

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF SMANNELL PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE SMANNELL & ENHAM  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, SMANNELL**

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr. Tim Bilborough, Cllr. Paddy Burt, Cllr. John Pickford, Cllr. Dini Thorne (Acting Chair)

**635. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Rod Bowker  
County Cllr. Tim Rolt  
Borough Cllr. Alex Brook  
Borough Cllr. Phil North

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

Richard Manly advised members on an update to the Little London and Smannell Broadband Project. The Little London and Smannell broadband project, which came on line in January 2012, has been a tremendous success. However, it is now in danger of being curtailed. Hampshire County Council (HCC) is looking for alternative funding to bridge the gap until BT's planned implementation of fast broadband for most of the Parish in September 2018.

He explained that he, together with Jonathan Blake, have volunteered to try and find a solution to the funding gap and have already had a meeting with HCC. HCC's view is that the project to bring Fast Broadband to an area with poor provision, has not been repeated elsewhere and has not (yet) become financially sustainable. The situation is not sustainable and something needs to change. The scheme can move to a commercial footing but the alternative is for it to be time-limited. HCC wants to ensure either viability of the current scheme on a commercial basis (unsubsidised) or migrate to other arrangements. Annual service charges are not covered by retail service. He quoted (ex VAT) from Virgin Media that an Independent Leased Line is £7,500, Telehouse interconnection £1,500, School £381. Therefore, there is an annual funding shortfall of £9,381 plus VAT, which equals £11,257.

HCC states that "No decision has been taken to cease funding at any particular date, but there is no suggestion that funding would be removed or reduced before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016". The County Council does want to explore ways the scheme can move to a commercial footing. The Council would like to explore the implications of this happening from April 2016. There is a potential gap between the end of the pilot in its current form and the new infrastructure through the Hampshire Fast Broadband programme by September 2018. HCC has been asked if they could accelerate BT's implementation but HCC are under considerable pressure from many rural communities and it seems unlikely that an earlier date is possible.

Mr. Manly stated that he was optimistic that alternative sources of funding to bridge the funding gap between March 2016 and September

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2018 could be sourced. He suggested that perhaps, it could be sourced from grants via the Parish Council and Test Valley Borough Council or even commerce.

Members felt that pressure needs to be applied by HCC on BT to bring forward the date and explore all the options available. For the immediate situation, members agreed that the Parish Clerk advise County Cllr. Tim Rolt of the situation and to ask him to lobby Hampshire County Council accordingly. In addition, members also felt it was important that the Chair, Cllr. Rod Bowker, write to Kit Malthouse MP to apply pressure to bring forward this project and investigate further.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to advise County Cllr. Tim Rolt on the position regarding the future of broadband and to request that Hampshire County Council is lobbied to bring forward the date and explore all options. Cllr. Rod Bowker to write to Kit Malthouse MP to ask him to lobby and investigate the issue of broadband provision in light of the latest situation.

**637. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None recorded.

**638. TO READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 6 JULY 2015**

The Acting Chair 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. Tim Bilborough, Seconded by Cllr. Dini Thorne and unanimously agreed. Motion Carried. The Acting Chair signed the Minutes as being a true and correct record.

**639. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The Parish Clerk formally advised members of the resignation of Nick Kinloch as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect due to a work relocation. Test Valley Borough Council has already been advised of the notice of vacancy and this has been advertised to comply with the law. The deadline for potential co-option by the Parish Council is 29 September 2015.

The Parish Clerk advised that the BT Payphone at Little London is available and the necessary paperwork has been completed. Ownership will imminently pass to the Parish Council.

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

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

The Parish Clerk advised members of the current bank balances as at September 2015 and the current financial payment schedule amounting to £558.96. This was made up of £120.00 payable to BDO for the provision of the annual audit, £52.50 for gardening services to the Enham Trust, £1.00 refund to the Parish Clerk for the BT kiosk adoption charge, £122.73 representing the Parish Clerk's July salary, £122.73 representing the Parish Clerk's August salary and £140.00 to MJ Services for work undertaken at Little London playing fields. It was Proposed by Cllr. John Pickford, Seconded by Cllr. Tim Bilborough and unanimously agreed to approve the finance schedule as prescribed. Motion Carried.

**641. TO RECEIVE THE EXTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATE FROM BDO TO THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS AS AT END 31 MARCH 2015**

The Parish Clerk advised members that he is in receipt of the final audited accounts and opinion of the external auditor, BDO. The external auditor has given an unqualified opinion to the accounts and no comments were raised on audit.

It was Proposed by Cllr. Dini Thorne, Seconded by Cllr. Tim Bilborough and unanimously agreed to receive and approve the external audit certificate from BDO to the audited accounts as at end 31 March 2015. Motion Carried.

**642. TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Parish Clerk advised members that he enquired with HALC as to the cost of annual membership and has been advised it would be £468.00 per annum. Members agreed that this was too expensive and resolved not to become members of HALC for the current time.

**643. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE TO DEFIBRILLATOR PROCUREMENT**

The Acting Chair explained that the necessary defibrillator equipment will be purchased personally by the Chair for the BT public payphone kiosk at Little London for reimbursement at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The installation of a defibrillator at The Oak will be deferred until the equipment is fully functioning and commissioned at the BT payphone kiosk.

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

Cllr. Tim Bilborough advised members that the Fireworks Night event is scheduled to take place at The Oak on 7 November 2015. He commented on the grounds maintenance contract quotation for annual works to take place with effect from 1 April 2016 by MJ Services and that the Enham Trust should cease their services with effect from 31 March 2016. He stated that the annual playground maintenance is due to be carried out by Nick Adams on the playground equipment and await the report.

Members agreed that the annual grounds maintenance contract should be awarded in principle to MJ Services for works to the Little London Playing Fields with effect from April 2016.

**645. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None to determine.

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

None received.

**647. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE**

Members felt the line painting at Little London should be restricted to the side of the road and not to the middle of road if at all possible to give the impression of narrow roads and slow vehicle speeds accordingly.

**ACTION**

The Parish Clerk to request the Highway Authority to consider line painting being confined to the side of the road as opposed to the middle of the road at Little London.

**648. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS**

In the absence of County Cllr. Tim Rolt, the Parish Clerk read his prepared report.

'Finally, as I'm sure you all know, Frenches' Farm has been resurfaced properly. Possible traffic calming on the Smannell Road in Andover was mentioned at the last meeting. HCC have started looking at the possible options for traffic management in the Roman Way area, with the preferred option being brought forward to public consultation. I do not have any date for this consultation yet but I will let you know as soon as I get to know it.

I have met with the head of the Andover Nepalese Association, Major Nirmal Bhattachan, who lives in Augusta Park. The association is trying to raise funds and I made them aware that they could apply for a small

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'Section 137' grant from Smannell Parish Council, so you may be receiving a letter/email from them in the near future'.

**649. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

None recorded.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.25 hours