

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2015 in the Village at 7.30pm.

Present: The Chairman, Cllr David Peart and Cllrs Bridget Culley, Ray Randall (arrived during ‘Time for public speaking’), Tony Styles, Tony Grunsell, Colin Henderson, Katie Dixon, BDBC Cllr Graham Falconer (the whole meeting), HCC Cllr Tom Thacker (from item 4.1 up to item 5.2) and the clerk, Derek Kane.

Members of the Public in attendance: Nine.

Time for public speaking:

The chairman asked if any members of the public wished to address the council

A resident, **Michael Strong**, regarding **Rope Yarn Lane**, commented that the lane shows on the Map outside the village shop as a road.

He then pointed out that the **FP 16 (from Wades Wood)** has been overgrown and that he recently took a strimmer to it to clear. The **chairman** asked if this was something the Lengthsman could do. The **clerk**, after ascertaining how long the path was (over one quarter of a mile), said this would use a significant part of the £1k Lengthsman grant. The **chairman**, asked the clerk to inform ROW Officer HCC of this footpath, that it should be maintained by HCC.

A resident, **Dodie Marsden**, together with four local teenagers, then addressed the council.

Sparrow Monitoring suggests a severe decline in the UK house sparrow population, recently estimated as dropping by 71 per cent between 1977 and 2008 with substantial declines in both rural and urban populations. Whilst the decline in England continues, breeding bird survey data indicate recent population increases in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are supposedly 5,300,000 in the UK – 71 per cent less than in 1977.

Mr and Mrs Bill Coventry have made and supplied **seven bird boxes** including multi-boxes (as sparrows are communal birds) and the resident asks for the PC to put these up by around autumn at suitable sites on PC land. For all concerned this effort has been about giving something back to the community. An instruction list was provided by the resident on how they should be erected.

Cllr Styles thought this was an opportune moment to repeat his view regarding the ‘over-tidying’ of the Lake environs by the contractor’s cutting. He would like to see some ‘no-cut’ areas for flora and fauna.

[Clerk’s note: the matter Cllr Styles raised again was discussed later under items 8].

The chairman thanked the resident and the teens for their presentation and the council will look to having these boxes erected in due course.

The resident and the four teens then left the meeting.

A resident, **Sue Prior**, speaking on behalf of herself and the remaining three other residents who had not spoken, then addressed the council.

(The following notes were handed to the clerk)

Thank you for your support to date on an issue that remains of considerable concern to many residents and organisations that use Rope Yarn Lane.

Chairman’s Initials

This evening I need to first update you on the request to HCC to upgrade the Restricted Byway Application, secondly to ask for an update on the action agreed at the PC meeting on 12 May and lastly, in the light of the clerk's letter to Pauline Wood dated 1 July indicating that no further action by the PC as proposed to request the PC to keep the Rope Yarn Lane on future PC agenda. So far as the designation of application is concerned, Caroline Hoyes wrote a detailed submission to HCC on 2 July requesting the transfer of the Restricted Byway Application from List A to List C. I am pleased to be able to tell you that this application will be placed in List C and given added priority. It will still take a little while for it to be taken up for investigation, but I would imagine it will be within the next year.

Following on from the decision of the PC at their meeting dated 12 May I shall be grateful for your observations on four other aspects please.

The first aspect relates to the continued obstruction of the Rope Yarn Lane. I note from the minutes that Mr Sheerman has been asked to remove the obstructions. Clearly he has not done so.

The Rope Yarn Lane is at the very least a prescriptive right of way obtained after 20 years of unchallenged use.

This is where the continued help of the PC is requested please. It would be helpful if a further letter to Mr Sheerman could be sent stating that it was a prescriptive path a long time before he bought the adjoining land and to reinforce the request to remove the obstructions.

The second aspect is to enquire following the decision of the PC as to what progress has been made in requesting clarification of title from the Land Registry please and to ask what has happened with regard to the request for disclosure of the alleged letter to Mr Sheerman from HCC indicating that he was the land owner.

There is no evidence that Mr Sheerman owns the lane, but even if he does it is subject to ancient rights as a highway, and even if there were no such ancient rights, there are clearly modern prescriptive rights which were obtained well before Mr Sheerman purchased the lane, if he did.

Whilst what is really important is of course establishing rights of way irrespective of ownership it will be helpful if this aspect can be resolved as the landowner might well make some form of declaration / erect signs / attempt to claim that the path isn't prescriptive and we consider that this needs to be nipped in the bud.

Clarification of ownership would also be helpful to the extent that if Mr Sheerman does not own the Rope Yarn Lane then prima facie he is guilty of trespass and local people could trim back the hedgerows that currently restrict use of the trackway.

This leads to the minutes of the last PC meeting. On receipt of the draft minutes (for which I thank you) I wrote to the clerk on the 28 May suggesting that it might be sensible to amend references to 'land owner' to 'adjoining land owner' as at this stage there is no evidence that he is the owner. Such a form of words covers both owners of adjoining land and importantly avoids the creation of a false comfort to Mr Sheerman.

In summary we request the PC to:

- 1). Keep the issue of the Rope Yarn Lane 'live' and support our efforts to escalate the designation of the Rope Yarn Lane as a Restricted Byway.
- 2). Write again to Mr Sheerman reinforcing the request to remove the obstructions.
- 3). Seek disclosure from HCC as to the origin of the alleged letter from them attributing ownership of the Rope Yarn Lane to Mr Sheerman.
- 4). Continue to seek clarification on the issue of ownership from the Land Registry.

Chairman's Initials

5). That the minutes be amended from 'Land Owner' to 'Adjoining Owners' and importantly avoids the creation of a false comfort to Mr Sheerman.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I hand in my notes if this will be of assistance in minute taking.

The chairman thanked the resident and said he would bring item 5.3 forward shortly after the commencement of the Proper Business of the Council.

The Proper Business of the Council then commenced.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Philip Jeffery and Hugo Wurzer.

2. Declarations of Interests: None.

3.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2015 (previously circulated).

Having been already circulated, Cllr Randall proposed that they were a true record and should be signed; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Culley and unanimously agreed by the council.

3.2 Matters arising. None.

The chairman directed that Item 5.3 be brought forward.

5.3 Rope Yarn Lane – Restricted Byway application – Update.

The chairman expressed the view that the parish council cannot do more. The matter, which is the responsibility of HCC, was and is still in their hands, but he is pleased to see that HCC have now escalated the process by placing it on 'List C'.

As Mr Sheerman did not reply to the chairman's request to lift obstructions for the lane, there serves no point in requesting again as the parish council has no powers to do this given that the lane is not a designated highway or has currently an established rights of way.

Cllr Styles, has not been able to process a FOI request through a contact who has familiarity with this process, due to the third party's ill health.

E-mail received on 26 June from HCC Senior Map Review Officer, Countryside Access Team:

"There is claim to have Rope Yarn Lane recorded as a public right of way. It is not currently recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement of public rights of way in Hampshire. The status of 'restricted byway' denotes a public right for the public to pass and re-pass on foot, on or leading a horse, with a bicycle and with a horse drawn vehicle. A restricted byway is not open to public motorised vehicles. As this route is not currently recorded on the Definitive Map, the County Council will not be taking any action against the landowner, who has been warned that, if restricted byway rights are recorded when the application is determined, the route will have to be opened up to the public and be free of obstructions."

The remaining members of the public then left the meeting.

The meeting then resumed the order of the agenda

Chairman's Initials

4. Borough & County Councillor Reports.

Cllr Thacker arrived during Cllr Falconer's report

4.1 BDBC Cllr Falconer gave his report

- a). He has been in contact with Sovereign's Housing Officer, Donna Ind, and is to have a 'walkabout' their estate with her in September.
- b). There is to be a Broadband Seminar on 24 July at 9.30am in St Mary Bourne, organised by Kit Malthouse MP, for interested parties from across the North West Hants constituency with officers from HCC and BT, etc.
- c). Local Plan remains on track for May 2016
- d). Many Highways responsibilities show inconsistencies as regards who has responsibility for different stretches within the borough for the A34/A303/M3
- e). Planning: LY planning process has been good but there have been some issues regarding the S106 process.

Cllr Styles raised the issue of Planning as regards Premier, the developer at Stud Farm, and the use of inferior tiles, which are now causing some householders problem. This is an issue to take up with Premier, not Planning.

4.2 HCC Tom Thacker gave his report.

a). Future funding in Hampshire:

I brought Hampshire County Council's future funding options consultations to the attention of the parish clerks in my division early last month. The county council is facing an anticipated funding shortfall of £98 million by April 2017, due mainly to continued reductions in central government grants.

The consultation, which closed Monday, asked about Hampshire's approach to setting council tax levels and use of its reserves, and options for different ways of delivering services more efficiently and at lower cost.

The findings from the consultation will now be considered by the county council in October 2015 when decisions are made on the money available from the years 2016-2018, and will be followed, where necessary, by a series of more specific consultations later this year.

b). Broadband:

I have been informed that HCC officers will be presenting at the Broadband meeting in the village hall on 24th; I also plan to attend.

c). Riparian Owners Meeting:

Following the meeting in the village hall last week, I am asking for Tor Peebles of Hampshire County Flood management, and the Environment Agency, to explicitly clarify what riparian owners may and may not do to clear vegetation in the rivulet, as part of the SMB Flood plan, as I believe what was said at the meeting conflicts with what some owners understand their rights and responsibilities to be.

Chairman's Initials

d). St Mary Bourne Roads:

Egbury Road has previously been submitted for resurfacing and haunching under Operation Resilience and includes the formalisation of some passing bays within the bid. Unfortunately, there is not available funding to get this scheme onto planned schemes programme for 2015/16; the funding situation for 2016/17 for Operation Resilience is uncertain.

As an alternative, highways management plans to submit the passing bays for inclusion as a possible 2016/17 Minor Capital Works scheme for the Members' Workshop. Each of the schemes going before Members will be assessed against consistent criteria and we will be able to input our own priorities and recommendations to the process. This meeting takes place in the autumn and I will inform the parish council, whether or not this project bid is successful.

Cllr Thacker then raised the issue of **Rope Yarn Lane** from which he had had some correspondence from some parishioners. He started that the HCC Senior Map Review Officer, Countryside Access Team, would be following the process of determining whether a ROW can be made as well as giving this lane a Restricted Byway status.

5. Items for discussion:

5.1 Bell's Field development — Update

The chairman advised that he would be meeting very soon with the developer's site manager to discuss and agree on some practical matters including site access by large vehicles through the parish, the parking of all construction vehicles off highways, a prohibition on parking of vehicles associated with the construction on the Recreation Ground hardstanding, and the likely start date.

The clerk today had first sight of the Deed of Agreement under S106 for Land at Bell's Field dated 6 July 2015. This agreement includes S106 payments for 'the cost of providing, running and maintaining open space in the locality of the site' and 'the cost of providing, running and maintaining equipped play provision in the locality of the site'.

5.2 Flooding and Emergency Group (FEG) – Updates.

A meeting organised by the Parish Council, the Environment Agency and HCC took place before an invited audience of Riparian Owners on 9 July

The agenda was as follows:

- 1 Introductions and Background
- 2 Riparian Owners Legal Responsibilities
- 3 Measures to alleviate the risk of flooding in the future - identification of pinch points and elimination where possible
- 4 Longitudinal Survey by EA
- 5 What these findings might mean to riparian owners – work needed to river bed etc.
- 6 On-going maintenance of the river bed and working with natural processes
- 7 Questions

A report on the meeting is in preparation and will be presented at the next Full Council Meeting in August.

The EA will be commencing the longitudinal survey of The Bourne during this week.

A senior HCC emergency planning officer will be meeting with the FEG on 18 September at 3pm.

A proposal to extend the pipe from the High Street (which currently outfalls above the Summerhaugh) to outfall below the Summerhaugh Bridge will be followed up by the EA with the joint steering group of EA/HCC.

Chairman's Initials

EA will have available flood barriers to divert or contain flooding.

Stats as regards Bourne and Groundwater levels:

From measures supplied by Clem Jones (1 July 2015) and Sara Cooney – Stoke (7 July 2015) the situation is as follows:

St Mary Bourne Flood Risk Summary

Date	1/7/15	Status	All levels are down with the river falling quite quickly
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Note 1.

The measures at the Vernham Dean Bore Hole and the gauge at Holdway Cottage are from the ground base and are depth of water.

Note 2.

The measure in the Summerhaugh well is the space between the kitchen floor and the top of the water. This is effectively the ground water level at this point in the valley.

Location	This month	Last month	Comments
Vernham Dean Bore	Not available	102.0	
Well at Valley Farm, Stoke	198cm	152m	River down
Springs at Stoke	River flowing	River flowing	
Gauge at Holdway	8cm	21cm	
Spring at Holdway	Dry	Trickling	
Well at Summerhaugh	108cm	93cm	

Valley Farm well measurement – July 7th 2015:

The river has disappeared in the centre of Stoke now

2014	Cm	Delta	Comments
1/10/14	196	n/a	Springs up in field
1/11/14	237	-41	Springs down
1/12/14	219	18	Springs down
19/12/14	191	28	Springs up in the field
2015	Cm	Delta	Comments
1/1/15	164	27	Springs up in field
16/1/15	131	44	Springs up in field
2/2/15	120	11	River flowing
2/3/15	122	-2	River flowing
8/4/15	127	-5	River flowing
7/6/15	152	-25	River flowing
7/7/15	198	-46	River down

5.3 Rope Yarn Lane – Restricted Byway application – Update.

This item was minuted following item 3.1 / 3.2.

Chairman's Initials

Cllr Thacker then left the meeting.

5.4 Black Garden – Asset of Community Value nomination – Update.

E-mail received on 15 June from BDBC Facilities Provision Officer, Health and Wellbeing Team

“I will hopefully be sending out letters this afternoon following a meeting with the newly appointed portfolio holder this afternoon.

Following the elections, and the appointment of our new cabinet last week, responsibilities for the assets of community value process have changed and they now sit under the portfolio holder for Communities, Service Delivery and Improvement.

Once he has endorsed the process I will continue the ball rolling.”

5.5 Receive and discuss suggestions for other items of potential for Asset of Community Value nomination.

A number of suggestions had been made by two councillors.

The clerk reminded the council that should such a registration for a particular asset be successful it simply places a 6m hold on any sale, does not guarantee that the PC or an interest-group would be sold the asset, not that funding would be assured. It would also have to meet criteria that the village would otherwise not have. For example, an application to have the former Coronation Arms registered to keep as a pub would be unlikely to be granted as there are already four other public houses in the parish.

The council agreed to park this matter until further notice.

5.6 Sovereign Housing – Survey of tenants / leaseholders as regards grounds maintenance and repairs – Update.

On 7 July the clerk forwarded the results of the above survey to Sovereign Housing:

“The PC has recently been receiving enquiries from some tenants and leaseholders expressing frustration regarding the service levels they have been receiving regarding grounds maintenance and / or repairs.

The PC decided to conduct a short survey of what we believe to be all your estate within the parish (via a letterbox drop) and invited them to give their views on Sovereign's service levels.

I attach the original letter that was sent with the survey, a blank survey form and the 11 responses (with redaction on names and addresses) we had received. NB:2 of the responses were two pages long, hence responses 6 & 11 have an a & b attachment for each page.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge this e-mail in the first instance.

With regards to grounds maintenance of frontages, this parish council has an excellent contractor who looks after all our grounds promptly and efficiently and the PC would be happy to discuss further with you the PC taking on some of this maintenance on a regular basis through the year, as it is clearly not working, given what the council and I can see from the street.

We had 11 returns.

Chairman’s Initials

Of these four were about grounds maintenance issues. One of the respondees was also replying on behalf of a neighbour as well as herself, as her neighbour is 99 and blind.

Another was from a non-Sovereign tenant who has concerns about grounds maintenance issues with his next door Sovereign tenant.

Four were about home maintenance and repair issues regarding their homes.

Another was not specific about issues but simply described the service as 'very poor'.

And finally one was complimentary about your service.

The PC would be grateful if you could revisit your own logged repair and maintenance issues at St Mary Bourne Parish and assure us that what appear to be genuine concerns are being addressed."

On 8 July the clerk received the following reply from Sovereign Housing's Housing Officer:

"This is to confirm that I have received your email and attached comments regarding the service level of Sovereign Housing Association.

I would kindly ask that any future complaints that are received by the Parish regarding our land and/or properties be forwarded to Sovereign directly so that they can be processed through our complaints team and dealt appropriately.

As I do not have the addresses of some of the residents who made the comments it is difficult to establish the problems, but can inform you that I recently did an estate walkabout in St Mary Bourne and have addressed some of our residents untidy gardens as they are directly responsible for them as part of their tenancy agreement, and so far I have completed an application with an elderly resident for our nurture scheme and written to another to advise them of their responsibility for their garden which I followed up with a visit and the garden has now been tidied.

I have now forwarded your email to the current area surveyor, Frank McHale, who will be addressing the issues raised regarding ground maintenance and repairs and will correspond with you directly.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss any other issues that you may have and am currently working on an estate improvement for the Batsford area and recently spoken with [BDBC] Cllr Falconer about joining me for [a] future estate walkabout.

I would be grateful if you would forward email for the Hampshire Regional panel so that I may pass a copy of my response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries."

On 8 July the clerk replied to Sovereign's Housing Officer:

"Thank you for your reply.

Prior to this survey (and the forwarding to you of issues raised by some of your tenants / leaseholders), I, as clerk, had been receiving unsolicited representations from Sovereign tenants / leaseholders either directly or through parish councillors, which I have raised on their behalf through your notifications system.

At the last Full Council Meeting of St Mary Bourne Parish Council on 9 June the following was minuted:

Chairman's Initials

Cllr Randall asked for pressure to be put on Sovereign Housing to attend to various issues including state of properties, repairs and grounds maintenance.*

Cllr Styles suggested, as in any contact with an organisation that is not responding (or even acknowledging request and queries) to go to 'the top' and write to CEOs*

**(Clerk's note: this was as a result of a claim that some tenants were not receiving a response to complaints they had made themselves directly).*

The clerk was asked to prepare a letter to tenants / occupiers of Sovereign Housing in the parish and ask them to supply details of issues they have. **The clerk** mentioned he had a tenant visit today who has concerns about grounds maintenance around her home and her neighbours. The clerk will follow-up with Sovereign directly and remind them that public areas they have a responsibility for should be maintained.** The council declined the clerk's suggestion to direct the PC's Ground's Maintenance contractor to do a 'quick-cut'. It is Sovereign's responsibility.

*** (Clerk's note: This was raised by the clerk on 11 June with Sovereign and acknowledged by Sovereign).*

I am pleased to see that you have been recently engaging with your estate in St Mary Bourne and trust that tenants and leaseholders are pleased that issues / problems will be / have been addressed. I was reluctant to pass on personal details of respondees as I had not sought to have their permission to pass these on. However, I would be happy to engage with your area surveyor on a case by case basis after I have sought individual permission from your tenants / leaseholders to give address details.

I will update the PC as regards your reply to the survey and will also inform them about your update regarding Batsford."

The clerk on 9 July was passed correspondence from the Headmaster of SMB School (undated) to Cllr Styles regarding the schools wholehearted support for a parking initiative with Sovereign Housing land close to the school.

5.7 Request by clerk to have PC replaced and data restored / cleaned up by our retained IT support. Performance is starting to impact on clerk's deliverables. Clerk to suggest outage whilst he is on two week's annual leave in August.

The council unanimously agreed to this.

6. Finance

6.1 Lloyds Bank Cheque Signing mandate — Update.

No written reply has been received from Lloyds following the Clerk's warning letter to the bank of the 9 June for the bank to confirm that the nine elected councillors are the only signatories as regards cheque signing. The clerk HAD received a voice-mail message from a Lloyds manager who left a contact number which is the same as the regular telephone banking number ie a call centre and an operative reading from a script. This form of contact was not requested and has proved frustrating in the past. The clerk awaits written confirmation for what he had requested.

6.2 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations paper — Update.

The clerk has not been able to give this matter his attention. The following was agreed:

The clerk to prepare a draft new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations paper for the August Full Council Meeting to consider with a view to resolving on it at a special parish council meeting immediately prior to the September Full Council meeting.

Chairman's Initials

The clerk to present the 2014 Governance and Accountability Manual to the council in July and ensure that its contents are reflected in the PC's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

From this the Financial and other risks assessments must be subject to annual review, update and formal re-adoption.

The six month review of spending, income and budget for 2015/16 will need to take place in September too.

6.3 Lengthsman Funding – Update.

Thanks to the requested intervention of HCC Cllr Thacker the funding for 11 parish councils comprising the North West Hants cluster was confirmed on the 18 June. The clerk gave the 'green light' to the 10 associate councils to start sending in their work orders for July onwards.

As at 7 July the funds had not arrived in the PC's bank accounts. The clerk raised a chaser enquiry the same day. On 13 July the clerk received confirmation that the payments are now about to be made. Other than SMB PC's own Lengthsman work orders, this PC is not due to pay out to the Lengthsman on behalf of any of the 10 associate councils until 11 August.

6.4 Monthly accounts – July

Account	Amount	
Treasurers Account	758.57	
Investment Account	37,670.88	#1
Petty Cash Account	4.49	
Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit	20,000.00	
Less un-presented cheques	515.28	#2
Closing Balance	57,918.66	#1

#1 Balance in Investment Account & Closing Balance includes balance of - **£0.61** of **Neighbourhood Plan Funds** (drawn from £4,240.00 grant payment from the Community Development Fund (CDF) and balance of grant payment from CDF of £470.50) and - **£40.00** of **Lengthsman grant from HCC** (drawn from £9,000 grant payment for 2014/15) held on behalf of nine associate parish and town councils. There is an overspend by Hurstbourne Priors PC of £40.00 which is being claimed by SMB PC on the associate council

#2 Not cleared: Chq 2417 HMRC

Payments made since the Full Council Meeting on 9 June 2015:

Payee	Cheque No	Amount
JW (UK) Ltd (Jubilee Lamp service and repair)	2416	336.00
HMRC PAYE Q1 2015/16	2417	515.28
Total		851.28

Above payments were agreed at the Planning Committee meeting on 23 June 2015.

Receipts reported since the Full Council Meeting on 9 June 2015 (into Business Investment A/C):

Chairman's Initials

Source	Date	Amount
BDBC Litter Grant 2015/16	1/6/15	1,014.00
Bank interest	9/6/15	1.37
Priors Players (repayment of conditional grant)	26/6/15	500.00
BDBC Litter Grant balance 2015/16	29/6/15	15.60
TOTAL		1,530.97

CDFG for Neighbourhood Plan, as at 31/5/15 held by SMB PC, in Business Investment a/c.

Item	Payments In	Payments Out	Date	Balance
b/f				- 0.61
c/f				- 0.61

Lengthsman funds, as at 31/5/15 held by SMB PC, in Business Investment a/c, on behalf of the nine associate town and parish councils.

Item	Payments In	Payments Out	Date	Balance
b/f #3				- 40.00
c/f #3				- 40.00

#3 Hurstbourne Priors had overspent by £40.00 their grant amount for 2014/15. This overspend has been covered by an invoice raised on 1 April to Hurstbourne Priors and payment remains still outstanding.

The payment of HCC grant for 2015/16, claimed by SMB PC via invoice on 1/4/2015 for £10k + commission, remains outstanding.

The further payment of HCC grant, claimed by SMB PC, to cover Overton PC joining on 22/4/15 for £1k + commission, remains outstanding.

Chairman's Initials

Payments Due at Meeting:

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount
Derek Kane (salary)	2418	645.56
Derek Kane (travel expenses)	2419	9.02
Derek Kane (petty cash transfer)	2420	10.00
VOID#4	2421	xxxx
VOID#4	2422	xxxx
VOID#4	2423	xxxx
Premier Grounds (Grounds Maint)	2424	852.50
Premier Grounds (Lengthsman services for SMB)	2425	160.00
St Mary Bourne Village Centre	2426	20.00
Diane Malley (payroll)	2427	29.00
Southern Water (12/14-6/15)	2428	124.55
Vita Play Ltd (repair to multi play unit – Stoke)	2429	546.00
Anton Visual (binding of LYS minutes)	2430	3.30
St Mary Bourne Village Shop (electricity for Defibrillator cabinet 2015/16)	2431	6.00
Total		2,405.93

#4 Cheques written with errors (subsequently covered by cheques 2424, 2425 & 2426). The cheques have been marked VOID, rendered unusable and retained in cheque book for auditor to inspect.

Invoices raised since last Full Council Meeting:

To	Inv No.	Dated	Amount
BDBC (balance of Litter Grant for 2015/16) #5	7/15	12/6/15	15.60
D Scrase (Q2 Fishing 2015/16)	8/15	1/7/15	720.00
Total			735.60

#5 The clerk was advised by e-mail on 9 June 2015 that the 2015/16 Litter grant has been revised from the previously advised £1,014.00 to £1,029.60 to conform to minimum wage level changes on 1 Oct 2015. The latest grant level was reflected in the Q1 payment to Mr Tarrant paid on 9 June 2015.

Provision for a **£500 buffer** for any unforeseen expenses incurred before the next Full Council Meeting on 11 August needs to be provided for.

It was agreed to transfer **£2,700.00** from the Business Investment account to the Treasurers account to meet the payments that had been proposed by the clerk.

The acceptance of the **reconciled** accounts up to 30 June 2015 was proposed by Cllr Grunsell and seconded by Cllr Culley and unanimously agreed by the council.

7. Planning:

7.1.1 Report from Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2015 (previously circulated).

Chairman's Initials

7.1.2 Matters arising from the Report: None.

7.2 Planning Applications for discussion at meeting: None.

7.3 Trees – Notices of Intent:

T/00230/15/TCA – SMB Primary School – Fell two sycamores.

No objection.

7.4 Advice of Planning Applications considered by BDBC: None. (see also Item 5.1)

7.5 Planning applications withdrawn to be noted: None.

7.6 Planning appeals: None.

7.7 Compliance: None.

7.8 Other parish councils' planning matters: None.

7.9 Other Planning matters:

7.9.1 BDBC – Local Plan Examination pre-hearing 21 July 2015 – deadline to attend: 17 July 2015.

7.9.2 BDBC – Local Plan Examination public hearing starting 6 October 2015 (duration 6 weeks) – deadline to attend: 4 September 2015

8. Recreation Ground and Lake:

8.1.1 Report of Recreation Ground and Lake Issues 13 April to 10 July: not available.

There were no issues of note not already covered at this meeting.

8.1.2 Matters arising from the Report: not applicable.

Cllr Styles raised the matter of the 'over-tidying' of the Lake environs by the contractor's cutting. He would like to see some 'no-cut' areas for flora and fauna.

The contractor is down for one cut just before the flower show and another later this summer.

The chairman offered to walk the lake environs with Cllr Styles and a representative from the Fishing Club to discuss further. The clerk will also note Cllr Styles for the annual Lake meeting in Feb/March.

8.2.1 Litter bin by pavilion – overfill – update:

The clerk e-mailed the Cricket Club Chairman on 6 July:

"Last week I had a complaint from a resident who thought our grounds maintenance contractors were not emptying the above bin, as the bin was stuffed right up to the top. The bin indeed, on me checking, was 'stuffed to the top' and other residents, rather than disposing of poo-bags in the other rec litter bins that were not to capacity, saw fit to squeeze them in to the above bin too!

I assured the resident that the bins are emptied weekly and I checked with our grounds contractor that it would again be emptied before the weekend, which indeed it was as has always been the case since our contractor has held the contract.

Chairman's Initials

Whilst the PC would not wish to discourage use of litter bins for small amounts of rubbish like ice lolly wrappers and sticks, sweet wrappers, cigarette packets and cans and small bottles, it would appear, that again, on me checking last night (Sunday), that whilst the other two bins on the Rec are no more than a third full after a week-end, the one by the Pavilion is again 'stuffed to the top'.

Can you find another solution to the disposal of any bulky rubbish the club may have after matches? The best solution would be to take bulky items such as 2 ltr PET bottles plus cardboard, boxes and trays back home for disposal in domestic BDBC wheelie bins and glass bottles to the bottle bank by the shop."

The chairman of the SMB CC had replied that he would speak to the teams.

The council agreed that the clerk should source an extra litter bin for this part of the recreation ground.

8.2.2 Request from a resident for an extra litter bin on the Recreation Ground

The clerk received an e-mail from a resident on 2 July:

"With the school holidays approaching, would you be willing to place a rubbish bin at the far end of the Recreation Ground?"

The youngsters gather there, dropping their litter in this area, a perennial problem I know, but if there was a strategically placed bin, they might just use it!"

The council agreed to the clerk sourcing another bin IF it is deemed necessary. The clerk will liaise with Premier Grounds as to whether there is an issue here.

8.2.3 Discuss and resolves to step-up frequency of litter bin emptying around Recreation Ground to two per week during Summer School Holidays.

In 2014 the clerk noted that during the summer school holidays the litter bins around the Rec were often full after a week-end. There was a noticeable increase in families and youngsters picnic'ing during the week.

The clerk to liaise with Premier Grounds and if deemed necessary to step-up frequency of emptying.

8.2.4 Clerk advised by grounds contractor or /and residents of broken pallets on recreation ground (placed by youngsters for play), throwing of stones by other youngsters on to surface causing potential damage to his cutting equipment and planks of wood with sticking out nails left outside Pavilion.

Noted.

[Clerk's post meeting note: Apparently planks are still there or/and there are additional planks].

8.3 Stoke Multiplay unit now repaired. Noted.

8.4 (not on agenda): War Memorial. Some councillors reported that the garden does not look good. The clerk to expedite with Premier Grounds a tidy-up. It was felt that a more dedicated gardening service be obtained. Clerk to cost and advice. The clerk advised that Premier Grounds currently do an early spring tidy-up, a summer tidy-up and then a Remembrance Sunday tidy-up. They have also responded to requests if there is to be a specific event at the memorial at other times of year.

Chairman's Initials

9. Item of Correspondence to be circulated:

9.1 English Rural Housing Association: ‘Your affordable rural homes need your support’ – re newly elected Government policy to extend Right to Buy from Housing Associations.

9.2 HCC (via HALC): Armed Forces Flag Day.

Clerk to investigate flag pole workings and procurement of Union Flag.

9.3 Commemorative benches for WW2 and WW1. Noted. Generally the style offered on sale was not considered suitable for the parish

9.4 Police: Neighbourhood PCSO Abbey Carpenter’s report. Noted.

The clerk advised the Police (through 101) on 24 June 2015 that one of the metal benches on the Rec had been pulled up from the ground. The clerk suggests that all acts of vandalism and resultant criminal damage should be reported to the police via 101 when observed by residents or/and reported to the clerk.

Cllr Henderson has made good the refitting of the bench into the ground.

10. HALC/BDAPTC/SLCC/Training & Conferences Reports:

10.1 HALC: Workplace pensions – auto-enrolling: update. Noted.

10.2 HALC: E-update for July. Noted.

10.3 NALC: Survey on Council Tax Collection Fund (for larger councils and town councils) – info only. Noted.

10.4 (not on agenda): **HALC:** extension of deadline for Village of the Year entries to 31 July.

11. Footpaths:

11.1.1 Report on Footpaths Issues 13 April to 10 July: not available.

There were no issues of note not already covered at this meeting.

11.1.2 Matters arising from the Report. not applicable.

11.2 HCC: Countryside Access Small Grants scheme: deadlines: 27 July and 26 October. Noted.

12. Highways/Transport/Services:

12.1.1 Report of Highways/Transport/Services Issues 13 April to 10 July: not available.

There were no issues of note not already covered at this meeting.

12.1.2 Matters arising from the Report: not applicable.

Chairman’s Initials

12.2 Response from Hants Highways (16/6) on various o/s Highways issues.

E-mail received from Hants Highways:

“I would make the following comments on the issues that you’ve highlighted, but I would say that because of the cutbacks in funding this year ,we are only carrying out work on issues which are considered to be safety defects .

Stoke House – Stakes. I’ve spoken to the occupiers of the property & explained that the stakes shouldn’t be on the highway & that if there were to be an accident that they could be liable, but I wouldn’t intend to remove the stakes unless there is a particular issue .

War Memorial – Directional Sign. We’ve received no response from the occupiers of the Lodge to messages left as we need to discuss the proposed new location of the sign ,before it can be moved .

Stoke – Directional Sign. The sign will not be replaced this financial year, but I will arrange for the post be painted .

Stevens Green – Build up verge for over-ride by HGV’s .I regret we will not be able to fund this financial year .

Gateways/Speed Limits .This is an issue for Traffic & Transport & I have copied [them] in on this reply.

Bourne Hill – Concrete grip. I’ll get this reinstated.

Derrydown – Drainage. When the resident requests, I will get the system jetted .

Stoke Hill - Gullies. I’ll get the debris cleared off of the gullies.”

12.3 Response from Hants Highways (2/7) on Egbury Road tarmac /pull-ins request.

E-mail received from Hants Highways:

“Egbury Road is one of the many sites we have previously submitted for resurfacing/haunching under Operation Resilience. As previously indicated we included the formalisation of some passing bays within that bid. Unfortunately, to date, there have been higher priority sites in need of treatment and the available funding has not stretched as far as getting this scheme onto the planned schemes programme. There is definitely no available funding in my 2015/16 budgets which are already under great pressure.

The funding situation for 2016/17 as far as Operation Resilience goes is uncertain so I’m therefore trying another tack in tandem. I will submit the passing bays for inclusion as a possible 2016/17 Minor Capital Works scheme for the autumn Members Workshop. There is one such scheme in the 2015/16 programme and already a similar scheme has been submitted for consideration this autumn also. Each of the schemes going before Members will be assessed against consistent criteria and Members will be able to input their own priorities and recommendations to the process. The funding available varies between years and typically somewhere between 2 & 5 schemes/year/District or Borough area are constructed. In 2015/16 only 2 could be funded in Basingstoke

I hope that this helps explain what is being done to try to help this issue but I cannot guarantee funding will be allocated from either source.”

Chairman’s Initials

12.4 HCC – Comments invited on proposed 40mph limit on Egbury Road from existing 30 limit to a few yards east of the PYO entrance.

General approval although it would be better to have the limit up to the Jamiaca Farm ‘gateway’. It was noted that there were some anomalies on the traffic stats given by HCC. Clerk to reply to HCC.

12.5 (not on agenda) **High Street jetting.** Clerk was asked to check with Hants Highways if this has happened.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman, St. Mary Bourne Parish Council.

Date _____

Chairman’s Initials