



Council Meeting

Minutes

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

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

Meeting held on **Monday, January 13, 2025** at **19:00 - 21:30** in the **Roy Underdown Pavilion**;

Present: Chair Chris Jones, Simon Hand, Trevor Dann, Ian Underdown, Michelle Nicholson, Tony Moody, Serena Alexander, Sue Kendall, Mark Venables, Nick O'Donnell

Apologies: Malcolm Cross

Staff In Attendance: Clerk, Interim Officer, Finance & Administration Officer

Partnters & Consultants in Attendance: Claire Price, SmartMarketing and Steve Tilbury

The Minute Reference for this meeting is following format (DD/MM/YYYY) + Minute item number

1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and wished Council a Happy New Year.

Apologies for absence from Cllr Cross

Steve Tilbury Consultant has joined the meeting remotely.

Dispensations for Cemex Cllr Venables, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Alexander, Cllr Underdown, Cllr Dann, Cllr Moody

No pecuniary interests were declared

2 APPROVE MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 9th December 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd December 2024 proposed by Cllr Underdown and seconded by Cllr Kendall and all in favour

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 3 members of the public present from the Hamble Peninsular residents Group

4 HAMBLE AIRFIELD/CEMEX

The Chair stated that the work going on from the Council but in particular from the residents group is extraordinary.

The first meeting of the Cemex Defence Committee had met for the first meeting at lunch time. Following this meeting, the instruction will go out to solicitor

Having gathered up all the information we have now had guidance from the solicitor and barrister about what items to proceed with at the inquiry. The enquiry starting on 1st April is scheduled for two days.

As mentioned in the 23rd December's Extraordinary Meeting, it would usually be the planning authority that would be defending their decision, however, we are not expecting them to do so on at least two of the issues but will not know this until after the 20th January. The Rule 6 party will likely be the only party to take on the job of why this application should be rejected and this changes the weighting of how this runs. This does elevate the risk but after the session with the Barrister the Parish and Residents Group are clear on the advice that by proceeding with the areas identified this risk is low. The Barrister did state strongly that all the time that the site is in the Minerals Plan it will likely to at some point be approved.

Therefore, we do need to play our part as we know that the village doesn't want it and we must represent it properly and reasonably in terms of the amount of money and managing the risk.

Being pragmatic, the more convincing our arguments the more likely we are to get mitigations, even if we don't succeed in getting the appeal upheld. Whilst the Barrister was on balance, tentative about the likelihood of winning the case but he did consider there was some reasons to continue and if we get compelling witnesses and the inspector is reasonable he may listen to lived experiences and be convinced.

This week the Cemex Defence Group are trying to get together the information to formulate a statement of case, the Chair outlined the areas that the Barrister felt there were grounds to progress as a Rule 6 Party.

A member of the Residents Group added that having asked the Barrister about the overall risks, they had come away with a great deal of confidence.

There was a debate from Cllrs including further questions. Cllr Venables asked about buffer zones and extraction, he talked about the exceptional location and what's in Cemex Plan and what's in the Minerals and Waste Plan and if there is a condition.

Cllr Dann asked if Cemex could change their plan with regard to access. Steve Tilbury answered that there is only one location for access. Inspectors are not there to modify proposals. If Cemex had a better alternative they would have presented this by now. Cllr Underdown suggested that would likely put in a new application.

Cllr Kendall asked about flooding in relation to housing and not ecology and the Chair said this is an argument we are unlikely to win, as the Local Flood Authority are now satisfied.

A member of the residents group gave an explanation around flooding.

Cllr O'Donnel asked about the air quality argument and, the Chair reiterated that we are only acting on the legal advice.

Funding authorisation for the legal team would be covered under the budget discussions later on the agenda.

5 COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

5.1 CHAIR UPDATE

The Chair stated that the Carols in the Square had been excellent this year and the Parish got a big shout out. The Rev Hayley's contribution was insightful. There might some opportunities for improvement of the sound. Cllrs concurred that it was a great event.

He also mentioned the Christmas Tree Planting scheme which although had not been massively utilised had received very positive feedback.

The Chair advised that Shareen Benton had reluctantly resigned due to personal commitments, we will be co-opting this vacancy next month. We had expected a member of the public who is intending to apply to be here this evening as he is unable to attend next month.

The Chair and Clerk are attending the meeting at Eastleigh House tomorrow evening for the re-organisation of Local Government and in particular Asset transfers. Cllr Underdown mentioned the Assets that were currently still under Borough. Cllr Nicholson added that HALC had put out some Comms. There was further discussion about how this may impact positively on the Parish including collaboration with other Parishes.

The Chair mentioned the awards that the Parish had won at HALC, which were runner up in Council of the Year and Winner of best Social Media, the certificates and trophies were now with the Parish. He thanked all those involved in particular Claire Price and the team at Smart and Cllr Nicholson, he highlighted the work that had been done in particular in the communications on Cemex was driving best practice

He thanked Cllr Moody for his chairing of the Assets Committee and that he had decided to step down. Cllr Underdown proposed Cllr Hand to take over as the new Chair, this was seconded by Cllr O'Donnel and Cllr Nicholson counter proposed Cllr Alexander, this was seconded by Cllr Dann, there were 4 votes to Cllr Alexander and 3 votes to Cllr Hand. It was resolved to appoint Cllr Alexander.

5.2 ASSETS UPDATE

Cllr Moody updated from Assets including the tree planting scheme at Mount Pleasant and the imminent refurbishment of the Play Park. Cllr Nicholson asked for the scheme to be circulated to all Cllrs prior to the Comms to the village. He further added that the lean to which had been condemned would be demolished asap.

He reminded that the project list should be given attention and the Chair Chris Jones reiterated that he would like a Cllr to champion anything on the list. The Clerk confirmed a new item on list that she was working with alongside Cllr Underdown.

5.3 PLANNING UPDATE

Cllr Underdown noted that there had been no meeting since December.

The main areas are the Local Plan Update Issues and Options deadline is January 29th, the Parish had asked Steve Tilbury to create a draft response for the Planning Committee to rubber stamp.

As already discussed the Cemex appeal is scheduled for the 1st and 2nd April led by Hamble Parish Council.

The Minerals & Waste Plan Examination will be held on 4-6 Feb and 11-13 Feb and on the 12th February 2025 (WEEK 2) Afternoon Session: 1400 to 1700 the Airfield will be examined. Eastleigh Borough Council were leading on this on behalf of the Parish. Tues-Thurs 4-6 February 2025 Tues-Thurs 11-13 February 2025

5.4 FUNCTIONS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Chair of the Functions Working Group, Cllr Nicholson advised that the advert for the Caretaker and Maintenance Operative has a deadline of this Friday, so we are hoping to recruit shortly.

Sasha Lines who joined as Interim Officer and was attending this evenings meeting to observe would stand in as proper officer if required. She was welcomed to the meeting.

It was Resolved to agree that in the absence of the Clerk the Interim Officer will deputise as Proper Officer at the Council meetings Cllr Underdown Proposed and Cllr Jones seconded and all in favour.

Cllr Nicholson then said that the budgets would be discussed under that heading but thanked the Clerk and Finance & Administration Officer for the work they had done following the Finance Working Group meeting to compile the options for recommendation.

Claire Price from SmartMarketing advised that the team were updating the Accessibility requirements as per the Government guidelines. They were working on the Newsletter for February

5.5 BHH & LAC

There was no update.

6 BUDGET/FEES & CHARGES/PRIORITIES

The Chair suggested that Council should consider the contribution to Cemex before agreeing the overall Precept. He then suggested that the Cemex Defence Committee should only commit to spending Council money if it is matched by money from other sources.

The Vice Chair asked about personal liability for members of the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group and also risk to the Parish Council. The Chair said to be clear the strategy and Governance that has been set up puts the Council in the lead role and therefore provides a shield for all those involved. He recommends that the Committee have the flexibility to spend and outlined that the job of the Committee is ensure that if we are able to satisfy all requirements.

The Chair recommended approval for an Ear Marked Reserve of £30k and delegated authority for the Cemex Defence Committee to spend £20k and seek further approval from Council for the remaining £10k as required.

Resolved to approve an Ear Marked Reserve of £30k and approve the Cemex Defence Committee to spend £20k providing it will be matched by other parties. Proposed Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Underdown, Cllr Moody against all others in favour

There was then a lengthy discussion about the budget and precept and the tables that had been provided to Council with the recommendation from the Functions Working Group to Option 2 which included £44k for asset maintenance and £30k for the Cemex appeal, this would require a 25.4% precept increase. Cllr O'Donnell said personally he was confident he could explain the reason for the increases particularly to Assets, to the public.

Cllr Venables said that we should be mindful about the percentages being discussed and not to mislead the public. He reminded all that there was a huge increase in NI and pension contributions and the former affected all business and we should start with this in any explanations.

Cllr Hand left the room at 20.43pm and rejoined at 20.45pm

After further discussions around the various options and overall increases a decision was reached.

Resolved to approve the precept demand of 25.4% (£189.45 per average band D household) was proposed by Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Venables seconded and 5 in favour and Cllr Underdown and Cllr Dann were against and Cllr Moody abstained

7 HAMBLE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

This report was taken as read

8 STANDING ITEMS

8.1 HEALTH & SAFETY

Following the Annual Health & Safety Audit which Worknест who were impressed with the progress that had been made. The Chair thanked all those who had played their part in particular Cllr Cross for his involvement last year

8.2 OPERATIONAL FINANCE

The spreadsheet was noted as per earlier discussions during budget.

9 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Clerk outlined the detail of the grant request from the Big Eat for their event at Royal Victoria Park and advised that Hound Parish Council had previously given £200. The Chair read the detail of the request that included the support of local food bank with any profits.

Cllr Dann Proposed £250 should be allocated and Cllr O'Donnell seconded and it was resolved to agree. Cllr Underdown and Cllr Moody abstained to the Big Eat but Council requested some positive PR and also feedback of how Hamble Residents had been involved.

10 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Resolved to agree the monthly cash and bank reconciliation, payments and reports. Cllr Nicholson Proposed and Cllr Venables seconded and all in favour.

11 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.

Cllr Underdown proposed and Cllr Dann seconded and all in favour to move to Exempt Business.

12 RETENTION OF CONSULTANT

Resolved to agree the contractual terms outlined in the proposal. Proposed Cllr Underdown and Seconded Cllr Hand and all in favour to agree to the terms set out

13 ENCROACHMENT ON COUNCIL LAND

Cllr Underdown Proposed and Cllr Nicholson seconded, Cllr Moody against but all others in favour for the Clerk to progress this matter with the Solicitor

14 COUNCIL LEASES

To update as necessary

There was a brief update of two Council leases

Meeting ended at **21:08**

CHAIR _____