

**MINUTES OF SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING  
Held on Wednesday 12<sup>TH</sup> July 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Parish Cllr Griffiths (in chair), R Noble, G Noble, Dovey, and Hoffman, one member of the public, Cllr Adams King and clerk to the council, Sue Holder.

**24/014 CLOSED SESSION**

Graham Leigh (retiring chair) was invited to attend a closed session of the parish council to hand over to the new chair and council members.

**24/015 APOLOGIES:** Received from Cllrs Billett, Cook and Bailey.

**24/016 OPEN FORUM:**

- It was reported that the Ramblers Association were grateful some of the footpaths in the parish had been cut.

**24/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATION TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None

**24/018 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**24/019 MATTERS ARISING:**

- Noted that all Members Pecuniary Interest forms have now been completed.
- Cllr G Noble was appointed Council Representative for the Church.

**24/020 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT, by Cllr Adams King**

- Hampshire Highways have allocated £22.5 million to prepare the roads for winter. Working methods have been changed to allow the repair of an area of road to be completed at a time, rather than just one pothole.
- A 20mph policy will be introduced to some locations later in the year and parking restrictions will be increased in some areas.
- It was reported that Hampshire County Council own the Church car park and this year the rent has increased to £500 per annum, which the Church cannot afford. Cllr Adams King has proposed a solution using grant funding.
- Hampshire County Council need to save £130 million by 2025 so are looking for ways of reducing costs.
- A planning application for a Traveller site on Embley Lane has been approved which does not require any local connection, so setting a precedent.
- A new large building on the Dunwood Chipping site was reported to Cllr Adams King.

**24/021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

For consideration by the parish council at this meeting:

23/01621/FULLS Dulce Domum + amendment

Erect porch and veranda and relocate front door, first floor extension and installation of two dormer windows.

Roof light window removed in the amendment from the north elevation and added to the south elevation

The parish council resolved not to object to this application.

23/01710/FULLS Dunhelme

Convert double garage to annexe for elderly relative, erect side extension and rear conservatory  
The parish council resolved to make no comment on this application.

Decisions from meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May

23/01280/FULLS The Jays – No objection

23/01354/VARS 5 Goddards Bungalow – No comment

And 21<sup>st</sup> June

23/01053/FULLS Hilltop Farm – No comment although noted a lot of objections from parishioners concerning security, noise, smell and privacy. The pc are unable to validate that the business was in operation for 10 years.

23/01326/CLPS Goddards House – No objection but the garage should remain with the property.

Decisions / updates received from TVBC

23/00952/FULLS Sherwood – Permission

23/01037/TPOS Dunwood Manor Nursing Home – Consent

23/01057/FULLS Madeleine Cottage – Permission

23/01099/FULLS and 23/01100/LBWS The Old Rectory – Permission

22/03317/FULLS Barns at Glebe Farm – committee 5/7/23

**24/022 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The following report was sent by John Hartley:

We have a thoroughly reviewed and edited draft document which awaits approval by our consultants, Bluestone Planning. This is in turn awaiting the government announcing the availability of grants for the 2023/24 financial year. I have checked the situation today, and spoken to our consultants, but there is no new information.

It was July before we were able to access grant funding in 2021/22 and even later last year, so this is frustrating but not in itself bad news.

The next step, after the consultant's review, is to put the document to local consultation in an online questionnaire for one last time before informal and then formal submission to TVBC. (As last time, those residents who do not have online access will be accommodated via SEDCA.) TVBC may ask for edits, but it then goes to a government inspector for final approval, or final edits. The very last stage is a simple yes/no referendum in the parish. I fully expect this to be achieved by the end of the financial year, and hopefully by the end of the calendar year.

Jerome and I have had an initial informal meeting ahead of the first 2023/24 meeting of the Steering Group. I will be forwarding soft copy of all recent documents, reports, and significant correspondence to Jerome in the course of the next week.

**24/023 LENGTHSMAN**

The following report was sent by Cllr Billett:

The Lengthsman has been clearing the sight lines and the footpath through the village (A27).

Footpath wise he has walked 70% percent of them over the past few weeks and can confirm the majority are passable. A note was made where footpaths were not passable and landowners will be contacted to remind them of their responsibilities in due course.

**24/024 HIGHWAYS /MAINTENANCE ISSUES** Cllr Hoffman reported that the speed of traffic in the village seemed to have increased, and the parish council were reminded that the last speed check by the police illustrated that the average speed of traffic was within the speed limit.

## 24/025 VILLAGE HALL

Trethowans Solicitors have confirmed that the Sherfield English Village Hall Charity's governing document (the Conveyance dated 1969), has clearly identified the then parish council members (individually) as custodian trustees, to hold the Village Hall as legal owners on behalf of the Charity. Trewthowans were instructed by the parish council to regularise this arrangement by attempting to register the Village Hall in the name of the Sherfield English Parish Council. However, the Charity is the beneficial owner of the Village Hall and the Committee of Management are responsible for the administration of the charity. The Conveyance states that the Committee shall 'keep in repair and insure against fire, burglary, public liability and other insurable risks, all the buildings...'.

They have concluded that Sherfield English Parish Council are the legal owners of the Village Hall, but the management of the hall, including the insurance and repair obligations, are the responsibilities of the Committee. The Committee in turn is also responsible for administering the Charity, which is the beneficial owner of the Village Hall

The chairman reported that a new Statutory Declaration of Members of Sherfield English Parish Council would be presented at the next meeting for all members to sign and be witnessed by Trethowans.

It was also reported at this meeting that the original budget of £2000 for this work has been spent and the parish council, whilst wanting to see the matter to its conclusion, need to understand the original arrangement with the solicitors.

## 24/026 CORRESPONDENCE

### For Action:

UG – electronic banking request, noted with no action at this time.

Trethowans – Village Hall, see above

### To Note:

HCC re Footpath 39

LPC – Carters Clay grass verge

TVBC – response to vds and planning

English Rural – 2 Eastwood

HCC – SEDCA grant

TVBC – Public spaces protection order

TVBC – Community stakeholder workshops

## 24/027 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**SERP** – A committee to apply for TVBC funding for the drainage work at the sports pavilion will be organised followed by some rejuvenation at the children's play area.

**SEDCA** - £500 grants from both TVBC and HCC have been received to cover printing costs of the village newsletter.

**DEFIBRILLATOR** – Both have been checked and are ok, and have been registered with The Circuit, the national defibrillator network, which provides the NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK. It was suggested that the unit at The Hatchet be priority.

## 24/028 FINANCE

(a) Requests for funding: None.

(b) Payments authorised:

SEVH, Village Hall Insurance grant	£1756.49	#129
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Clerk, June and July	£318.52	#130
SEDCA, HCC grant	£500.00	#131

**(c) Bank Balance** – £30,149.81. The parish council discussed the reserves held which will be used in part to register the Village Hall with the Land Registry and associated work. They have also offered to financially assist the Village Hall with repairs to the small meeting room floor and the drainage repairs at the sports field.

**(d) Bank Mandate** – Provided by the clerk to update for the new council.

**24/029 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September (planning meeting the 16<sup>th</sup> of August)

The meeting closed at 08.50pm