

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SMANNELL PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2014 AT JUBILEE HOUSE,  
SMANNELL**

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

**In attendance:** Borough Cllr. Janet Whitley

**549. APOLOGIES**

County Cllr. Tim Rolt  
Borough Cllr. Phil North

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

A member of the public commented that 400 yards from the roundabout going into town there is a patched tarmacadam from the verge on the left. He stated that the road was narrow and that he was practically thrown off the main highway due to the narrowness and uneven road. It resulted in a loss of tyres. Members acknowledged this problem and agreed that the road narrowness and condition should be reported to Ray Alborough.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to advise Ray Alborough of the poor condition and standard of the road as stated and to enquire what remedial action can be undertaken.

A member of the public raised the matter of the Smannell Road in relation to car parking problems, issues around the school building and speeding. He outlined his view and offered solutions, which could alleviate matters. He expressed his serious concerns on decisions being made within a formal consultation period, which defeats the object of consultation. Members concurred with this view and the Chairman stated he would discuss the matter of consultations with Ray Alborough and question what the policy and position is.

**ACTION**

The Chairman to contact Ray Alborough and enquire as to the position with respect to consultations in general and especially with regard to the Smannell Road.

**551. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None recorded.

**552. TO CONSIDER THE MATTER OF THE AUGUSTA PARK FOOTPATH AND TRANSPORT**

The Chairman introduced this agenda item and invited members of the public to speak. Mr Steve Candy, a resident of Augusta Park, outlined

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the essence of the matter on behalf of those in favour. He stated that he is a resident of Cowslip Way on Augusta Park and that residents have to frequently navigate the road on foot in order to visit or meet friends in the Parish. The road can be very dangerous with cars travelling fast as there is no 30mph speed restriction along the road, it is particularly perilous at night, but not exclusively so. He would fully support the implementation of a combined footpath and cycleway along the stretch of Smannell Road between Augusta Park and Smannell. The comment was also made due to the dark roads to The Oak and the health and safety issues this raises.

Cllr. Simon Jackson commented on the potential danger and erosion of the nature of the village community and the wish to remove essential separation from town and country. He commented on the importance of making sure that the Smannell village existence as a rural parish is not disregarded. He felt it was important to preserve the rural and urban boundaries and ensure that the real local gaps are preserved and that a footpath was not necessary. The village boundaries must be protected. The village status must be preserved and if a footpath is deemed necessary this will inevitably result in the removal of hedgerows, which should be maintained.

The issue of speeding as a consequence of footpaths was discussed and that the Parish Clerk was asked to write to the Headmaster of the Smannell & Enham Primary School to remind parents to respect speed limits and exercise due care.

The suggestion was put forward that existing highways and byways could possibly be considered as an option for a footpath.

A member of the public stated that S106 developer contribution monies could be used towards the construction of a footpath, whilst still respecting the boundaries.

Comments were made relating to definitive boundaries and that tracks would need to be opened up. Concerns were also expressed as to who would potentially bear the cost of maintenance of a new pathway.

It was agreed that a working party group be convened to meet with Ray Alborough and discuss options and for this to be an agenda item at the next meeting in January 2015.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to write to the Headmaster of the Smannell & Enham Primary School asking that speed limits are observed in the interests of health & safety.

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The Chairman to convene a working group and meet with Ray Alborough (Senior Transport Engineer at Test Valley Borough Council), to discuss options and considerations of the Augusta Park Footpath and Transport.

**553. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 1 SEPTEMBER 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. Simon Jackson, Seconded by Cllr. Nick Kinloch and unanimously agreed. Motion Carried. The Chairman signed the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

**554. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**555. 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 £510.00. This was made up of the BDO External Audit Fee for £120.00, an expenses refund to the Chairman for LLPF grass cutting paid personally for £60.00, £90.00 to the Parish Clerk representing PAYE paid personally and two months of salary of £120.00 each respectively totalling £240.00. 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.

**556. TO RECEIVE THE BDO EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT TO THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

The Parish Clerk advised members that he is in receipt of the certified Annual Return from BDO, the External Auditors, returning an unqualified opinion to the accounts. The report only referred to a minor error in that grant monies received were declared in Box 2 rather than Box 3. It was Proposed by Cllr. Richard Budge, Seconded by Cllr. Tim Bilborough and unanimously agreed to receive the BDO external Audit report to the audited accounts for year ended 31 March 2014. Motion Carried.

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**557. TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF RESIDENTS' SIGNAGE**

The concept of installing residents' signage at Ridges View, Little London was considered carefully but Members unanimously agreed that Parking signs in Little London were considered adequate and that visitors to Little London should be allowed to park there and was not considered necessary.

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

Cllr. Simon Jackson thanked all those who helped with the recent successful firework display. The event generated just short of £3,000 without deducting expenses incurred and all members agreed that the event was of substantial benefit to the community. Members unanimously agreed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Simon Jackson and members of the LLPF Committee and helpers. The switching-on of the Christmas Lights will take place on 8 December at 6.30pm.

**559. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Clerk advised that he was in receipt of one planning application for determination.

14/02402/TPON – Reduce the canopy by 3m – 4m, deadwood and shape at Walnut Tree Cottage, Frenches Farm Lane, Little London. No Objection.

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

None received.

**561. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE**

Members expressed their concern with respect to the poor quality of pot hole work along the Smannell Road and that they are not lasting repairs. It was noted that recently there was a mechanical tarmac machine that was used to carry out remedial works to pot holes and sealed it effectively.

Concerns were expressed over the turning point at Big Street, Little London and the use thereof for the future. Members were unclear whether this area is in private ownership and it was agreed that members would consult with the new owners and establish the current position.

**562. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Borough Cllr. Janet Whitely voiced her commendation with regard to the superb LLPF firework display and congratulated those involved. She felt there was an excellent community spirit that evening. She reported that her civic year as Mayor of Test Valley Borough Council ended in May of this year and she raised £29,000 for her chosen

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charities. Among the beneficiaries will be the Hampshire Air Ambulance, Enham Trust and Romsey Good Neighbours.

The Parish Clerk read Borough Cllr. Phil North's prepared report:

'Apologies I can't be with you tonight but I wanted to provide a written report to update you.

Concerning the Traffic Regulation Order. It was hoped that this would be implemented by September. Although the agreement always was for this only to come into effect once the Community Centre was built. This was to provide additional parking for residents at school drop off and collection times when the other parking restrictions came into effect. Unfortunately there has been a delay in the delivery of the community centre despite the fact that construction has been underway for some time.

The latest information I have is that the community centre should be completed by mid-October. I know the delay is frustrating but we were able to push the bureaucratic element of this forward than the 2/3 year delay that was first proposed. The consultation has now been completed and local councillors have given their permission. As soon as the community centre is up and running then the TRO can be implemented.

The Revised Local Plan for the Borough was approved for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at a vote at the TVBC Full Council at the end of July. Thank you to everyone who backed our recent campaign to keep the local gaps between Andover and Smannell & Enham Alamein. These local gaps remain part of the submitted plan and I'm hopeful they will get the backing of the Planning Inspectorate.

The plan represents a good deal for Alamein Ward with no further strategic housing sites allocated. The Secretary of State will now appoint an independent Planning Inspector to consider the soundness of the plan. Once appointed the process and timetable will be set by the Planning Inspector. It is anticipated that the public session to test the soundness of the local plan will be held in the autumn. As soon as I know the date I will let you know.

You may have seen that the new skatepark that TVBC are providing on the Smannell Road open space is now under construction and will be delivered in the autumn'.

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In the absence of the County Councillor Tim Rolt, the Parish Clerk read his prepared report:

‘Adoption of Highways in Augusta Park:

The responsibility for seeing this through has now been taken over by Martin Gilbert after the person dealing with the issue had to take time off. Getting Section 38 agreements with Taylor Wimpey is apparently very difficult and Mr. Gilbert is trying to set up meetings with Taylor Wimpey to sort things out once and for all. He is happy to be contacted should the Parish Council require any further information. At this time therefore, it is unfortunately impossible to give any reliable estimated dates (for the various phases) for adoption of the Augusta Park roads by Hampshire County Council. I will pass on any useful information that results from his meetings with Taylor Wimpey.

2. Community Centre / Traffic management scheme/Adventure Pre-School:

The current estimated date for the completion of the Community Centre is December, so the traffic management scheme cannot be put in place until then, with the direct dependency being, as I understand it, the completion of the Community Centre car park. Naturally, the pre-school is extremely concerned about this situation as they have to move out of the Endeavour Primary School by Easter 2015. I have already written to the owners to offer my support and I'm sure other councillors will do all we can to ensure that this final completion date is met and that all the snagging and subsequent legal transfers of the relevant space in the new community centre to the pre-school go ahead smoothly.

The community liaison officer, Louisa Rice, has also written to the owners of the pre-school to assure them that officers from TVBC and HCC are working hard with the developers to ensure that the pre-school will be able to move into the community centre within the current timescales. I will pass on any further information as and when I get it.

3. Traffic Calming measures on the Smannell Road:

Hampshire County Council's strategic transport team is preparing to commission a feasibility study to look at traffic calming and pedestrian accessibility issues on the access roads into East Anton Development. The study will look to improve the pedestrian environment by looking at options to slowing vehicle speeds on Smannell Road, Roman Way and Viking Way and the feasibility of installing two new controlled pedestrian crossings, one of which will allow safe access to Roman Way Primary School.

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4. Supermarket for Augusta Park:

I have had a letter from Morrisons, confirming that they have committed to operating one of the retail units to open a Morrisons M local store there. They assure me that their aim with such stores is to create a valued addition to the neighbourhood, with a store tailored to suit the community it serves and to play an active role within Augusta Park through its charity initiatives'.

**563. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

Cllr. Dini Thorne requested that Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley continues to chase the feasibility of reinstating the former Smannell Road. Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley agreed to investigate any options with officers, no matter how remote, to have the former Smannell Road, reinstated at some future date. She advised members of the background and challenges this would bring but that it does not prevent the Parish Council from keeping it on the Agenda.

**ACTION**

Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley to investigate with Test Valley Borough Council officers on the feasibility of having the former Smannell Road reinstated at some future date.

The Chairman advised members that Bill Whitmore's daughter has recently undertaken defibrillator training and felt it would be valuable that she be invited to the January Parish Council meeting to address members on defibrillator facts. A discussion ensued on the use of defibrillators generally and the locations and it was considered to enquire from Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley as to cost and Test Valley Borough Council's experience of defibrillators.

**ACTION**

Borough Cllr. Janet Whiteley to enquire with Test Valley Borough Council as to cost and experiences of defibrillators.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.25 hours.