the building has already been extended, Sway recommends removal of all future permitted development rights.
- Surface water disposal need to be detailed and adhered to.

iii. 18/00946 Hatch Motors

Members of the PaTC discussed the changes which appeared to be minor and did not resolve the issues previously noted.

Hatch Motors Development Group had received a report from a Highways Engineer and this had been circulated for members, just prior to the meeting, and would be submitted to the Planning Authority as part of the Group's response.

Other MotPs agreed that the proposed changes are so marginal that comments previously issued do not really change.

Cllr Marchant as Chair of the PaTC noted that the NFNPA Planning Committee is 19th March and the Officer had indicated that this application would come before that meeting. He went on to note that a representative from Sway would need to be confirmed to NFNPA prior to the PaTC meeting on Thursday 14th March and recommended that the representative be confirmed now.

Cllr Tarling agreed to attend the NFNPA Planning Committee on behalf of Sway.

DECISION: 4. We recommend REFUSAL for the reasons listed below (unanimous)

ACTION: Cllr Marchant would prepare the final response to the application from Sway, which would not vary much from comments which had previously been submitted. [final draft now attached as Appendix 1]

Two applications had been decided since the PaTC meeting:

- 19/00004 - Church Cottage, Church Lane, granted subject to conditions
- 18/00965 - Cricket Pavilion, Jubilee Field, granted subject to conditions



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Cllr Tarling noted that a new projector and wide screen should be investigated as there would now be no more paper plans issued by the NFNPA as Local Planning Authority.

b) Transport Matters

Having at last been informed that SpeedWatch is again permitted to operate on 40 mph roads in Hampshire, Cllr Marchant and the team would be looking at possible locations for this. Cllr Marchant noted that CSW would need more volunteers to cover these additional locations and was hopeful that some of the local commoners may be interested.

He went on to note that the police had also provided statistics from last year for the whole of Hampshire which showed yet again that Sway punches well above its weight. Full details are in the annual report on the website (www.sway-pc.gov.uk/csw).

Cllr Marchant went on to note that Chief Inspector Scott Beney of Hampshire Police had also contacted him offering to speak to Road Policing Unit colleagues to try and arrange for the speed enforcement van to attend at the worst locations over the coming months. This would mean penalty points and fines for drivers over the speed limit and support the work of Community SpeedWatch, which would be a great help. Pitmore Lane and Arnewood Bridge Road were both shown to be the worst routes for offending, but discussion additionally focused around Brighton Road. Whilst a lower proportion of drivers were speeding, the risk to the higher volume of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders was much higher there. This would be added to the list of high priority locations.

Community SpeedWatch Speed Indicating Device and the Vehicle Activated Speed Limit Reminder (aka SID and VERA respectively)

Last week, SID enabled CSW volunteers to report 83 speeding vehicles to the police across 5 hours of SpeedWatch Sessions, with Pitmore Lane (south) yielding the highest total with Arnewood Bridge Road second highest.

VERA was triggered 21,231 times in just under 19 days at Pitmore Lane, making Pitmore Lane almost as bad as Birchy Hill for the numbers of speeding vehicles. Half way through the period, the count was higher than Birchy Hill by quite a large margin. VERA is now relaxing a bit on Middle Road, Tiptoe where it has been awoken just 172 times in 3 ¼ days!

19/036. Sway Village Hall

The AGM would take place on Monday 11th March, from 7pm in the WI room at the Village Hall – all welcome. Cllr Turner noted that one member, who has given 38 years of service to the Committee, would be retiring and so it would be quite an occasion.

The ladies' toilets in the Hall have been refurbished and are now very smart; the gents' facilities would soon be tackled as well.

19/037. Youth Centre

Nothing to report.



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19/038. Other matters for discussion

- Cllr Marchant – following the discussions about wild flower meadows suggested planting the bank on the side of Sway station, as it would make a marvellous display.

19/039. Items for the Next Agenda

- An update to the Risk Management Scheme (as noted in the Internal Auditor’s report)

19/040. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman confirmed the next meeting would be on Thursday 28th March 2019.

With no further business, the public meeting was closed by the Chairman at 21:24 pm.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

19/041. Parish Council Award Scheme

Nominations for the award scheme were reviewed, and then a secret vote taken for each member’s top choices.

Three clear winners were apparent and it was agreed that all three would be receiving their award at the Parish Assembly.

ACTION: The Clerk to organise the award presentations.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 21:46pm.

SIGNED:.....DATE:.....