

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SMANNELL PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2016 AT THE SMANNELL & ENHAM  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, SMANNELL**

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. Tim Bilborough, Cllr. Rod Bowker (Chairman), Cllr. Paddy Burt, Cllr. Mark Hurrell, Cllr. John Pickford

**In attendance:**

County Cllr. Tim Rolt

Representatives from the community in respect of Broadband provision in Smannell

**665. APOLOGIES**

Borough Cllr. Alex Brook

Borough Cllr. Phil North

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

None recorded.

**The Chair elected to take the following agenda item at this stage of the meeting.**

**667. TO CONSIDER BROADBAND PROVISION FUNDING GAP IN SMANNELL**

Further to Minute 654, the Chairman advised those present that the matter is being pushed forward and the matter has been taken up by Kit Malthouse MP with the Hampshire County Council leader, Cllr. Roy Perry. The Chairman advised that that the likely amount the Parish Council may contribute towards the shortfall would be around £2,000 subject to negotiation. It is understood that Test Valley Borough Council will ring-fence £5,000 per annum for the 30 month shortfall provided that Hampshire County Council at least match that level of contribution. The Chairman stated he would contact Kit Malthouse to establish what the latest position is and County Cllr. Tim Rolt would do the same at Hampshire County Council level.

**ACTION**

The Chairman to contact Kit Malthouse and establish what the latest position is with regard to funding of the broadband provision. County Cllr. Tim Rolt to do the same at Hampshire County Council level.

**668. TO CO-OPT A SERVING MEMBER OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL**

It was Proposed by Cllr. Paddy Burt, Seconded by Cllr. Tim Bilborough and unanimously agreed to co-opt Mark Hurrell as a serving Parish Councillor on the Smannell Parish Council. Mark Hurrell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Parish Clerk.

**669. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None recorded.

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**670. TO READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2015**

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

Further to Minute 656, County Cllr. Tim Rolt advised those present that he contacted Cango regarding the bus stop at Little London and the use of the bus shelter so that passengers do not have to stand in the road to see an oncoming bus. He advised that Cango saw no problem with this suggestion and why this would not work. The Chairman stated he would place this information in the next edition of the Parish Oak.

The Chairman advised that he recently had a meeting with the Chairman of the Augusta Park Community Association and had a discussion concerning the feasibility of placement of park benches for Augusta Park and suggested sites were to be identified by the APCA. In addition, the siting of dig bins were discussed plus an update on the path.

The Minutes were Proposed by Cllr. John Pickford, Seconded by Cllr. Paddy Burt and unanimously agreed. Motion Carried. The Chairman signed the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

**671. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The correspondence list was considered and noted by members. One specific item was discussed from Mr Andrew Green raising his concerns as to the path running from the end of Big Street for a distance of about 120 metres where it enters Ridges Copse and the maintenance of the path.

The Chairman advised those present that the public footpath is designated as an "earth and grass track". Only those with permission from the landowner may use it for anything other than walking. The Hampshire County Council manual on paths says that for such paths "some mud should be expected" and they should be "suitable for use by walkers" but that "users will wear appropriate footwear".

Those present at the meeting felt that reasonable footwear must be used and the owner needs to give explicit permission for the path to be used by horses. The public footpath is not a bridleway and horses should not be brought down this path without his permission and with his agreement should rather use the field therefore not churning up the path accordingly.

The Chairman stated he would approach the owner of the horses and ask him if he would kindly use the field rather than the permissive path.

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He also stated that it would be better in the interests of all concerned if the path was drier and that he would see if anything could be done.

**ACTION**

The Chairman to contact the owner of the horses and ask him to consider using the field rather the permissive path to avoid further damage to the path. The Chairman to establish if any remedial action could be undertaken to ensure the path could be drier.

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

The Parish Clerk advised members of the current bank balances as at November 2015 and the current financial payment schedule amounting to £3,629.82. This was made up of £3,292.56 as a refund to the Chairman for two defibrillators and cabinets purchased personally for Parish Council deployment, £122.73 representing the Parish Clerk's November Salary, £122.73 representing the Parish Clerk's December Salary and £91.80 for PAYE quarter. It was Proposed by Cllr. John Pickford, Seconded by Cllr. Dini Thorne and unanimously agreed to approve the finance schedule as prescribed. Motion Carried.

**673. TO APPROVE A BUDGET FOR THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017**

The Parish Clerk set out the draft budget for the financial year 2016/2017 for the Parish Council.

He advised that the draft taxbase for Smannell Parish Council for 2016/2017 is 1120 and this has increased from 945 for 2015/2016. This is to take into consideration and reflect further additional housing in Augusta Park. There will be no grant from Test Valley Borough Council to help cushion the effects of the decrease in the Central Government Settlement Grant. The Parish Council draft taxbase is 1120 and this has increased 175 or up by 18.52% (rounded). To calculate the Council Tax average Band D you always divide the precept requirement by the taxbase and you will then obtain the average Band D Council Tax.

The 2015/2016 Council Tax for Smannell Parish Council is £18.32 on a precept of £17,316. To deliver a frozen Council Tax for parishioners (£18.32) the parish council can increase the precept revenue by 18.52% to £20,523 and still deliver a zero increase in Council Tax for 2016/2017. The equation being 20,523 (Precept) divided by 1120 (taxbase) = £18.32. This has been calculated by adding 18.52% to the 2015/2016 precept figure of £17,316 making £20,523.

The Parish Clerk advised members strongly not to decrease Council Tax as this creates major issues in the future when the Parish Council may need to increase Council Tax to compensate for a potential split

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as a result of Augusta Park and the taxbase will then definitely be cut significantly proportional to that element classed as Smannell parish. Looking at the budgetary performance for 2015/2016, the overall differential is around 1.25% - 1.50% and this spread is comfortably within audit prescribed tolerance levels.

It is to the benefit of the Parish Council to take advantage of the taxbase increase to 1120 and claim the maximum precept revenue without any impact on the Council Tax. Therefore, the budget on claiming £20,523 against 1120 = £18.32 in Average Band D Council Tax, which is the same level as in the past four years. The calculation being: 20,523 (Precept) divided by 1120 (Taxbase) = 18.32 (Council Tax Average Band D). This will result in an additional £3,207 in the budget and a zero increase for parishioners.

It was Proposed by Cllr. Dini Thorne, Seconded by Cllr. Tim Bilborough and agreed to approve the budget for the Smannell Parish Council at £20,523 for 2016/2017 representing a zero increase in Council Tax. Motion Carried.

**674. TO UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR PROCUREMENT**

The Chairman advised those present that the purchased defibrillators are to be placed in the BT Phone Box located at Little London, which is now formally in the ownership of the Parish Council and a suitable power supply is being organised so that a defibrillator can be installed at this location and ensure that a constant supply is fed so that the equipment remains charged at all times. The other is to be installed at The Oak.

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

No update reported.

**676. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Clerk advised members there was one planning application for determination.

**15/03101/FULLN** Land at East Anton, Smannell Road, Smannell, foul water pumping station and associated enclosure (re-submission of 15/00331/FULLN. Members returned No Objection.

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

None received.

**678. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE**

None reported.

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**679. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

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

‘Happy New Year. I’m sorry I can’t be at the meeting tonight but I would like to update you on a few important matters.

Firstly, I’m delighted to report that just before Christmas the Government Planning Inspector ruled that the new Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan is sound. The plan represents a good deal for Alamein Ward with no further strategic housing sites allocated. Thanks to the help of Alamein Ward residents the Local Plan also ensures the protection of our Local Gaps including between Andover and Smannell/Enham Alamein. This is a big achievement. As you will recall there is no specific reference within the National Planning Policy Framework for the designation of Local Gaps so when Councillors decided to make sure these were protected in our Local Plan there was a risk that the Planning Inspectorate wouldn't allow them. Thankfully the public support helped make this possible – including your Alamein Councillors campaign to protect them. The new Local Plan will be a powerful weapon in protecting the borough from inappropriate development whilst ensuring new homes are built in sustainable locations. It is intended that the Local Plan be reported to Cabinet on 13 January and full Council on 27 January 2016. It is envisaged we will then withdraw the current Borough Local Plan (2006) and adopt the new Local Plan at the same Council meeting.

Secondly, I have been working with your Chairman, Cllr. Rod Bowker and local MP, Kit Malthouse to find a solution to the funding gap for Smannell Broadband. Unfortunately, the County Council have indicated that they are no longer prepared to subsidise the project. Subject to member approval Test Valley Borough Council will contribute up to £5,000 per annum for the 30 month shortfall providing the County Council at least match our contribution. I know the Parish council have indicated that they would also be happy to make a contribution. Kit, who recently hosted a Broadband Summit, is negotiating with Hampshire County Council and has written to the Leader, Roy Perry. Roy responded on the 16<sup>th</sup> December to let us know that he is discussing our proposal with officers. I will let you know as soon as we receive a substantive response.

Thirdly, Test Valley Borough Council has launched a brand new smartphone app that allows residents to report issues such as street cleaning and waste and recycling concerns quickly and easily. My Test Valley is simple to use, free of charge and works with the mapping software on smartphones so that users can pinpoint exactly where in

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the borough they are reporting from. Once the short registration form is complete, a selection of categories will appear on the screen for you to select the type of issue you would like to report. Updates on how the report is progressing will then be sent to the registered email address. My Test Valley is available to download from the Apple App Store for iPhones and iPads, Google Play for Android phones, or the Windows Store for Windows phones. I would be grateful if you could make as many residents aware as possible.

If there is anything you wish me to follow up, then please let me know'.

County Cllr. Tim Rolt advised members that the gate at Enham/D4 has been replaced and the works at Woodhouse is on the schedule for repair. The white lines just before Little London are being chased for works. Members commented that the drains need to be addressed as a matter of urgency especially in light of recent inclement weather. County Cllr. Tim Rolt stated he would chase this with Hampshire County Council and update accordingly at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**ACTION**

County Cllr. Tim Rolt to enquire as to when drainage works will be carried out in Little London.

**680. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

None recorded.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40 hours.