

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

228. None.

Declarations of Interest

229. None.

Minutes

230. 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

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

232. 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.

233. 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 pay 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."

234. 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

235. 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.

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

237. 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.

238. 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

239. 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

240. 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.

241. 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.

242. Resolved – that for the financial year 2021/22
- the budget be set at £226,852;
 - £12,000 be taken from the General Reserve to support the budget;
 - Chichester District Council be advised that the Parish Council's Council Tax Requirement is £200,452.

Finance

243. 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

244. 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.

245. 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

246. 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

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

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

Project Updates

249. 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

250. The District Councillors report was received and noted.

Neighbourhood Plan

251. 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

252. There were no matters to report.

Items for Future Meetings

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

Date of Next Meeting

254. 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.

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

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.