



## Council Meeting

### Minutes

Hamble Parish Council, Parish Office, 2 High Street, Hamble, Southampton SO31 4JE

#### Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** of **HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting held on **Monday, November 13, 2023** at **19:00 - 21:30** in the **Roy Underdown Pavilion**

Present: Chris Jones (Chair) Trevor Dann (Vice Chair) Simon Hand, Ian Underdown, Andy Thompson, Malcolm Cross, Sheelagh Cohen, Anita Dann, Michelle Nicholson, Mark Venables, Tony Moody

Apologies: Projects

Staff In Attendance: Clerk, Estates Admin | Partners/Consultants In Attendance: Claire Price, Steve Tilbury

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## MINUTES

Minute reference is 13.11.2023 + minute item number

### 1 WELCOME

The meeting started at 7pm

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed.

There were apologies from the Projects Manager.

Dispensations and interests Cllr Venables, Cllr Underdown, Cllr Moody, Cllr Trevor Dann for Cemex

### 2 APPROVE MINUTES

The minute reference was missed from the draft minutes of the October meeting, so this has now been added prior to signature.

The Clerk was asked by the Vice Chair to ensure that when referring to Cllr Dann in minutes that their forename initial is used to refer to either Cllr Trevor Dann or Cllr Anita Dann.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Proposed by Cllr Underdown and second by Cllr T Dann

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Cllr Underdown mentioned the Clerks minuting and thanked her

### **3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were members of the public present from the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group (HPRG) and one other member of the public in relation to Cemex, they did not wish to speak.

### **4 CEMEX UPDATE**

The Chair introduced Steve Tilbury, the Council's retain planning consultant, who started by highlighting the new documentation which had been submitted by Cemex in response to the County Council's second Regulation 25 request for additional information. Claire Price from Smart Marketing had been working with Cllr Nicholson and the Clerk with making this available on the Hamble Parish Council website together with the messages to the public.

The request from Hampshire County Council asked for information on a number of issues raised by consultees including health impacts relating to dust and air quality, noise and flood risk. The responses are a mixture of rebuttal and additional information. Rebuttal responses assert that the consultee is incorrect or has misunderstood the submission for example the response on noise which says that EBC is seeking to apply incorrect standards/benchmarks. It asserts that the applicant's approach is correct and that there will be no unacceptable noise impacts. In other cases, such as management of groundwater or risk to the stability of the railway cutting, additional analysis has been carried out and submitted.

There is an important element of due diligence – to ensure that the decision maker has something in writing from the applicant which covers off points raised by consultees even if they were never really in any doubt about what they would say. In terms of highways, the County Council did not ask for further information, as the highways officers have, in their opinion, already received sufficient information to make a judgement on the application.

The formal consultation period is an opportunity for the Parish Council and residents to raise points, but there is not a great deal of wholly new information.

The Parish Council will liaise with residents through current channels to agree on the approach to further representations.

Steve Tilbury advised that the most likely date for a decision at the County Council's regulatory committee date would likely be February 2024, and the officers will be well advanced in preparing the necessary report.

Cllr Venables highlighted the question of vehicle movement restrictions and asked what will happen if it is agreed that there is an embargo on movements during morning and afternoon peak periods. He asked if there was any sign that Cemex would agree to engage with the community to which the Chair responded that there was no such indication. Members agreed that it was disappointing that Cemex are not engaging and that we can only have that conversation via the County Council.

Cllr Venables relayed a personal account of how Hamble Lane is a vulnerable location and Steve Tilbury added that it is important to convey to the County Council this type of local perspective, in particular by way of the deputation at the Regulatory Committee meeting. Members will need to be made aware of how problems with the road already impact on the community and similar points of significance in relation to other issues. Cllr Venables added that concerns are not just about congestion, but about safety – particularly for children/youth attending both the primary and secondary schools.

Cllr Moody asked if there is a point that the planning conditions for the site would mean that it was not a viable opportunity? The Chair said Cemex explained have done what they said they would do and the County Council would set any conditions accordingly. It did not seem likely that these would be so onerous as to mean that Cemex would walk away.

Cllr Underdown agreed that Cemex are not going to go away but that the mitigations proposed by the highway authority were unacceptable and we should continue to press hard on this point.

There was then debate about the site as a whole and how planning policy could change under a new Government. Steve Tilbury reminded members that there is sand present on the site, so even if it had a planning application for houses, there would still be a requirement for this to be excavated prior to development. Cllr Nicholson asked if the extraction of sand would have an ecological impact to for instance increasing flood risk. Steve Tilbury confirmed that this was one of the major issues for the county council to consider. As this is an allocated site, the county council would prefer to see this site proceed if at all possible, rather than having to allow the excavation of site which they had rejected when putting their plan together.

Cllr Nicholson asked what messages the Parish wanted to reinforce and having listened to the points Members made, confirmed that she was working with Claire Price to progress this.

The Chair said that we do need to start getting ready for February 2023 (or March 2024 if the application slips). It is important to ensure that the volume of local concern is raised at the right time to have the most impact. The purpose is to help ensure that the Regulatory Committee understands the strength of local feeling, as well as our technical arguments. This approach had been discussed with district councillors. Cllr Cohen asked when the documents would be available and was advised that it would be no less than 10 days before the regulatory committee.

Cllr Underdown said that energy and focus should be on preparing for the regulatory committee and not in response to the most recent documents which contained relatively little new information. Cllr Venables said he felt that both making noise now and then again would be preferred. Cllr Cohen emphasized said representations needed to relate to the actual experience and problems of living on the peninsular and the impact the Cemex operation would have.

Steve Tilbury agreed with Cllr Cohen's point, and rounded up by saying that we should continue to focus on inviting the regulatory committee to reject this application by raising sufficient doubts about the site-specific issues and this particular location.

The Chair proposed that we moved to item 6 on the agenda whilst the Residents group were still in the room.

## **5 RESIGNATION/CASUAL VACANCY/CO-OPTION**

The Chair confirmed that Cllr Sarah Lehneis had resigned after 3 years and had done a great job, particularly in her involvement in Communications and he thanked her for her service. He confirmed that the Returning Officer did not receive any requests to fill the vacant seat on Hamble Parish Council by election. Therefore, we are advertising to co-opt the seat.

## **6 COLLEGE PLAYING FIELD FENCE**

Cllr Trevor Dann updated Council on the current situation and emails between Persimmons and the Parish in relation to the fence and an alleged incident, which the Council had requested details, but had not yet been forthcoming.

After discussion it was recommended that the response to Persimmons would remain the same and the Parish would restate this; that Hamble Parish Council is not responsible for the fence.

The Vice Chair asked for a vote from Council that he could proceed with discussions with Persimmons as required, in conjunction with the Clerk and Chair.

Resolved to agree that Cllr Trevor Dann progress this matter as above.

Cllr Underdown proposed and Cllr Hand seconded and all in favour to proceed

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS & UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

### **7.1 Functions working Group -**

Cllr Nicholson confirmed that the National Pay Award for staff of £1925 had been received and would appear in staffs November, backdated to April and new Spinal Column Points were also agreed. She advised that it had been agreed by delegated authority for the continuation of the Employee Assistance Package at £1,050 plus VAT, which was an important benefit that the Council offer to staff.

Cllr Nicholson mentioned the holidays which had appeared in the internal audit and that this process was being worked through.

**7.2 Assets -** Cllr Thompson mentioned the demo of a new electric vehicle and advised that assets had agreed to lease as this was cheaper than the current vehicle. This was a further step to become greener and next consideration would be given to the transit and tractor, which both run on HVO fuel.

### **7.3 Planning Committee**

Cllr Underdown advised that Eastleigh had declined our offer to assist with the review of the Conservation area. He went on to mention Bins on the High Street and some planning applications relating to Mariners Way and Pirate Pasties which were both still outstanding. Cllr Venables mentioned the property on Listed building on the High Street which had raised concerns and that we had highlighted to our local MP.

The Chair rounded up by advising that Council had agreed to hire the equipment for the Carols in the Square rather than offering a grant and mentioned the very moving Remembrance services that had been held at the weekend. Cllr Underdown mentioned that the Chair had sung with gusto.

He went on to mention that the Clerk and he had been working on some Health and Safety issues that had taken a lot of time. He hoped that attention could be turned to some of the urgent leases and asked the Clerk to mention her very positive visit to the local school where she met the head Claire Hewitt and had made introductions between the school and Royal Southern Yacht Club in relation to the 80<sup>th</sup> D-Day celebrations.

## **8 HEALTH & SAFETY**

The Chair mentioned that the last Health and Safety Audit was carried out in 2019 (Covid had been in part to blame) and there were a large number of outstanding issues that needed resolving/addressing as Council were now aware the process had been kick started including a booked audit with Worknest on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. This linked to the item in exempt business and the Chair would elaborate on the detail and requirement for the extension of the Estates Admin post.

Cllr Cross has offered to support officers in ensuring we work through the report and action list.

The Clerk made Council aware of an incident with a vehicle and bench which was currently with Zurich (insurance provider) to pursue the driver for costs of replacing the bench.

## **9 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

To approve the monthly cash and bank reconciliation

To approve the monthly payments list.

To receive the financial management reports.

All the documents were received and welcomed and the Accounts Assistant was congratulated on her hard work.

It was Resolved to agree all the above documents and accounts, proposed by Cllr A Dann and seconded by Cllr Cohen and all agreed.

## **10 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Clerk highlighted some of the items within the internal report and covered some of the recommendations.

Cllr Hand and Cllr Underdown mentioned that we should go through the headline items and review timelines and although Council are committed to implementing these recommendations, they needed to be mindful of realistic timings for when these could be done.

Cllr Nicholson proposed and Cllr Hand seconded and it was resolved to agree the internal audit.

## **11 FINANCIAL RISKS/RISK REGISTER**

To record the current Financial Risk Assessment (attached) for satisfactory completion of the Annual Government Accountability Return.

Proposed by Cllr Underdown and seconded by Cllr Nicholson and resolved to agree the Financial Risk Register

The Clerk highlighted that this can be reviewed and returned to Council again and the Chair added that risks needed further review.

Cllr Cross and Cllr Hand both left and rejoined the meeting during this item of business.

## **12 FEES & CHARGES**

The Clerk highlighted that consideration needed to be given to the Fees and Charges, given the first draft of budgets and if Council did not wish to consider some increases to these, they would need to further consider the precept and/or possible expenditure savings.

Cllr Thompson mentioned that he favoured an increase in line with the rate of inflation, Cllr Nicholson said she would support this approach, Cllr Moody said he would not support any increases.

Cllr Underdown suggested that we review this at the next Assets meeting.

## **13 BUDGETS**

Council discussed the draft budgets and the Clerk highlighted the precept of 10% which left a deficit, Cllr Underdown suggested that he didn't think that we could increase more than 10%. The Clerk suggested that there would need to be a further review of income and expenditure.

Cllr Trevor Dann said that he didn't think that he could support increases to parking charges and Cllr Cohen suggested that the charges for the parking could be considered along with the Foreshore toilets, ie in order to fund the toilets, thus parking may need to be increased.

There was further discussion around the Square car park which is owned by Eastleigh Borough Council.

Cllr Moody said that he would also struggle to support any increases or raises to the precept and suggested that he would like to find other ways to generate income creatively, the Chair said he would like to have a further discussion including opportunities for access to grant monies.

Cllr Underdown highlighted that there is money in Developers Contributions, particularly in relation to arts.

Council will feed into budget conversations during the next month and bring this back again to Council in December.

## **14 EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it is/they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. The Schedule 12A categories have been amended and are now subject to the public interest test, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This came into effect on 1st March 2006. It is considered that the following items are exempt from disclosure and that the public interest in not disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Proposed Cllr Underdown and Cllr Trevor Dann Seconded and all in favour to move to exempt business.

## **15 UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF COUNCIL LAND**

The Clerk outlined the current situation and gave Council the available options. Cllr Venables suggested that staff should advise parishioners, if approached, that Council is still considering the legal options available and this would be discussed again at next Council.

Cllr Moody proposed and Cllr Anita Dann seconded and all in favour to review again at next Council

## **16 HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Chair outlined a current HR matter and asked Council to support the extension for six months of the Admin Estates role to assist with some urgent Health and Safety documentation.

A further update would be given at the next Council meeting.

Resolved to agree the extension of the Estates Admin role. Cllr Venables proposed and Cllr Nicholson  
Seconded and all in favour

Meeting closed at 21:12pm

Meeting ended at **21:30**

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_