

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a council meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2023 in Ramsden Heath Village Hall.

Present: The Chairman and Councillors Marsello, Whitehead, Huntington, Mitchell, Cerson, Elms, Vickers, Burgess, Bonnett, Walker and Coveley. The Clerk kept the minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence - None.

2. Declaration of Interests – Cllr Cerson declared a non-prejudicial interest on agenda items 7b and 13 and Cllr Vickers declared a personal interest on item 13.

3. Public Participation – There were no members of the public present.

4. Approval of Minutes dated the 12th January 2023 – Proposed as a true record by Cllr Bonnett, Seconded by Cllr Vickers.

5. Clerk and Councillors Report –

a) 5a-The Clerk reported she has now received the date of the CCTV Control Room visit.

b) 5b-The Clerk asked Cllr Cerson if he could find out the name of the Guest Speaker from Chess Homeless, so this can be advertised in the Parish Newsletter.

c) 5c-The Clerk reported that Church Road will re-open tomorrow afternoon, but the slip road by the bus shelter will remain closed. Due to certain buses still not running, our transport representative has escalated a complaint to Cllr Lee Scott. There will be a four way traffic light system implemented from tomorrow.

6. Planning –

a) 22/02222/FUL – Crowsheath Farm. Hawkswood Road, Downham – Retrospective application for Change of Use of barn (Sui Generis-Agricultural Use) to Storage and Distribution (Use Class B8) and the cutting of steel girders (Use Class E) - Object, The CCC Planning Executive is probably aware that Crowsheath Farm is owned by Monte Carlo Parks Ltd, whose business description is the letting and operating of own and leased real estate. This business description is amplified on the Home Page of the company's website

where it states that they provide the perfect living environment for a simple and hassle-free lifestyle. The change of use of the subject barn from Agricultural to Storage and Distribution is totally unacceptable as it will be detrimental to the surrounding countryside, some of which is a conservation area and will create disturbance to the associated wildlife. It will also impair the enjoyment of the general public who travel from across the country to visit the Hanningfield Reservoir. Access to the site via narrow country lanes, which are not suitable for heavy vehicles. Hawkwood Road, from which site access would be obtained, borders the Hanningfield Reservoir and is in continuous use by families, ramblers and bird watchers. The regular use of this road by heavy and in particular, articulated vehicles will undoubtedly create a clear and unnecessary danger to the public.

b) 22/02181/FUL – Crowsheath House, Hawkwood Road, Downham – Replacement Dwelling – Object, does not fit in with the Greenbelt.

c) 22/05252/TPO – 3 Broad Mead, South Hanningfield – T28 Oak, located on land adjacent to St Peters Church. Clean dead wood as required and to maintain 4m clearance from ground level for branches overhanging formal gardens. Reason: ongoing program of existing work to ensure continued health and well being of veteran tree and provide safety for residents using the gardens – No Objection.

7. Finance –

a) **Ratification of Online Payments and Cheques** – Proposed by Cllr Huntington, Seconded Cllr Marsello, *Payment made via Section 137

Forever Young Aesthetics*	Christmas Cheer	£ 30.00
BFS Ltd	Fuel	£ 63.00
RHVH	Office Rent	£ 1050.00
Screwfix	Bolt for container	£ 10.69
Dirt Devils	S/Pav Cleaning	£ 156.04
Enhanced Security	S/Pav alarm repair	£ 110.40
Make Me Something Special*	In Memory Seat	£ 1763.99
Sue Lees	Website Cookie Control	£ 70.00
M Linwood	Admin Support	£
M Holt	Maintenance	£
A Moule	Maintenance	£
R Thomason	Salary	£
HMRC	Tax	£
A Moule	Re-imb roof bars	£ 118.96
E P James	Maintenance	£
J Moule	Salary	£

HMRC	Tax & NI	£
Essex Pension Fund	Pension	£
Cash	Petty Cash	£

b) Donation Request from South Hanningfield Village Hall Management Committee

– After lengthy discussion, members agreed that we should request a business plan to show how the hall can support itself in the years ahead. In addition, as there is uncertainty whether any other capital works are needed, they are to seek reassurance on this from their builder. The accounts show they have sufficient funds to continue for a short period whilst the CIF grant is being looked at, so members request an update on these matters at the April meeting or before if the decision of the grant is made.

c) Update on the resurfacing of the Tennis Courts – The Chairman reported that he had received a quotation of £9800 net, which would give the courts another 12-18 months of play or £19200 net which would last 15 years, SHTC obtained a quote of £27450. Two other companies have been contacted and we will request quotations. The Clerk is to ask SHTC for an up-to-date copy of their month end accounts and request details of recent fundraising events.

d) Update on the possible purchase of a new tractor – The Chairman reported the Clerk has received a quotation for a replacement tractor. Cllr Marsello suggested we obtain a quotation for a detachable shredder and hedge cutter. Cllr Whitehead asked for this to be placed on the next agenda.

8. To discuss and agree whether to publish in the Spring Newsletter, Cllr Cerson's draft public consultation document regarding the 20's Plenty Scheme

– The Chairman asked each Councillor to individually comment on whether they wished for SHPC to participate in the 20's Plenty Scheme and publish this in the Newsletter. The overall outcome was not to proceed.

9. Request from Ramsden Pre-School to use Norton Meadows on Friday 17th March 2023 for their Easter Egg Hunt for a maximum of two hours – All in favour.

10. Matters for Information –

a) Cllr Cerson advised members that he volunteers with litter picking duties, P3 duties and helps the SHVH Management Committee all in his capacity as a private citizen.

b) Cllr Mitchell has been asked by a resident if a memorial seat could be installed in Norton Meadows in memory of his late wife? It was agreed that the seat can go in the middle field.

- c) Cllr Mitchell advised the meeting that he will not be standing for re-election in May 2023.
- d) Cllr Marsello reported that the Register of Title has now been received for the Allotment Gardens.
- e) Cllr Marsello advised members that he will be sending out the draft Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct documents, so these can be discussed at our next meeting.
- f) Cllr Whitehead reported that ECC are no longer going to pay for the services of the Highway Rangers, this is due to cut backs.
- g) Cllr Huntington reported a streetlight is out in Lindhurst Drive. The Clerk confirmed this had already been reported.
- h) Cllr Burgess reported that the two dropped kerbs in Birds Close have had a temporary repair.
- i) The Clerk reported that Downham Village Hall will be holding their AGM on Friday 10th February 2023.
- j) The Clerk asked members whether they wished to celebrate King Charles III Coronation?
- k) The Clerk asked members whether they wished to accept a free desktop energy audit from Utility Aid?

12. Resolution for the exclusion of the public RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and/or as amended the public be excluded from the meeting for the specific agenda item 13 on grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Act – All in favour.

Approved as a true record.

Signed.....Dated.....

