



Council Meeting

Minutes

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

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Assembly** of **HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting held on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024** at **19:30 - 21:00** in the **Memorial Hall (Rear Hall)**

Present: Chris Jones, Simon Hand, Trevor Dann, Michelle Nicholson, Malcolm Cross, Tony Moody, Ian Underdown

Apologies: Mark Venables

Staff In Attendance: Clerk, Operations Officer, Accounts Officer

External Consultant: Claire Price - SmartMarketing

Minute Reference for this meeting will be (DD/MM/YYYY) + item reference

MINUTES

1 WELCOME

The Chair Welcomed everyone and announced that the meeting was being recorded. As there was only one member of the public present he moved to them first (the details are outline in section 6 AOB & Residents Questions)

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of 4th April 2019 Annual Parish

28th February 2022 Future of Hamble Airfield

12th January 2023 Future of Hamble Airfield

Cllr Underdown Proposed and Cllr Dann Seconded and all in favour to resolve to agree the 3 sets of public meeting minutes as per above.

3 ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair then ran through his report:-

3.1 The Parish Council

This council was unusually elected only 3 years ago. Normally the elections for Parish Council are 4 years apart, but, like so many things at the time, the elections were delayed because of Covid. The council that has just retired were elected on the 5th May 2021.

This report is a quick review of the period since then and the challenges and successes that we have had.

3.2 Covid

When this council first sat in May 2021 we were still in the Covid period, with restrictions on meeting and movements. As a result there was a lot of work around the village that was overdue and the Parish Council team had changed. Freedom Day came and went, and by the autumn of 2021 the schools were reopening however it was a significant challenge for the team to get the backlog of projects done.

New team members were recruited and with the funds already in the bank, work got started on the foreshore and the other areas around the parish

Spring 2022 saw the village laid low by another bout of Covid which was the last major covid visit that we know of.

3.3 Youth Opportunities

Being young in this digital era brings new challenges and the council have always been keen to find ways of supporting the young people in Hamble both for their benefit and to avoid potential issues ever arising.

If you ever pass through the college playing fields on a summer evening, you will usually meet many of the young people from Hamble. Whilst there is always the risk that a few misbehave, the vast majority are a delight and we are glad to do what we can to help.

In 2021 we consulted with Secondary School resulting in the support for "Youth Options" to provide engagement with young people. It was centred on the Roy Underdown Pavillion once a week. We are still supporting this program and would always welcome ideas for ways that we can help to provide more support for our youngsters.

3.4 Timeline

2021 - 3rd Covid Lockdown

May 5th - new council elected

September - School Return

2022 - February, CEMEX application registered.

June 2022 - Queens Jubilee

June 2022 - Council meeting available on line with new technology

August 2022 - Debbie Rolf retired from council

September 2022 - Passing of Queen Elizabeth II; proclamation of King Charles III

September 2022 - Hottest of summers; hosepipe ban in Hamble

September 2022 - Retirement of Craig Palmer from HPC

March 2023 - Chris Ayres retired

April 2023 - Simon Hand retires after 5 years as chair of Parish Council. Simon final meeting as Chair.

May 2023 - Coronation of King Charles III

May 2023 - Sad passing of Cllr Tony Ryan

May 2023 - Amanda Jobling retired and we started search for new Clerk to pick up the baton.

July 2023 - Helen Robinson joined as new HPC Clerk

September 2023 - sad news of Chris Ayres death. Chris worked for Hamble Parish Council for 21 years.

November 2023 - Sarah Lehneis resigned from council.

February 2024 - Cllr Sheelagh Cohen retired from council after many years of sterling work both as a councillor and stepping in as chair for a period.

February 2024 - Departure of both Richard Clarke from Estates Team Leader role and Lisa Bradbury-Knight from the parish office where she had the role of Operations Manager.

May 2024 - retirement of Cllr Andy Thompson, Anita Dann and Rebecca Butler who chose not to put themselves up for re-election.

TODAY New council, elected on 2nd May will begin.

3.5 Hamble Air Field

CEMEX registered their application in early in 2022. This followed the publication in 2013 of the County Minerals and Waste plan that approved the extraction of sand and gravel from Hamble Airfield site.

From that moment on it was always a concern that someone would apply to start the extraction, and in normal circumstances, the approval would just be a routine matter.

Concerns always included

- Congestion
- Air Quality
- road safety
- loss of amenity
- Flooding

The 3rd Public Consultation was launched in December 2023 and only now in May 2024 are we expecting to finally get the report and for the decision to be made next week at the regulatory committee meeting of Hampshire County Council.

Over the past 2 years, over 5000 objections have been registered with Hampshire County Council which is an extraordinary number and demonstrates the breadth of concern throughout the whole village about the proposal.

In March the Police and the Fire Brigade added their concerns about the added congestion on Hamble Lane as a result of the Quarry traffic that could result from approval of the CEMEX application.

As we head towards the regulatory committee meeting there are over 5000 objections to the proposal. This is an amazing effort from the whole community and is equivalent to more than 1 for each and every house in Hamble.

What a fantastic job all the residents have done with 5000 objections 1 for every household of 5000, the Residents have done a great job and thanks to all the community.

3.6 Conservation Area

Hamble has a conservation area that includes all of our historic areas. The cumulative effect of the planning decisions across this area is having an impact and the Parish Council have been talking to Eastleigh Borough Council to better understand what we should expect within our conservation area.

Most recently in March 2023 we had a workshop and raised issues with Eastleigh Borough Council on the state and direction of the Hamble conservation Area. What the policies should be and how they will be applied during planning applications.

Conservation is a complex question. What we have today is the cumulative effect of all the changes that have happened over the years, and it is neither possible or desirable just to try and stop the clock now and keep it as it is. On the other hand if we are going to conserve, then the essence of what we have needs to be protected.

This challenge will continue.

3.7 Annual Awards - Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

Hamble were extremely proud to have won "Excellence in Community Engagement" award and was second in the overall award for Village of the Year in 2022. The awards were sponsored by insurance and risk management company Gallagher and the event was hosted by Bishops Waltham.

The leadership from our Communications Working Group has been excellent and the contributions from Cllr's Michelle Nicholson and Sarah Lenis with support from Claire Price from Smart Marketing and her team have been the main drivers of this success. Very lucky with Claire and her team and Cllr Nicholson, who are doing a great job. The Chair Congratulated them.

Challenge of connecting with young people and that Instagram and Tiktok.

3.8 Community Organisations

PRIORY CENTRE (BY THE CHURCH)

We supported the Snug Project in winter 2022 which ran every week to offer a hot meal in a comfortable and friendly space.

Place 2B provided a happy space on Christmas Day in 2022 and 2023 for which we are thankful.

SPEED WATCH

Supported by HPC in their work to try and keep our roads safe.

CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

Thanks to David de Krester who ran "Carols in the Square" in 2022. This event starts off the Christmas celebrations for many of us in Hamble as well as visitors from further afield.

This has now a history going back 30 years and we were fortunate that a new team was willing to take over in 2023 which was the first event since Father Graham retired from St Andrews Church.

HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

There are jobs that are just too big for our small dedicated team to do and we would like to thank our volunteers that turn out to tackle the bigger clean up jobs. Everything from trimming all the hedges in the church yard to fixing our footpaths. Thank you.

Wetwheels, MARA and how can we use those models and get more of them.

3.9 Council Services

PARKING PERMITS

We still have the preferential permit offering for residents to use the foreshore car park. These are renewed each year and are extremely good value if you ever park down at the foreshore (£25 for unlimited use all year!)

As the only source of income that we have from visitors to Hamble, we are constantly questioning the level of parking charges that we apply. As costs go up your council will always be looking for a fair contribution from our visitors as well as our residents.

The Chair went on to thank the team in the office and mentioned all the things that go on behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

BUS SERVICE

X15 bus service was cancelled after Hampshire County Council withdrew the subsidy for it in September 2022.

The Parish Council are concerned that Hamble will always be the first place to have services reduced as we are "at the end of the line" and our usage will always seem low relative to villages closer to town, but we know it is essential that these services are maintained and we will keep watching to see what improvements might be possible.

A key question is what public transport links we can look at.

GROUNDS TEAM

Altin (Estates Assistant) and Mark (Estates Ranger) have been with us throughout this council period and we are immensely grateful and proud of their efforts to keep our village safe and beautiful.

There isn't a blade of grass or a tree that they don't know personally as you will discover if you ever stop and have a chat with them when they are out in the village.

Mark's piece in the village magazine Rangers Remarks is always enlightening, and we will be looking to find more ways that their experience and knowledge can be shared with interested villagers.

There have been others that have worked with them as noted elsewhere and there is always the opportunity of some extra part time work if any suitably qualified people in the village would like to join the team in the future.

1. Communications

The perennial question of the Parish Magazine has kept coming up throughout this council. This is not surprising as it is the largest discretionary expense that we have.

Every time that we have considered the question, the conclusion is always that there are too many people in the parish that value the door delivery of the magazine and so we continue to maintain it. However, do please let us have as much feedback as possible on your views and how much you value the paper copy and all the time the demand exists we will strive to keep delivering a paper magazine for you all.

NEW WEBSITE

The majority of feedback that we have had rates the new website a success. We are very proud of the progress that has been made and also aware that there are still lots of areas on the site that are out of date and sometimes misleading. We will continue to work our way throughout the whole site through time. Please do let us know if you identify items that need attention.

3.10 Health & Wellbeing

CAB - CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The CAB service in the village has been supported by the Parish Council, we are the only location on the peninsula which has a regular face to face opportunity to meet with CAB experts.

We continued to sponsor the CAB services from Mercury Hub through 2023, promoting them in September as the cost of living challenges grew and the winter bills started to arrive.

People have told us that these services are really useful and when you need them you "Really" need them a lot. This service had to stop in April due to lack of funding.

Sports

Everyone wants to visit Hamble, none more so than sports teams. Our playing fields remain popular with local players and visiting teams with over 10 teams visiting each week at times.

The atmosphere on College Playing Fields when they are full of youngsters is delightful and energising for those of us that no longer participate ourselves.

We are starting to consider other areas of sport and exercise that people in the village might be interested in and this will be a question for us to address as we decide what to do with the Mount Pleasant and the refurbishment of the pavilion.

In 2022 we welcomed Solent Sports to use College Playing fields as a base to promote sport to everyone regardless of age, fitness or ability. This aligned strongly with the direction we support.

3.11 Projects

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In 2021 there were a lot of reports and with a more visible Police presence and collaboration across all the agencies a lot of progress has been made. Marcus Cater, who was responsible for Hamble always reinforced that it was important to report everything as it was only when they have the information that they can effectively deploy their resources. So we encourage everyone to use the multiple options to report concerns to the police and give them the best chance to help us in the Hamble.

The Chair mentioned that the Clerk had made good connections with our partners including the Police.

CORONATION PARADE

The refurbishment of Coronation Parade is now a past memory, despite the issues and concerns we do have more parking and better access.

FARMERS MARKET

Now a familiar and constant feature of the Hamble Calendar, The Farmers Markets continue to be supported and a feature of life in Hamble.

AMENITIES

There was a virtual standstill on projects through covid, but the new team recruited by our Clerk, Amanda Jobling, got quickly into their stride and a lot of projects were initiated in short order.

We have improvements on the foreshore and around Spitfire Way. Our Hamble projects team also responded magnificently to the Queens Jubilee and then sadly her death and the Coronation of King Charles. We have fitting memorials to all of these events around our village.

We have also invested in bigger and better managed bins which enable our team to better keep our wonderful village free of rubbish.

FUTURE

One of the questions that has been raised over the time is the condition of the skate park at Mount Pleasant that is now getting very dilapidated.

Sad to say that we have not made as much progress as we would have wished on the improvement of Mount Pleasant, but an improved skate park is still included in the scope.

We hope that you will hear more about this in the coming months.

ENVIRONMENT

In 2023 we introduced HVO fuel for our grass cutting equipment. This is fuel that replaces diesel, but that is made entirely from renewable materials. Of course it will not be completely "guilt free" as fossil fuels will be consumed in its manufacture and distribution, but every step helps in reducing our impact on climate change.

We have now converted to electric for our routine transport around the village and I am sure many of you recognised "Sparky" when he arrived and are now familiar with "Sparky 2" our recent upgrade.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Restarting the work initially done in 2019 under the leadership of Cllr Tony Moody. We have engaged a surveyor to assess the condition of the building and recommend options for the use &/or demolition of the structure.

As well as the ongoing need for sports changing rooms, we are keen to find good use for the remainder of the space in the building.

3.12 Summary

The Council from 2021 to 2024 had a lot of challenges. Trying to normalise and get things back on track after covid and all of the extra impacts of cost increases and the difficulty in finding the people and resources to get anything done.

Amanda Jobling the previous Clerk, and Simon Hand the previous Chair did an amazing job of restarting normal life in Hamble Parish Council.

The amount of effort put in by the team every day to just to keep things "as they are" can never be understated. Whilst things look steady and calm on the surface I can assure you that they are all working very hard behind the scenes. Whether that is arranging burials, organising the dinghy park or preparing the playing fields.

Their efforts make our village the treasure that it is and we thank them all.

Looking forwards we have the 2 questions of Mount Pleasant and the Airfield still on the table. These are both projects that need involvement from the whole village and not just the guys in the office who already have busy day jobs. I look forward to the opportunities we will have to progress both in the coming months.

The new team that Helen our Clerk now leads includes Jess (Accounts Officer) & Emma (Operations Officer) who have been recruited to work in the office as well as Mark and Altin who are out on the estate. Both Jess and Emma live in Hamble and bring a range of skills and experience to the team. You will always be welcome if you drop in to the office for a parking permit or a dinghy permit. This core team will need to be supplemented at busy times, and as note earlier, there are plenty of opportunities for anyone who has the appropriate experience and is interested in doing some part time work in the HPC Estates team.

4 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024/2025

The Chair to outline some of the areas the Council would like to consider over the forthcoming year.

Clearly Cemex is on the Agenda.

We do need to do something about Mount Pleasant site but the Play Park is under way and there is a Working Party in place.

The Chair asked the Clerk if there were any other areas and she mentioned the Pre-School provision and also the Parish's sports strategy. The Chair went on to talk about the prominence of Hamble Club Football Club and if there could be any other sports that the parish could support.

5 COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Chair then mentioned that we had thanked lots of groups in the community and outlined plans to launch a recognition award in 2025.

6 AOB AND RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

There was one resident present who was part of the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group. He raised that there was a clear recommendation from the Planning Officer at HCC and at this stage was unclear of how this application would progress and that much time had been spent fighting the Cemex Application but he was not clear what the future of the Airfield is and that it is important for the community to articulate that. The Parish look at a Neighbourhood Plan and if the refusal is upheld what is the plan.

He went on to state that many people cannot afford to live in Hamble and that a strategy and what the Airfield could do for the Community. Where do our youngsters live in the village and how the village thrives and think 'what is the future'. What are the options

The Chair then went on to say that we have been very clear about what we don't want and we need to clear about what we do want.

Cllr Dann echoed the sentiment and went on to say if another Government were elected, Planning policy could change drastically. He went on to talk about the plans of the Landowner and the relationship of the Roy Underdown Pavilion.

Cllr Dann stated that he thought an idea which could be considered was a Solar Farm.

Cllr Nicholson went on to state that key was community engagement and that we needed to be on the front foot and not reactive.

Cllr Underdown said that the two main reasons for refusal within the report could be overcome and that the Parish with support of the HPRG needed to focus on other reasons for objection.

Cllr Cross then highlighted some of the options that may happen next with regard to the application and that within the current five year plan there was no development on the site.

The Chair rounded up and closed this item.

The Chair said that there were a few questions that had been sent in from the public and that the Clerk would address separately after the meeting.

The Chair asked for questions.

Cllr Dann then raised the question about the resurrection of the car park at the station and the Chair mentioned that the relationship through Cemex with the Police.

Cllr Underdown said that there had been a great deal of success with planning applications and that the Parish had worked hard with all the best interests of the Parish over the past year.

He thanked all Councillors and staff

Meeting ended at **20:30**

CHAIR _____