

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SMANNELL PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MAY 2014 AT THE SMANNELL AND ENHAM  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL, SMANNELL**

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. Rod Bowker (Chairman), Cllr. Richard Budge, Cllr. Simon Jackson, Cllr. Cyril Loveridge, Cllr. Dini Thorne

**In attendance:** County Cllr. Tim Rolt

**508. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Tim Bilborough  
Cllr. Nick Kinloch  
Borough Cllr. Alex Brook  
Borough Cllr. Phil North  
Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley

**509. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

A letter, which was handed to the Parish Clerk at this meeting, was read to all members relating to the condition and maintenance of the Little London Play Area. Cllr. Simon Jackson explained that the contract quotation received from Test Valley Borough Council was very high and that the Parish Council was dissatisfied with the number of cuts received last year. As a result, the Parish Council has reviewed this year's arrangements and sought an alternative reliable source that guaranteed 2 cuts per month as a guaranteed minimum.

Members expressed their concerns with regard to parking issues by the bend of Smannell Road leading to a blind view and that some cars block sightlines and this also poses a danger for children. It was agreed that the lady giving singing lessons be asked request parents to park in the pub (for which permission is understood to have been given). This will aid matters with regard to parking in the road by the bend.

The question of the hedge alongside Ashley Copse was raised and that this is overgrown but members acknowledged that this cannot be attended to because of nesting birds legislation.

Members raised a number of traffic matters, which have been raised before including the junction in the centre of Smannell and requested these be chased with Ray Alborough (Test Valley Borough Council) including an update in addition to the situation of parking at Augusta Park.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to chase Ray Alborough for an update to traffic matters and parking issues at Augusta Park.

**510. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None recorded.

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**511. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 3 MARCH 2014**

The Chairman sought updates from the various action points arising from the previous Minutes, which had all been sanctioned and carried out.

Members discussed the deplorable state of the Frenches Farm Road through the woods at Frenches Farm and the appalling conditions of the existing pot holes. Members requested that a strong letter be sent to Keith Thompson bringing this situation to his attention and that urgent works are requested and that the pot holes will be properly cut out and tarmac to be properly rolled in.

In addition, members also remarked on the general poor condition of the roads in Smannell caused by pot holes, which pose a danger to road users, cause damage to vehicles and can cause an accident. They requested that a strong letter be sent to Hampshire County Council highlighting these matters and requesting when works will commence.

**ACTION**

The Chairman agreed to write to Keith Thompson in strong terms requesting that Frenches Farm Road receives urgent attention in respect of the danger and damage the pot holes cause to vehicles.

The Parish Clerk to write a strong letter to Hampshire County Council with respect to the general poor condition of the roads in Smannell demanding when action will be undertaken to effect a lasting repair.

**512. CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence list previously circulated was considered and noted by Members

The Parish Clerk especially drew Members attention to an allotment request from parishioners who were refused at Andover Town Council and Test Valley Borough Council respectively. Members understood the position and requested that the Parish Clerk write to Jason Owen (Test Valley Borough Council Planning) for an update on allotment development progression in Smannell.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to write to Jason Owen to establish what the current position is with respect to future allotment provision for Smannell.

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**513. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE CHEQUE PAYMENTS FOR SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL**

The finance schedule detailing the expenditure of the Parish Council was circulated and considered by Members. It was Proposed by Cllr. Rod Bowker, Seconded by Cllr. Cyril Loveridge and unanimously agreed to approve the cheque payment finance schedule as prescribed. Motion Carried.

**514. TO APPROVE INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Clerk advised members that he has checked on a like-for-like basis alternative quotations against the renewal quotation from Aon Insurance based on £333.23. The exercise has proved that the renewal invitation quotation from the current insurers remains competitive. It was Proposed by Cllr. Cyril Loveridge, Seconded by Cllr. Dini Thorne and unanimously agreed to accept the Insurance Renewal from Aon at £333.23. Motion Carried.

**515. TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL PARISH COUNCIL HELP WITH A WW1 EVENT AT SMANNELL PARISH CHURCH**

Cllr. Richard Budge reported that a World War 1 commemoration event is planned on 3 August 2014 and any memorabilia from this period would be much appreciated. Monies are required to advertise and offset planned expenditure and advertise around the parish. Members felt that the event did require Parish Council involvement and should be advertised in The Oak, at the quiz and involve Augusta Park. It was Proposed by Cllr. Simon Jackson, Seconded by Cllr. Dini Thorne and unanimously agreed for the Parish Council to pay up to £100.00 to help defray costs. Motion Carried. Augusta Park Community Association and Community Centre would be advised by the Clerk of the event.

**516. TO CONSIDER GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS**

As was previously discussed at this meeting, Cllr. Simon Jackson advised members that the quotation cost from Test Valley Borough Council for this year for grass cutting was prohibitive and they were also unreliable. He has received advice from Allan Mitchener who obtained a quote to cut the grass through Enham Trust Gardening Services. They have proposed to cut as required 24 times per year. The fee will be £35.00 per cut including VAT and Allan will monitor the field and carry out the cut himself. The suggestion is to bill on a monthly basis directly to the Parish Council. Cllr. Simon Jackson recommended acceptance of this offer as it is good value and also that it is better that a local is monitoring and cutting the field. It was Proposed by Cllr. Simon Jackson, Seconded by Cllr. Rod Bowker and unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Allan Mitchener for grass cutting at the Little London Play Area. Motion Carried.

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**517. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LLPF COMMITTEE AND ACTIVITIES**

Cllr. Simon Jackson reported on the forthcoming village fete, which was scheduled to be held on 7 June 2014 but this would now clash with the party so this has now been re-arranged to 28 June 2014. The committee has also planned on running a 'Pick Your Litter Morning' at Little London in the morning of 18 May 2014. There is also a plan to have a fairly low key tea party at Stephen's Field over the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> August to mark 20 years of the Stephens family gifting this to the Parish Council.

**518. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Clerk advised Members of planning application 14/00994/FULLN for the demolition of store and erection of two storey and single storey side extension at Lesleys Cottage, Finkley Road, Finkley. Members unanimously agreed to return No Objection.

**519. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE SMANNELL & ENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Parish Clerk gave a prepared report from Anne-Marie Jones:

'Ofsted inspected the school in March and we were judged to be a 'Good' school which we are very proud of. The full report is on the school website if anyone wishes to read it. The governors will be interviewing prospective head teachers this Thursday and Friday and I will keep you informed if we find a suitable candidate. The school choir has been invited to take part in an exciting concert at the Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke on Sunday 29th June.

The choir has been personally selected by Anne George from Hampshire Music Service who knows from experience of our strong singing and enthusiasm for learning new songs. We will be joining other Hampshire schools and the renowned Hampshire County Youth Orchestra for a thrilling programme of music. The orchestra will play, amongst other things, Jupiter and Mars from Holst's Planet Suite and music from stage and screen including Empire Strikes Back and Star Wars. We will take part in the massed primary choir of up to 200 children who will sing songs together in each half'.

**520. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS**

Cllr. Dini Thorne reported that from Woodhouse Lane there are several blind spots caused by obstructing cow parsley and is dangerous requiring urgent attention. The footpath at Ashley Copse is overgrown with vegetation and this also needs attention.

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**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to refer the issue of overgrown vegetation at Woodhouse Lane to Hampshire County Council and the issue of the overgrown vegetation at Ashley Copse to the Enham Trust.

Members reported that the Highway Authority needs to deal with the blocked drains in Little London and County Cllr. Tim Rolt was asked to get some bollards removed from Green Lane on the road up to the A343 where new white lines have been painted on the new road surface.

**ACTION**

Cllr. Tim Rolt to chase action on the removal of bollards at Green Lane and chase a blocked drain by Little London.

Members enquired as to the situation in light of recent radar speed checks having been undertaken along the Smannell Road and the planned way forward in light of the presentation made by Ray Alborough a few months ago. Members asked the Parish Clerk to chase Ray Alborough for an update as to the current position.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to contact Ray Alborough and establish what the position is with regard to road measures along the Smannell Road, in particular whether police patrols will take place.

The Chairman reported that direction signs have finally been placed on the diverted Smannell Road through Augusta Park. Getting them put up had been a long hard slog for the Parish Council

**521. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

In the absence of Borough Cllr. Phil North, the Parish Clerk read the following prepared report:

I am sorry I can't be at your annual meeting tonight. I have prepared the following written report that I would be grateful if you could read out. As you know, I have been working on the traffic regulation order (TRO) for double yellow lines on the diverted Smannell Road. I had a success late last year when Highways Officers agreed to move the Smannell Road scheme forward to 2014/15 after originally suggesting it would take three years. I recently attended a meeting with highways officers and County Cllr. Tim Rolt to discuss the consultation and implementation dates for the TRO.

The formal consultation will start on the 6th June and last for a period of 3 weeks closing on the 27th June. The TRO will then be implemented from the 1st September. The consultation will be available at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/alameintrafficmeasures](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/alameintrafficmeasures) when live.

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Work on the next local plan continues apace. Once adopted the local plan will outline the amount and location of residential, employment and retail developments over the next 18 years and includes the Council's planning policies in which development is judged against.

Last week TVBC published the consultation comments: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd). The Council received just over 2,110 representations during the six week consultation. Thank you to the Parish Council and others who backed our campaign to keep the local gaps between Andover and Smannell & Enham Alamein. I am hopeful that these gaps will remain part of the plan when it is fully adopted. All comments will now be analysed and key issues reported back to councillors, along with any proposed changes. The document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Government appointed Inspector. It is intended that the document will be submitted in the summer.

A workshop for Parish Council's and TVBC members has been organised for the 21st June on flooding. The purpose of the workshop is to learn more about the role that councillors and communities can play in increasing local resilience to flooding. You should have already received an invitation to this but if you require more details then let me know. The four dog waste bins in Augusta Park have now been erected and from reports I have received from the Community Association and being well used. Thank you for agreeing to finance the weekly emptying. It has been a pleasure working with you all over the last 12 months and I look forward to the next 12 months, working together for the Parish'.

County Cllr. Tim Rolt reported that he has been involved in school safety measures at Endeavour School. The plan is to raise the road and make it less attractive for boy-racers.

He reported that he has been working on traffic calming plans along the Smannell Road out of Andover past the Newbury Road roundabout. He reported that he has attended a Hampshire Highways County workshop to work out the next road maintenance programme. This year, it has of course to be mixed in with fixing the damage caused by the flooding emergency on top of the normal maintenance program. Due to the severe damage caused to some parts of the road network, there will be some re-prioritisation of planned works with the defects judged the most dangerous defects being given priority. Some extra money has been provided by the government for this purpose though it may well not be enough.

He has also been on a tour of roads and potholes and made due note of the priority problems requiring attention.

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**522. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

Cllr. Richard Budge remarked on a newspaper cutting relating to the plan of sustainability for the future of the North Wessex Downs and felt that as part of Smannell falls within the Downs, the Parish Council should be consulted. Members concurred with this view.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to chase this matter and ensure Smannell Parish Council is involved.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.05 hours.