

## **SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

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4 February 2021

**Please Note the earlier start time of 7.00 p.m.**

Dear Sir / Madam,

You are hereby summoned to a Meeting of Southbourne Parish Council on **Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.** The meeting is being held in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020\*.

Robin Davison  
Clerk

### **AGENDA**

- 1. The Late Mr Mark Everson**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**
- 4. Minutes** – of the meetings held on 12 January 2021.
- 5. Chairman's Update and Council Report**
- 6. Open Forum**
- 7. County Councillor's Report**

To receive the County Councillor's report (attached).

### **8. Neighbourhood Plan**

To receive the updated Neighbourhood Plan following the Regulation 14 consultation in the autumn 2020 (to follow). Some further minor amendments may be necessary before submission to Chichester District Council for the Regulation 16 consultation.

**Recommended** – that the Neighbourhood Plan be approved subject to final minor amendments being delegated to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group before the Clerk following consultation with the Chairman submits the final version to Chichester District Council for consultation under Regulation 16.

## **9. WSALC AGM**

To consider the report by the Clerk.

### **10. Nitrate Neutral House Building Policy**

To consider the draft letter (attached) from Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council to Chichester District Council regarding its Nitrate Neutrality Policy, circulated to several local parish councils for consideration.

The Council's view is sought on supporting this letter.

### **11. Finance**

To note the income and expenditure since the last meeting.

### **12. Bournes Forum**

To receive a report on the last meeting of the Forum (attached).

### **13. Westbourne and Southbourne Joint Burial Committee - Westbourne Conservation Area**

The JBC has been approached by the Conservation and Design Office at Chichester District Council about including Westbourne Cemetery in the Westbourne Conservation Area. The Clerk will report on the discussion and any recommendations to this Council arising from the JBC meeting on 4 February 2021.

### **14. ChEm Route**

To note any urgent matters arising from the meeting with Highways England on 4 and 5 February 2021. If not, a report will be made to the March meeting.

### **15. Project Updates**

To note the position regarding the Council's current projects (attached).

### **16. District Councillors' Report**

To receive the District Councillors' report (attached)

### **17. Southbourne Environment Group**

### **18. Items for Future Meetings**

### **19. Date of Next Meeting – 9 March 2021.**

### **20. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## Part II

### 21. Quote

#### **TO: All Members of Southbourne Parish Council**

##### **\*Coronavirus Act 2020**

The Coronavirus Act 2020 enables parish councils to meet 'remotely' (i.e. by video or teleconference or by live streaming amongst other means) and provides for the press and public to also attend the meeting 'remotely'. If you wish to do so, please e mail the Clerk at least one hour before the meeting starts so that you can be sent a link to join the meeting. Members of the press and public are advised to email the Clerk as far in advance as possible as if technical issues prevent them from joining the meeting it will not be possible to provide technical support once the meeting has started. As with normal meetings, you will only be permitted to speak at the Chairman's discretion, and you are therefore requested to ensure your device is muted at all times unless invited to speak.

The Clerk's e mail address is [clerk@southbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southbourne-pc.gov.uk) or scan this code:



##### **Filming and use of social media**

During this meeting, the public are permitted to film the Council in the public session of a meeting or use social media, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. You are encouraged to let the Clerk know in advance if you wish to film. Mobile devices should be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.

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## **Southbourne Parish Council**

Minutes of the remote meeting held on 12 January 2021 at 7.30 p.m. held in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020. This meeting was a continuation of the meeting held on 8 December 2020.

Present: Mr Brown\* (Chairman), Mrs Bangert\*, Mr C Bulbeck, Mrs M Bulbeck, Mr Hayes, Mr G Hicks, Mrs L Hicks, Mr Jennings, Mr Redman, Miss Tait, Mr Taylor and Mrs Thorne.

\*Also District Councillors for Southbourne

### **Apologies for Absence**

224. None.

### **Declarations of Interest**

225. None.

### **Minutes**

226. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 were approved as a correct record subject to deleting reference to Mr Jennings in those present and at minute 225, replace reference to 'care home' with 'Neighbourhood Plan'.

### **Chairman's Report and Council Update**

227. The Chairman congratulated County Councillor Mr Magill and his wife on the birth of their first baby.

228. The Chairman's report and Council update was received and noted. There had been a first meeting of a Youth Forum when four young people attended. Members thanked Mrs Bangert and Mr John Robinson for facilitating this.

229. Mrs Bangert spoke about Benjamin Berry at the Parish Council on 12 January 2021 and the Council was saddened to hear of the Berry family's loss. The following eulogy was read out by the Chairman:

"Benjamin Jonathan Berry (1997 - 2020) - a short but well-lived life

I would like to play tribute to a young man who sadly lost his life at the end of last year, after a six-year battle with cancer. His family are well known and active members of our community and Ben raised significant sums of money for children's cancer charities. He also helped younger children suffering in the same way as him, entertaining them - often wearing his Spiderman costume. He was never in too much of a hurry to stop and pass the time of day with those he knew and will never be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. R.I.P."

230. The draft allotment tenancy agreement was with the solicitor for review. Borders for the allotments were due to be installed in the near future.

### **Open Forum**

231. Mr Hayes advised the Council that the work on the Parish Office was now complete and subject to their being no visitors was available for use by the Clerk. The Village Hall car park had been rented to Network Rail while work was being carried out at Southbourne Station.

232. The Hall had not been approved as a vaccination centre as it would need to be used for that purpose for over a year.

233. A resident commented on the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and expressed concerns about the roll out of the coronavirus vaccine in the District. The Chairman agreed to write to a resident regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that prior to Christmas 2020, the District was in Tier 2 and not seen as in such urgent need of the vaccines.

234. Mrs Bangert reported on the problem of licenced water abstraction above Walderton by Portsmouth Water and the impact it had on the local rivers and watercourses. Members agreed that Mrs Bangert should contact the Friends of the River Ems to find out more about the problems and the Council should then write to Portsmouth Water about them.

### **County Councillor's Report**

235. The County Councillor's report was received and noted. Members agreed that the Clerk send the Council's congratulations to Mr Magill and his wife on the birth of their first baby.

### **Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

236. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. Members considered whether there was a need for an additional member of staff and whether it should be on a full (Option 1) or part time (Option 2) basis. It was noted that there it was possible to increase the hours of the current part time member of staff but it was considered that there was a need for an additional full time post given the current and future work of the Council. The grading of the new post had not been determined but it was proposed that the budget needed to increase by £3000 to allow for employer National Insurance contributions. It was expected that income would be £14,400 and £12,000 would be taken from the Council's General Reserves to support the proposed increases in 2021/22.

237. Members requested a recorded vote. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Mrs Bangert that the Council's budget for 2021/22 be £226,852 and the Council Tax Requirement (precept) be set at £200,452. The votes cast on the motion were as follows:

Mrs Bangert	For	Mr Brown	For
Mr C Bulbeck	Against	Mrs M Bulbeck	Against
Mr Feltham	Absent	Mr Hayes	Against
Mr G Hicks	Against	Mrs L Hicks	For
Mr Jennings	Against	Mr Redman	Against
Miss Tait	For	Mr Taylor	For
Mrs Thorne	For		

The vote being tied, the Chairman's casting vote was For the motion.

238. Resolved – that for the financial year 2021/22

- i. the budget be set at £226,852;
- ii. £12,000 be taken from the General Reserve to support the budget;
- iii. Chichester District Council be advised that the Parish Council's Council Tax Requirement is £200,452.

## **Finance**

239. Expenditure - The expenditure since the last meeting was noted as follows:

G Burley & Sons	Invoice 009400	£463.20
SSE Southern Electric	Pavilion Electricity (DD)	£65.88
Moore	Invoice 303759	£1,020.00
Westcotec	Invoice 11415	£69.00
HMRC	Q3 Tax & NI	£2,921.74
Staff	Salary & pension (DD)	£3,298.04
O'Neil Homer	Invoice 930	£4,950.00
Member Expenses	Printer ink	£43.00
Total		£12,830.86

240. External Auditor's Report - Members noted that other than a comment about the notice of public rights being advertised for 30 working days, not thirty calendar days, and the completion of the form by the internal auditor there were no matters requiring the Council's attention. The Clerk would discuss the report with the internal auditor.

241. Internal Auditor – The Council agreed to appoint MMO as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 accounts. It was noted that it was good practice to review the internal auditor appointment if the same one was used for more than five years and this would be done for the 2021/22 financial year.

## **WSALC/SSALC**

242. Members expressed concern that the WSALC Board was considering leaving the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC). It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the WSALC Board expressing the Council's support for SSALC and the advice and assistance it gave the Council.

## **Committee Appointments**

243. There was a vacancy on the Staffing Committee following the resignation of Miss Tait.

244. Resolved – That Mr Taylor be appointed to the Staffing Committee.

## **Project Updates**

245. The report was noted. It was anticipated the adult fitness equipment installation would be completed in the week commencing 18 January 2021. The District Councillors would speak to District Council officers regarding the risk assessment of the equipment in the view of the current Covid-19 restrictions.

## **District Councillors' Report**

246. The District Councillors report was received and noted.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

247. A meeting had been held with the Consultants and District Council's Planning Officers to discuss the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan with a view to it being submitted for Regulation 16 consultation by the District Council.

## **Southbourne Environment Group**

248. There were no matters to report.

## **Items for Future Meetings**

249. The following items were suggested:
- a. Support for the 'outlying' areas of the Parish;
  - b. Support/sponsors for the new developments.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

250. The next meeting was on 9 February 2021. The Chairman proposed that for all future Council meetings, the start time be brought forward to 7pm, with a 10 minute break at 8pm and finishing by 9pm. It was noted that if agreed, the Planning Committee would move to Thursdays at 7pm (rather than 6.30 pm) unless an earlier start time was needed to avoid a clash of meetings.

251. Resolved – That future Council meetings start at 7 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.



**9 February 2021**

**WSALC AGM – 25 February 2021**

Members will be aware of the proposals by WSALC to leave the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC) and that it commissioned a 'value for money' report by Professor Colin Copus. A considerable number of Parish and Town Councils in West Sussex expressed their concerns about the way in which this review was being carried out even before the report was published and this Council has written to WSALC expressing its support for the work of SSALC.

A copy of the report by Colin Copus has previously been circulated to Members. Since its publication, more concerns have been expressed by various Parish and Town Councils about the report and its findings. As a result, the following motion has been put forward by Mid Sussex Parish Councils and which is supported by Littlehampton Town Council.

"Town and Parish Councils of West Sussex consider they have not been properly consulted about the West Sussex Association of Local Council's (WSALC) proposals to move away from the current model of services provision through the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils (SSALC) to purchasing support from the Hampshire Association of Local Council (HALC). This process appears to have been deliberately withheld from member councils and has led to the other 2 County Association in SSALC having to make their own arrangements for their members. This has resulted in decisions being made in haste, with no clear demonstration of value for money, nor member support. Given the potential for many local councils to leave the Associations, this is causing considerable harm to the sector locally. In view of the lack of trust in the process, this meeting therefore instructs the Board:

1. To cease negotiations with HALC with immediate effect
2. To enter into urgent discussions with the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and the Chief Executive of SSALC to ascertain whether a one-year agreement can be reached to operate a pan-Sussex Association comprising the two County Associations and through this provide time for Member Councils to consider the best way forward to achieve value for money from April 2022 and should this be agreed to enter into such an arrangement
3. Request all District Associations to meet urgently to discuss this matter and their representation on the Board and to instruct those representatives as to how they wish them to progress the matter
4. Reconvene a further General Meeting within 4 weeks if working with East Sussex is not achievable, to consider the options available to Members and to agree a way forward."

The WSALC Company Secretary has accepted this motion for inclusion on the agenda for the WSALC AGM on 25 February 2021.

The Council's representatives at the WSALC AGM are Mrs Bangert and Miss Tait.

The Council's view is sought on whether to support the motion at the AGM.

Robin Davison  
Clerk to the Council

**Chairman's Report and Council Update**

Chairman's Report

I would like to note the very sad passing of former Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Mark Everson. Many members will have very fond memories of him, as do I. He was wonderfully charming, funny, welcoming and encouraging to me when I joined the Parish Council and was a knowledgeable and very dedicated representative. I would like to thank all of those who have shared memories of him, and would like to ask his old school friend, Cllr Chris Bulbeck, to say a few words at our meeting.

Jonathan Brown  
Chairman, Southbourne Parish Council

Council Update

Unfortunately, the Recreation Ground and its football pitch were damaged significantly by one or two people riding electric or motor bikes across it like a motocross course. Although reported to Sussex Police, no further action is being taken as there is insufficient evidence about who caused the damage. The Council has contacted the grounds contractor about getting the damage repaired and also to the insurers. The cost of installing of CCTV at the Pavilion is being investigated.

The Adult Fitness Equipment project and the extension to the wet pour in front of the new goalmouth have been completed. Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions the use of the fitness equipment is prohibited and notices are exhibited to this effect on the equipment and at the entrances to the Recreation Ground. Use of the goal mouth and other play equipment is still allowed although it is recommended to use hand sanitiser before and after using them. Notices have been put up at the entrances to the Ground about this.

A date for the investigation work on the field behind Parham Place is awaited from the contractor. Once the location of the water main and 14kv electricity cable are known relative to the line of the proposed ditch and headwall work, an Operation Watershed application can be submitted.

Robin Davison  
Clerk to the Council

9 February 2021

## Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council

6 Woodlands Park, Main Road, Yapton, Arundel, BN18 0EZ  
Email: [chidhamandhambrookpc@gmail.com](mailto:chidhamandhambrookpc@gmail.com) Telephone: 07986 395253

The Leader - Mrs E Lintill  
Chichester District Council  
1 East Pallant  
Chichester  
PO19 1TY

**DRAFT**

xx January 2021

Dear Mrs Lintill

### **Chichester District Council Nitrate Neutral House Building Policy**

In December a public question was asked at the Council meeting by Chidham and Hambrook Parish concerning nitrate neutral house building. This received no adequate answer regarding how there will be direct Parish involvement in deciding future nitrate neutral house building policy, nor how CDC might progress with creating a Policy to ensure resident approval. The question raised was:

*“ It has been well over a year since the Hampshire PUSH group published its nitrate neutral house building policy. Everyone agrees nitrate neutral house building is essential, yet there is no clear consensus on how to deliver it. Neither Council suggestion of housing development nitrate mitigation on sites outside the parish, nor financial contributions in lieu of nitrate mitigation, are acceptable to Chichester's parish Councils. Given we have already had developers in our own parish proposing nitrate mitigation sites in the South Downs National Park, as well as another county altogether, how are parish concerns about the policy around the highly sensitive issue of Nitrate neutral house building going to be consulted on and incorporated into Chichester Council Policy?”*

Nitrate neutral house building is a key environmental and Chichester Harbour conservation issue. Unlike the PUSH initiative in Hampshire, developed in partnership with Natural England, the Council has yet to come up with a suitable nitrate calculation system covering non Solent areas, and has not engaged in essential Parish and Councillor consultation on this complex and critical issue.

It is not acceptable to suggest, without parish consultation, that CDC may decide to mitigate Nitrates through SANGs outside individual parishes where housing developments are built, nor that a developer nitrate mitigation 'cash contribution' for future housing should be considered as Policy.

We, the undersigned Parishes and organisations, request an urgent online meeting with the Council to discuss involvement in creating an acceptable nitrate neutral house building Policy, in order to make sure any future Council Policy is not to the detriment of any Parish that has to agree to Council enforced housing allocations or future housing developments. The suggested agenda is:

1. Discuss the methodology the Council proposes to use to calculate Nitrate neutral house building requirements, as Chichester District and Harbour are not the same as Hampshire and the Solent.
2. The range of methods that could be used to ensure nitrate neutral house building is delivered to the satisfaction of Chichester parishes, not to the sole satisfaction of the Council and developers.
3. A timetable for creation of a Chichester Council Policy and parish final consultation and approval.

The Parish has looked in detail at nitrate neutral calculations developed by Hampshire PUSH / NE / EA and created an Excel model that replicates the calculation system. This model highlights key issues, questions and also some concerning effects of nitrate neutral modelling that need discussion:

- The Council are still awaiting nitrate review results from Natural England re the Manhood, Arun and Pagham areas, as well as what specific nitrate neutral calculations might apply.
- Given water treatment constraints at Thornham, on site water treatment plants for smaller housing developments should be prioritised by the Council, where feasible.
- In most cases it is perfectly possible to build nitrate neutral onsite, on most greenfield land, as long as developers use a housing density / Hectare of around 20 to 25 houses per hectare
- Grade A agricultural land for cereals, horticulture, mixed or general cropping likely to be in high demand by developers as it is relatively easy and cheap to develop nitrate neutral, causing an issue for future UK food security as well as issues over preferred site selection
- All developments on pig, cattle or poultry farm land are innately 100% nitrate neutral, so a register of land of this type available in suitable District locations should be a priority.
- Depending on housing density, it is difficult to build on lowland grazing land without the developer providing extra land on the site, or by creating a separate offsite SANG
- If nitrate neutral building is enforced, a consequence is developers will likely ignore more of the lowland grazing type of land for housing development, despite it being more suitable for housing versus productive farming land used for animals or cereal crops.
- With urban or brownfield sites, if the nitrate neutral policy were enforced then these two types of site would likely need extra land provided by developers, or an offsite SANG.
- Nitrate neutral house building criteria could have the effect of developers actually being incentivised to clear sites with woodland to build future lower density housing developments.

The following parishes with Chichester Council housing allocations have signed this letter:

Southbourne Parish Council	1,250 houses
Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council	400 houses
Donnington Parish Council	350 houses
Bosham Parish Council	250 houses
Westbourne Parish Council	50 houses
Fishbourne Parish Council	40 houses

In addition, the following organisations have also signed this letter:

Save Our South Coast Alliance – Louise Goldsmith, Chair  
Chichester Harbour Trust – John Nelson, Chair

Yours sincerely  
Chairs of  
Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council  
Southbourne Parish Council  
Donnington Parish Council  
Bosham Parish Council  
Westbourne Parish Council  
Fishbourne Parish Council

**9 February 2021**

**Report on the Bournes Forum Meeting 27 January, 2021**

**(by Zoom)**

The meeting was attended by 20 Parish, District and County Councillors from the eight constituent parishes. The Terms of Reference were approved and Philip MacDougall (Chidham and Hambrook) was elected as Vice Chair.

Reports on progress with the four Working Groups (ChEm route consultation, coastal access, roads and traffic, and the effects of Covid-19 on communities and businesses) had been circulated and various follow-up actions were agreed.

The situation in relation to WSALC was discussed and a number of Parish Councils had written to SSALC/WSALC expressing serious concerns.

It was agreed that the Arun and Chichester District Commander of Police, Chief Inspector Jon Carter, should be invited to the next Bournes Forum meeting and questions/concerns would be requested from all parishes to be collated and sent to the speaker ahead of time (see below – please complete the form).

The proposed letter from Chidham and Hambrook on nitrate neutrality was discussed and any suggested changes should be submitted as soon as possible (see Southbourne PC Agenda). Chidham and Hambrook also raised the subject of a number of development applications within their parish and asked for support from other Parish Councils and individuals to object to these.

Lyn Hicks

Chair, Bournes Forum

Please Fill in as appropriate to your question areas;

PARISH =

Parish Council Compiler =

	<b><u>SUBJECT AREA</u></b>	<b><u>QUESTION &amp; REQUESTED POLICE RESPONSE (EXAMPLES)</u></b>	<b><u>Your perceived Parish priority</u></b> <b><u>0 = low, 10 = high</u></b>
	<b>TRAFFIC</b>	Traffic Question 1 - – We have frequent speeding along the A259, this continues to be a hazard to both local residents, cyclists and law-abiding vehicle users.	
		Traffic Request 1 - – Can we please have frequent pop-up police hand held radar positions to counter this?	
		Traffic Question 2 – We have frequent cycling on pavements, causing pedestrians especially the elderly and those with Children safety concerns	
		Traffic Request 2 – What can we do about this, as cyclists do not have any clear identification?	
		Traffic Question 3 – We have occasional vehicle parking on pavements, blocking pedestrian route causing pedestrians to walk out onto the road.	
		Traffic Request 3 – Can we report these offenders and how do we do it?	
	<b>ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>		
	Drugs	Drug Question 1 - There are suggestions that drug misuse is happening within our Parish, but this is only hearsay.	
		Drug Suggestion 1 – Could we have some guidance on how to handle this?	
	Graffiti	Graffiti Question 1 - We occasionally suffer from graffiti within our Parish	
		Graffiti Suggestion 1 – How do we counter this and do the police take this seriously?	
	Vandalism	Vandalism Question 1 – We have suffered from occasional vandalism within the Parish.	
		Vandalism Suggestion 1 – How do we counter this and do the Police take this seriously?	
	<b>BURGLARY</b>		
	<b>CAR BREAK INS</b>		

	<b>INTERNET CRIME</b>		
	<b>MALICIOUS TELEPHONE CALLS TO ELDERLEY</b>		
	<b>PCSO Engagement</b>		



**9 February 2021**

**Projects Update**

TASK/PROJECT	LEAD/SUPPORT	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE	NOTES
Westbourne Cemetery Extension	CD/Consultants/JBC	Summer 2020	Early 2021	Major works completed. Reseeding and variations to be completed in Spring 2021
2nd Phase Parish Lights	RD/SSE	Early 2021	Summer 2021	Quote agreed. Contract signed and start date awaited.
Goal End	CD/RD	Summer 2020	Summer 2020	Completed. Extension to wet pour completed w/c 11/1/21
Triangle of Land	RD/CD/Rec Committee	Dec-20	Jan-21	Clearance, paving and fencing completed. Bench to be installed. Planting scheme to be agreed.
Bench - Recreation Ground			Jan-21	Bench to be installed
Adult Fitness Equipment	CD/RD	04/01/2021	W/c 11/1/21	Use prohibited under current Covid-19 restrictions
SID	RD	Summer 2020	Summer 2020	New SID operational
Six additional Cremation Plots	CD/JBC		Jun-20	Completed
Tree Audit on Recreation Ground	RD		Early Spring 2021	Quote to be confirmed
Defibrillator	CD	Jun-20	Jun-20	Installed
Community Garden/Allotment	RD/RH/AT		Spring 2021	Following Council decision in December further discussions will be held with landowner
Village Signs	RD/CD/PT		Spring 2021	Quote to be finalised with contractor. Only one contractor supplies and installs.

**9 February 2021****Southbourne Parish Council – Tue 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

District Councillors' Report  
Tracie Bangert & Jonathan Brown

**Primrose Holman**

I would like to begin on a personal note by expressing my condolences to my friend David Holman, on the sad passing of his wife of almost sixty years, Primrose. David is well known in Southbourne, and besides being a valued friend, David has helped me with all kinds of local historical knowledge which has been both interesting and valuable for many of the projects I've worked on. (TB)

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2021**

Jonathan and I attended the Chichester Marks Holocaust Memorial Day, organised by Cllr Clare Apel, her husband Ralph Apel and Cllr Martin Bell, which we both found incredibly moving, particularly Ralph reciting the prayers for the dead of the Holocaust in Hebrew (his father was a rabbi in Poland before the Second World War). Chichester's MP, Gillian Keegan, also spoke about how she'd been moved by the work of CMHMD and about putting on the Holocaust opera 'Push' in Parliament, and the impact it had made on parliamentarians. (TB)

I am grateful for the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in highlighting ongoing genocides through the 'Be the Light in the Darkness' theme which "encourages everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide". Many of you will know I lived in Syria for several years, since when there have been a great many instances of attempted genocide and widespread crimes against humanity. Through my work with Syrian activists I have also had the honour of meeting survivors of and workers during genocides in Bosnia, Sudan and Yemen. This was a profoundly moving memorial. (JB)

**COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout**

CDC is working closely with local NHS colleagues and is sharing regular information on their progress. There have been regular meetings with them due to the concerns around vaccination centres in our area and the speed at which the vaccine is being rolled-out. They are currently exploring alternative (i.e. Chichester) sites that could be used. Identifying and then getting a site approved is complex and has to be approved by NHS England, but they hope to be in a position to update us on this very soon. One of the reasons why some sites were not considered in the first instance is because they were not available to use in the long term. However, the current lockdown has changed this and this has provided the NHS with further options. CDC are sharing NHS updates here:

[www.chichester.gov.uk/covidresidentsupport](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/covidresidentsupport)

**COVID-19 Business Support**

New grant schemes are open for applications from eligible retail, hospitality and leisure business in the Chichester District. Please visit the website to see if you are eligible and to apply:

[www.chichester.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport)

## **Local Plan**

With Opposition Group Leader Adrian Moss I have taken part in a number of meetings with senior officers in CDC Planning and the Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning to discuss in detail our concerns about aspects of the Local Plan. These are mostly to do with information being provided by external organisations and the impacts that information has on the formation of our plan. (JB)

## **Recovery Plan Working Group – Planning, Health & Environment**

This group has been considering ways to improve accountability re: developers removing trees and hedgerows, but we remain severely constrained in what we can do by inadequate national legislation. (JB)

## **Corporate Governance & Audit Committee and Budget Task & Finish Group**

Points to note are (finally!) an increased focus on Environment, Social and Governance issues in corporate investments. Thanks to health (pre-COVID) reserves, CDC has more room to manoeuvre than many other Local Authorities but there will be some difficult spending decisions to be made in the years ahead. My focus has been on business support, increased income generation for / by the Council and on funding the Climate Action Plan. (JB)

## **Holding Southern Water to Account**

In our December report, we reported that Council agreed to write to OFWAT to formally request they intervene to force Southern Water to ‘come clean’ on a range of very substantial shortcomings with severe implications for the Local Plan, our communities and the health of Chichester Harbour. This letter has now been published, although we are still awaiting a full response from OFWAT. (JB)

## **The Conduct of Council Business**

January’s meeting had to be split, with significant items deferred to an additional meeting, which was scheduled at short notice in the daytime, yet again penalising those of us who work. The conduct of certain debates is a further cause of concern to me, given the apparent attempts to reduce public scrutiny and constructive suggestions. By way of example, due to COVID-19 time pressures the multi-year Corporate Plan needed to be extended / rolled forward by a year. My attempt to ensure that the plan made explicit reference to the 2019 declaration of a climate emergency and this year’s adoption of a climate action plan in the Corporate Priorities was rejected, despite officer advice that this could be done without any negative budgetary implications. On a more positive note, Council did agree, once COVID-19 is over / under control, to consider the organisation of the Council including looking at introducing a ‘hybrid’ Cabinet and Committee system. This would retain the formal structure and advantages of a Cabinet model of government while strengthening the role of non-Cabinet members (backbenchers and opposition) to provide greater oversight, accountability and consensus working. (JB)

## **Meeting with Inlands Road Residents re: Future Development Concerns**

Jonathan and I had two meetings with residents of Inlands Road to discuss their concerns about the development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The second meeting was attended by Valerie Dobson of CDC’s Planning Department, who was incredibly helpful and answered the more technical questions from those attending. Many of the residents’ frustrations are shared by the Steering Group, as they relate to unfair national rules, methodologies and deficiencies with statutory providers, etc. but we have fed back to the Steering Group such ideas as can be incorporated into the final version of the Plan. (TB & JB)

### **Support for the Homeless**

At the end of last year, CDC secured a £60,000 Government grant. Out of this, £32,000 will be used towards temporary accommodation for rough sleepers during the pandemic and £28,000 will go to local homeless charity, Stonepillow, to extend their Housing First team. This is a project that provides support to the most vulnerable rough sleepers, by enabling them to set up a new home for life and access the wider services that they need. CDC also successfully applied for a larger grant last year amounting to £400,000, which has gone to Stonepillow to expand their accommodation.

### **CDC Participation in National New Tree Planting Scheme Pilot**

CDC has been chosen as one of five local authorities in England to take part in a new, £2.5m tree planting project with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which aims to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas. The scheme will make trees and funding available to individuals, homeowners, schools, community groups, private landowners and tenant farmers. A new Project Officer, Sophie Hamnett, was recruited to work on the project and started in the role in December. More info. is available here: [www.chichester.gov.uk/article/34875/New-tree-planting-pilot-scheme-launched-in-the-Chichester-District](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/34875/New-tree-planting-pilot-scheme-launched-in-the-Chichester-District)

### **Consultation on Extension to Rampion Wind Farm**

Initial proposals for an extension to the Rampion Wind Farm (known as Rampion 2) are now out to public consultation. Proposals seek to generate electricity for the equivalent of over 1 million homes and offset around 1.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, in addition to the carbon offset of the existing wind farm. This is the first of two consultations, seeking feedback from local communities on their initial proposals. The proposals are available to view via the website [www.rampion2.com](http://www.rampion2.com), including information about the project and a tour of their virtual village hall exhibition. Here you can study maps and charts, watch a video flying over the onshore cable route options, find out how the operating Rampion wind farm was built, and book a virtual meeting with members of the project team.

### **CDC Climate Action Plan Approved**

At the (first of the) Council's January meeting, the Climate Action Plan was approved. This is an incredibly important milestone for the Council and personally for my work to get CDC first to employ a Climate Emergency Officer (who must be given a huge amount of credit for putting together such a comprehensive document) and then to develop policy accordingly.

During the debate I emphasised that the Plan, ambitious though it is, will not be sufficient to reach our decarbonisation requirements without substantial change at national level, though there is a great deal CDC can do – especially in partnership with local organisations.

I also tried to reassure some sceptical members that the role of the Citizens' Assembly is to improve awareness and build consensus in support of actions that will need to be taken by the Council and by us all as individuals. It is not something that harms democratic accountability (quite the opposite) and there have been scores of successful such assemblies around the country by now. (JB)

### **Bournes Forum**

It has been suggested by Harbour Villages District Councillor Adrian Moss that we need to arrange a meeting towards the end of February for all stakeholders to prepare to mitigate the coastal access issues which will undoubtedly return in Summer. I presented a report on these issues which included comments from Richard Austin, CHC; he mentioned footpaths being used heavily and pressure on parking; and that Salterns Cycle Way is in popular use (although cyclists also use the footpaths and sadly signage has been removed). Quotes for a mobile patrol have been obtained but as yet this remains only an aspiration for CHC. I would like to thank all the members of the Bournes PCs and all others who have supported production of the report. (TB)

### **Civilian Military Partnership**

Trevor Leggo (CEO of SSALC) and I spoke to Kathrine Brydon, part of the welfare team on Thorney Island, another interview which will be incorporated into the findings of a report on loneliness which Trevor and I will give to the CMP on 23 February. This will support a proposal for funding from the Military Covenant to improve transport facilities to the Island. Further to my report on loneliness on Thorney Island, Trevor and I have a meeting scheduled with the Welfare Liaison Officer for Thorney, later this month. (TB)

### **Tuppenny Barn**

Hopefully, Duncan Bryant will be speaking at the next PC meeting on 9 February. He is the project manager for the proposed community café, to be run by adults with special educational needs, which Maggie wishes to establish at TB. In the last six months I have taken four District Councillors to meet Maggie there, from all the major parties, most recently the Leader of the Greens in Chichester, Sarah Sharp. All have been impressed with the centre, and two have established continuing links with TB. (TB)

### **Bourne Community College**

In my role as a Governor I conducted a 'Link Governor' interview, part of work to better understand the difficulties staff are facing with remote teaching. I suggest that the PC send a letter to the three schools in our area offering thanks and support for their valuable role in providing teaching in very difficult circumstances. (TB)