



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, at the Jubilee Field Pavilion

Present:

Cllr Stephen Tarling, Chairman  
Cllr Barry Rickman  
Cllr David Golby  
Cllr Len Thomas  
Cllr Melanie Seacombe

Cllr Kevin Cripps, Vice Chairman  
Cllr Ted Fleat  
Cllr Hugh Marchant  
Cllr John Warden  
Katie Walding, Clerk & RFO

In attendance: 2 members of the public (MotPs)

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The meeting started at 7:30pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

### **18/227. Apologies**

Received from Cllrs Dance, Turner and Pepper.

### **18/228. Declarations of Interest**

None given.

### **18/229. Minutes of the previous Meeting**

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 had been previously circulated and published. Members who had been present at that meeting unanimously approved the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **18/230. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Tarling reported that the application for a Certificate of Lawful Development to add a storage shed onto the existing concrete slab at Jubilee Field had now been validated and was under consideration, with a decision due to be made by 10th January.

He went on to note that the improvements to the playground were an excellent job and clearly the most urgent area had been tackled first.

A reminder of some important dates for members and residents:

- There will be an informal drop-in session with a cuppa and biscuits on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 6:30pm in Sway Pavilion for all residents to come and talk to Councillors and the Parish Clerk and find out more about the Parish Council and becoming a Parish Councillor (followed by the Parish Council meeting itself from 7:30pm).
- The deadline for receiving nominations for local individuals or groups for the 2019 Sway Parish Council Award Scheme is 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 – details and the nomination form linked from <http://sway-pc.gov.uk/docs>, and nominations were now open.
- The Annual Parish Assembly is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and Tony Hockley, Chair of the Commoners' Defence Association would be speaking and the New Forest Marque would provide some tasty examples of local fayre.
- The Parish Council Annual Meeting is now scheduled for the evening of Thursday



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### **18/231. County Council Report**

Cllr Mans started with some seasonal good cheer: he noted that the settlement from central Govt would be as anticipated, but that in addition HCC had received other grants to support children's services, the elderly and roads. This would allow for an increase in the number of children provided for, and in particular young, unaccompanied asylum seekers. The additional Roads budget would help cover winter repairs. HCC hoped to get some additional funding towards the Redbridge flyover, where the total repair bill was £25M.

He noted that from the total central budget figures announced, HCC receive approximately 2%.

The grit bins were all being replenished and with the prospect of mild weather over Christmas, work would be completed well before any expected need.

Finally, in respect of Brexit, Cllr Mans listed the ways that HCC and its service provision could be put under additional pressure. Firstly, any and all UK ports could be affected from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and Portsmouth would be Hampshire's port of risk. There could also be issues with the employment of EU staff on whom we rely heavily, particularly in our region where hospitality and care work could be affected. HCC were already working hard to mitigate any potential issues and would put emergency planning in place.

An update would follow in due course in regard to the correspondence from the Clerk about the junction of Mead End, Station and Brighton Roads.

Cllr Warden offered thanks to Cllr Mans for his support and actions in respect of the Cango bus service.

The Chairman also noted with thanks, Cllr Mans support and funding provision for Sway over the year.

### **18/232. District Council Report**

Cllr Rickman said that like HCC, NFDC had received their figures from central Govt and these would ensure that the planned 3% increase to tax payers now looked feasible and would not need to be any higher.

He went on to confirm that he had set up a meeting in regard to the future of the scout hut, with the NFDC Valuations Officer; deliberations would include the Village Hall. This was recognised as an urgent priority and Cllr Rickman would do everything possible to help progress it.

### **18/233. Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk had finally received a response from the Royal Mail who had unfortunately confirmed that they would not be replacing the missing post box by the allotments on Pitmore Lane. They listed three boxes within the required distance: at Durnstown, further along Pitmore Lane and on Kings Lane. She noted that even the offer of funding the cost of



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the box itself did not elicit a positive response.

A resident had emailed (to the Parish Council for information only) in regard to the traffic chaos caused by the school buses stopping outside Hatch Motors, right opposite the junction with Rowan Close. He had asked both Priestlands School and HCC Schools Transport division to note that they were not currently using the designated area which was actually outside the Youth Centre. He also noted that the School's website listed the Sway locations incorrectly and should be corrected.

The Junior Parish Council met on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December with another positive and productive meeting. A number of Councillors had attended and also helped to put up the anti-litter posters around the village after the meeting. They were in touch with the Carnival Committee and hoped to run an event somewhere in the Carnival Week calendar in 2019.

The playground surface repairs (as previously noted) were underway and looking good so far. The ROSPA Inspector had attended site to see the first work being done and was pleased with progress.

### **18/234. Finance**

#### **a) Payment Schedule for December 2018**

This had been published and circulated previously.

**DECISION:** Cllr Cripps proposed and Cllr Thomas seconded that the Payment Schedule for December be approved and members unanimously agreed.

#### **b) Bank Reconciliation for November 2018**

This had been published and circulated previously.

**DECISION:** Cllr Cripps proposed and Cllr Seacombe seconded that the Bank Reconciliation for November be approved and members unanimously agreed.

#### **c) Final Draft Budget for 2019/20 (attached as Appendix 1)**

This had been published and circulated previously for all members. The Chairman also noted that it had been published on the website for residents to review. Cllr Cripps had not received any questions from members. The Clerk confirmed that she had been reminded by Cllr Marchant that the £500 earmarked reserves for the Speed Limit Reminder (Vera) needed to be included on the budget breakdown, and this would be shown on the final published version.

**DECISION:** As there were no further comments or questions Cllr Cripps proposed approval of the Budget, and Cllr Warden seconded. The members voted unanimously in favour of approval.

#### **d) Precept Request for 2019/20**

Cllr Cripps had previously circulated a paper (attached as Appendix 2) to explain how the Finance Working Group had arrived at the figures it had, and noted that it was important



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to be able to justify any above-inflation increase to the Precept. The proposed increase was specifically in response to augmented costs of service provision. In order to minimise the increase, Cllr Cripps explained that the budget reflected cuts to both projects and grant funding, which were discretionary costs to the Council.

Cllr Warden said he was sorry to see a headline figure of 7% increase in cash terms, but that seeing the rationale helped to make sense of it and he understood the need.

Cllr Cripps noted that in real terms it is a low amount (£2.55 per Band D equivalent for the year) and was partly due to previously low or below inflation Precept increases which had impacted previous budgets.

Cllr Tarling pointed out that overall the Precept for Sway was extremely modest compared to other similar parishes in the NFDC district, which were all higher than Sway. He said that in discussions, the FWG had looked ahead to likely or possibly expenditure – in particular around maintenance issues at the Pavilion and updating the security of the site. It was not a comfortable percentage, especially for those feeling the squeeze, but whilst a difficult decision he felt that it was understandable.

Cllr Seacombe queried whether the amount of maintenance to be done should be balanced against reserves held. Cllr Cripps agreed, and further noted that it was good practice to hold no more than 100% of the Precept amount, and explained that earmarked reserves enabled clear allocation for known costs to be clearly shown. This helped tax payers to see the whole picture of planned and expected expenditure.

Cllr Rickman noted that when compared to other parishes, the provision of services by Sway is outstanding, especially for young families.

Cllr Golby said that he had somewhat reluctantly supported the budget. He noted that through SWAG it is apparent that some families are really struggling and those people don't have a say in the taxes they have to pay. He knew of some very hard up families locally that rely on services like the Food Bank, but of course don't want to publicise their difficulties and so most of us are unaware; the Council needed to be mindful of them.

Cllr Mans agreed that many of his colleagues think that this is an affluent area. He pointed out that wages are low and that there are some significant pockets of low-income families for whom the struggle is real.

**DECISION:** Following this useful and extensive discussion, Cllr Cripps proposed that the Council set a Precept of £66,399 in 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Tarling and approved unanimously.

**DECISION:** Cllr Golby proposed that the Clerk be actioned to apply to NFDC for the Precept on behalf of Sway Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Tarling and approved unanimously. The Clerk noted that the submission must be received prior to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



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### 18/235. Open Spaces and Facilities Working Group (OS&FWG)

#### a) Playground Working Party

The Clerk reported that the group met on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December to discuss next steps and a plan of action. A date had been set in January for various playground equipment providers to attend site and discuss options, so that a shortlist could be drawn up of feasible ideas in terms of both site and cost. This would then be part of a consultation to the various interested parties, including the Parish Council, Jubilee Field User Group, and most importantly the children of Sway, including the Junior Parish Council.

#### b) Stanford Rise Green

The Clerk had circulated a report to update members on various activities in regard to SRG. She noted that NFNPA had now confirmed that future inspections would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Clerk asked for members' thoughts on a possible opening event date and after a brief discussion it was agreed that coordination with the Village Hall was definitely required and the Clerk should therefore shortlist a suitable date in collaboration with the VHC.

Finally, in respect of signage, the members felt it was important to get a sign for SRG in time for any opening event. The question was raised whether the Council could commission this and simply have NFNPA foot the bill out of the funds set aside from the s106 contribution.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to investigate options and pricing and report back to Council in January.

### 18/236. Planning and Transport Committee (PaTC)

#### a) Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December

Draft minutes of the meeting had been published; some 14 planning applications had been considered. Since then the Local Planning Authority had decided three further applications:

- 18/00736 Land at Quarr House – approved by majority at the NFNPA Planning Committee meeting, following objections from Cllr Warden on behalf of the PaTC and objections by a local resident on behalf of a number of neighbours.
- 18/00831 Rose Garth – granted subject to conditions.
- 18/00833 Holm Farm – granted subject to conditions including several of the PaTC's suggested conditions.

Cllr Marchant noted that two appeals were ongoing and he and Cllr Seacombe were drafting the written submissions on behalf of the Committee. All members present approved the drafts, subject to a final review by Cllr Warden:

- 18/00548 Land at rear of 1&2 Shelleys Cottages
- 18/00173 Land rear of 37&38 Set Thorns Road



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He noted that residents were encouraged also to respond to both appeals, prior to the appeal end date of 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

### **b) Transport Matters**

The SpeedWatch team had finished for the year now and Cllr Marchant had two very positive statistics to report:

- 64% of drivers obeyed the speed limit this year (up from 52% in 2015)
- Just 12% of drivers exceeded the 35mph threshold (down from 21% in 2015)

This was obviously a significant improvement and to be celebrated.

'Vera' (the vehicle activated speed limit reminder) had been installed at Durnstow for two weeks and had recorded 9000+ vehicles at over 35mph. Evidence shows that a significant number of these will slow down once reminded by the sign. Vera does not count total traffic passing. Feedback from residents had been positive.

Two posts that would host Vera would be extended by HCC Highways, who would update Cllr Marchant when programmed for completion by their contractor.

Finally, in other matters, it was noted that a new planning application (18/00946) for the site of Hatch Motors had been validated by NFNPA with a consultation end date of 15<sup>th</sup> January. This would be fully considered at the PaTC meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January and residents were urged to submit their comments to the Planning Officer, ideally prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> January so that they could be included in the deliberations of the Committee. The application can be commented on and reviewed [HERE](#).

Cllr Cripps noted that the A&T had reported a comment from an NFNPA member in regard to the Sway Village Design Statement being out of date (it is dated 2013). In fact, the NFNPA's own Local Plan is currently the version from 2010. The comments had also referred to Sway submitting lengthy and 'often too complex' responses to some applications. Cllr Cripps asked whether the PaTC or Council would make any formal response to these points? The Chairman confirmed that there would be no response.

He also asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the road surface outside the development site at Beverley on Brighton Road, as there was a large amount of mud and gravel spreading from the contractor's vehicles and equipment. Cllr Seacombe noted that it should be the contractor's responsibility to clean up such mess.

### **18/237. Sway Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

### **18/238. Youth Centre**

There had been an AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Cllr Fleat noted that finances are healthy, despite some expenditure to mark out the car park and also various decorating works inside the building. There had been some discussion about the possibility of signage for the various activities that took place on site; possibly alternating between the various groups and



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organisations. He noted that a new Chair had been elected.

**18/239. Other matters for discussion**

Cllr Marchant wanted to reiterate that nominations for the Awards Scheme should be submitted and he wanted to encourage the nomination of groups and organisations that contributed to Sway, as well as individuals.

**18/240. Items for the Next Agenda**

- Consider earmarking £5,000 of reserves for future maintenance and improvements to the playground
- Consider approving a new policy to cap General Reserves at 100% of the Precept and to stipulate that any future increase in overall reserves is a result of planned and therefore earmarked projects.
- Consider Stanford Rise Green signage and opening event dates.

**18/241. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chairman confirmed the next meeting would be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

With no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:38pm.

SIGNED:.....DATE:.....