

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SMANNELL PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON 2 MARCH 2015 AT THE SMANNELL & ENHAM
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, SMANNELL**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Tim Bilborough, Cllr. Rod Bowker (Chairman), Cllr. Richard Budge, Cllr. Cyril Loveridge, Cllr. Dini Thorne

579. APOLOGIES

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

580. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

A member of the public expressed his concern as to playing fields inspections taking place for the equipment at the Little London Playing Fields. He remarked that the hedge has recently been strimmed but the cuttings have been dumped in the corner. He stated that the rubbish needs to be removed and cleared.

Concerns were expressed on what was assumed to be an HCC Footpath, which is very muddy running by 'Hoff' House. Horses and motorcycles have churned the footpath and it is difficult to traverse with ease. Members felt that a kissing gate suitable for wheelchair users should be placed at the village end of the footpath which runs from the woods to the top of Big Street, Little London. The footpath is number 1 on the Smannell Parish Rights of way.

ACTION

Little London Playing Field Committee to remove the cuttings in the corner of the playing fields.

ACTION

County Cllr. Tim Rolt to be approached to establish what improvements could be made to the footpath in question and whether a kissing gate can be obtained and installed.

A member of the public suggested the implementation of a 20mph enforcement through Little London with 'Twenty is Plenty' stickers being used.

ACTION

Members requested the Parish Clerk to investigate obtaining 20mph signage and the associated costs.

It was stated that the 'No Through Road' sign through Little London has faded.

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2015
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES – Page 2 (Cont'd)

ACTION

Members requested that the Parish Clerk approach County Cllr. Tim Rolt with a view to having this sign replaced.

It was stated that the Little London village sign on the hill is facing the wrong way and is not visible.

ACTION

County Cllr. Tim Rolt to be asked if the village sign can be moved to a more suitable location to ensure visibility.

Members of the public raised the issue of broadband provision in the village seeking an update to this on-going matter. It appears that not many people have signed up to fast broadband under a short-term contract because of the large expenses demanded. Indeed, it appears that only 22 people have signed-up. Why has this level of demand come as a surprise? Why 18 months late? What is the bar to make broadband in the village liable and accessible to all? What timescales are involved and what ultimate speed will be available?

ACTION

The Chairman stated he would seek clarification from Glen Pacey as to the latest position and give an update at the next meeting.

A member of the public raised the concept of a community transport bus to address local issues of getting about and providing a transport service to Andover. An experimental service took place in Romsey and this was successful and felt this could be used for the rural villages as a small bus service.

ACTION

Members acknowledged the potential of such a bus service on weekdays and felt it would be worthwhile having this matter discussed at the Enham Alamein Parish Council for their views.

With regard to Minute 571 concerning an update to Smannell Road pedestrian access improvements, members of the public commented that the damage to the banks are very bad along the route from Augusta Park to Smannell. It was considered that the protection of the bank is of paramount importance to protect and deter vehicles from using the banks.

581. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

**SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2015
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES – Page 3 (Cont'd)**

582. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 3 NOVEMBER 2014

The Chairman sought updates from the various action points arising from the previous Minutes, which had all been sanctioned and carried out. There were no outstanding points to pursue or matters arising from the action points of the last meeting.

The Minutes were Proposed by Cllr. Rod Bowker, Seconded by Cllr. Richard Budge and unanimously agreed. Motion Carried. The Chairman signed the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

583. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The correspondence list previously circulated was considered and noted by members.

The Chairman circulated a budget briefing note from Augusta Park Community Centre seeking a grant request for the community building from the parish council. The Chairman explained that he met with representatives from the resident's association and there is a shortfall of around £6,594.47. Members agreed that an agenda item relating to possible grants to the Augusta Park Community Building appear on the agenda in April 2015.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to ensure that grants to Augusta Park Community Building is an agenda item at the April Council meeting.

The Parish Clerk gave quotations for the costs for obtaining defibrillators and the associated obligations. There are grants available from the British Heart Foundation of approximately £450 to local authorities for procuring defibrillators. The Chairman stated he has written to the pub seeking permission for the placement of a defibrillator.

584. 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. The schedule amounted to a total of £292.50. This was made up of the Parish Clerk's salary for January of £120.00 and that of February for £120.00. It also included a payment of £52.50 to the Smannell & Enham School for the hire of the school hall for parish council meetings. It was Proposed by Cllr. Richard Budge, Seconded by Cllr. Cyril Loveridge and unanimously agreed to approve the cheque payment finance schedule as prescribed. Motion Carried.

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2015
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES – Page 4 (Cont'd)

585. TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO SMANNELL ROAD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

The Chairman explained that he has advised Test Valley Borough Council of the decision of the Parish Council and this will take some time to initiate. The concepts are very expensive and perhaps it may be feasible to split the designs or plans into three specific segments and then prioritise.

586. TO CONSIDER DEFIBRILLATOR QUOTATIONS

This matter was not discussed again as an update was given earlier in the meeting.

587. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LLPF COMMITTEE AND ACTIVITIES

No report was given.

588. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the following planning applications:

15/00437/OBLN – Objection on the grounds that there is a shortage of affordable housing.

15/0031FULLN – No Objection.

15/00285/FULLN – No Objection

15/00104/FULLN – No Objection.

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

No report received.

590. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

It was reported that there are pot holes requiring attention at Frenches Farm and Little London.

ACTION

Cllr. Tim Rolt to be approached to seek remedial works to the pot holes at Frenches Farm and Little London.

591. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

In the absence of County Cllr. Tim Rolt, his following report was read out:

‘I have asked Highways to clear the trenches by Camber House, as mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting, but they couldn’t find anything there and wondered whether the Parish Council meant the ditches at the bottom the hill where it regularly floods and where work is currently going on, presumably by the landowner?’

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2015
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES – Page 5 (Cont'd)

As for the reasons why the sides of the new re-laid road have not been filled in properly, which was also mentioned at January's Parish Council meeting, Andy Harding, the Assistant Highway Manager said that it was not policy to fill in the verges at the edge of the newly laid Highway (which itself has not broken up at this point, as far as I understand) as water needed to drain away. He said that action would normally only be taken if the road were to become unsafe'.

In response to County Cllr. Tim Rolt's report, members felt that he should walk the roads in question and make observations.

In the absence of Borough Cllr. Phil North, his following report was read out:

'Sorry I can't be with you tonight. I'm attending a public meeting in King Arthurs Way to support residents who face a potential large bill from Aster Housing Association. Please accept this report in my absence.

I'm delighted that the new Alamein traffic regulation order which includes the double yellow lining of the diverted Smannell Road has now come into effect. Since the plan by the developer to divert the road got the go-ahead, despite widespread opposition, your Alamein Councillors have been liaising with Borough Council officers to make the case for parking restrictions. We managed to get this scheme moved forward to 2014/15 rather than 2016/17 as originally suggested by Highways officials. The scheme now enables safer passage for vehicles travelling between Smannell & Andover and back without the whole length of the road being clogged with parked cars. It also provides a safer crossing point for pedestrians.

The planning application for the additional 350 homes on Augusta Park was approved by the Planning Committee last month. I know the Parish Council recorded a no objection to the application. I spoke against the proposal at planning committee on traffic grounds as I didn't believe the developer had done enough to mitigate the net traffic gains. Although I accept there was going to be some development there. The good news is that the application included provision on allotments.

I was pleased to present a cheque for £11,900 from the council's Community Asset fund to the trustees of the Augusta Park Community Association, to purchase furniture and equipment for the new Augusta Park Community Centre. The new purpose built community centre is an excellent facility for local people.

Your Alamein Borough Councillors all voted to freeze the Test Valley element of the council tax for 2015/16 at a meeting of the Full Council

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL – 2 MARCH 2015
FULL COUNCIL MINUTES – Page 6 (Cont'd)

recently. We pledged we would freeze the council tax again this year and despite tough reductions in our central government grant have delivered on that promise. Test Valley currently has the 2nd lowest council tax in the whole of Hampshire and the 28th lowest of over 200 District Councils in the country'.

592. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Members commented on the enforcement of double yellow lines and parking at Augusta Park and that the local PCSOs need to monitor the situation.

Cllr. Dini Thorne commented that refuse is being collected from Woodhouse by a large truck which cannot turn in the lane. A small vehicle used to collect. The large truck has to reverse along the length of the lane and inevitably runs over the verges breaking them.

ACTION

Members requested this matter be referred to Cllr. Phil North to get the smaller refuse vehicle reinstated for Woodhouse.

It was commented upon that the Neighbourhood Watch sign has disappeared and needs replacing.

Members noted that Test Valley borders Basingstoke and Dean with regard to the effects of development in the Frenches Farm area. Little London has the only access to Frenches Farm, which is in Burghclere, Highclere and St Mary Bourne ward.

ACTION

Members agreed to ask Basingstoke and Dean Building Control to pass to Smannell Parish Council notices of planning applications regarding Frenches Farm. The Parish Council does not currently have sight of applications though they largely affect traffic through the narrow village street and have no, or little, impact on elsewhere.

Members noted that the ditches by the roadside are filled with detritus and require attention.

ACTION

The Chairman stated he would speak to Jim Mitchell and Billy Whitmore for quotes to action cleaning the ditches.

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council will also include the Annual Parish Assembly and would be held on 7 April 2015 at the Smannell & Enham School Hall.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.26 hours.