KING'S SOMBORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Epworth Hall

These minutes are draft until resolved as accurate at, usually, the following Full Council meeting.

Present:

Cllr G Searle (Chair)
Cllr Brock
Cllr I Beacham
Cllr T Dunger
Cllr A Jaggard
Cllr M Qassim
Cllr R Webb
Cllr N Gilbert
Cllr I Younger

Absent: Cllr Hughes

In Attendance: B/Cllr Ian Jeffrey
J Dudley Clerk to King's Somborne Parish Council

Also present: No public present.

24/278/FC	**Public Session** No public present.
24/279/FC	**To receive the reports from County Councillor David Drew, Borough Councillor Ian Jeffrey & Police** Cllr Ian Jeffery gave his reports: a) A meeting is to be held on the 7th of March at Longstock Village Hall to discuss the public consultation of the local plan. Cllr Jeffery recommends a councillor attends. b) The defibrillator at the village hall and The Crown Inn has been updated. c) The warm hub cinema has two more dates left before the warmer weather returns (4th March and 25th March). d) An Anti-social behaviour fund is being provided for assistance with ABS issues. To apply for a bid contact the engagement officer for safety apilley@testvalley.gov.uk. **Action: Clerk to ask for Guidance on the Anti-social behaviour fund.** Cllr Searle addressed Cllr Jeffery on the issues with the proposed housing development plan from Shorewood Homes. There is currently a big demand for two-bedroom homes within the parish which the plan does not reflect. Where is the demand for one-bedroom homes and how is that more sustainable? The village needs affordable homes based on need not more private homes. Cllr Jeffery's response was that he will contact Sarah Barter to address the questions the council have asked. Cllr Beacham asked Cllr Jeffery if he could offer any clarification on policy 13 (heavy goods movements through designated routes) from the minerals and waste plan. **Action: Cllr Beacham to email his query to Cllr Jeffery for further clarification.**

	Cllr David Drew gave his reports: a) Firstly, Cllr Drew agreed with the council, there is in fact a great need for two-bedroom homes within the community. b) Hampshire County Council sets out £2.6bn spending plans for local services in 2024/25. c) Last week saw National Apprenticeship Week (5 to 11 February), Hampshire County Council is hosting 'Skills for Business' sessions at a range of venues as well as online to help employers grow their business and secure employment opportunities for residents. Hampshire County Council is keen to support young adults gain employment oppurtunities. d) 20mph policy introduced by HCC. The decision will introduce a policy which allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area where measures are implemented to reduce speed. However, the purchase of the signs itself would be self-funded but the county would instruct the signs to be fitted. Cllr Beacham mentioned an ideal location for a restriction would be along Vicarage Lane by the post office. e) Advice for residents including how to keep warm at home this winter, can be found on the County Council website. f) Hampshire County Council is inviting community organisations to apply this month for a share of £285,000 to help local people cope with the cost of living. There is £300 left in the pot and this will be the final opportunity for Hampshire groups to apply for grants from the government's Household Support Fund, with the application window open until 26 January. Cllr Brock asked Cllr Drew for an update on the railings adjacent to the ford. Cllr Drew responsed that he will get back to her once he has checked for an update.
24/280/FC	**Apologies for absence** Cllr Hughes had stated she was likely to be late but, in the end, did not attend.
24/281/FC	**Declarations of interests and Requests for Dispensations** None
24/282/FC	**To approve the Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th January 2024. Proposed by Cllr Searle and seconded by Cllr Jaggard. RESOLVED All members present agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the above meeting.
24/283/FC	**To Review the Resolved Actions List from the Meeting held 8th January** The clerk read out the list. Minute 24/235/FC to create a risk assessment for volunteers clearing the Bourne is outstanding, Cllr Brock to complete after the meeting with Southern Water on the 22nd of February. **Action:** Clerk to prepare action list for this meeting
24/284/FC	**Allotments** – Cllr Searle reported that he was invited to a meeting last Thursday with Sarah Barter, Shorewood Homes and the Allotment Association. The meeting was useful, one proposal was heard to not use the top of the field at the site and it was agreed this was not good enough and the issues with the ground need to be put right. Cllr Searle has sent notes of the meeting to the Allotment Association and will forward to the rest of the councillors.
24/285/FC	**To consider** a grant application from the Somborne Players

	RESOLVED to award the Somborne Players £500. Proposed: Cllr Beacham, seconded Cllr Brock. All agreed. **Action: Cllr Jaggard to ask for clarification on the financial reserves held.**
24/286/FC	**Planning:** To receive the **Minutes of the Planning Committee** meeting held 8th January. RESOLVED. All members present agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the above meeting. Cllr Webb verbally reported the decisions made by the committee earlier on in the evening. Cllr Webb mentioned that an invitation is to be sent to the planning consultant to come speak to members of the Council, given residents feelings towards the development at Muss Lane.
24/287/FC **a** **b**	**To receive the RFO's Financial reports** To approve the Payment of the Accounts and sign the bank reconciliation 31st January. Cllr Jaggard queried why Liz Manship the former clerk to the council, had be paid a one-off sum of £10 last month. The Clerk explained it was for a redirection of post. **Resolved** The Payment of the Accounts and bank reconciliations 1st to 31st January were approved and signed. To ratify the payment to Earth Anchors for £152.00 (inc VAT) Proposed: Cllr Jaggard Second: Cllr Brock All Agreed
24/288/FC	**To ratify** the instruction made to Fergies Landscapes (Native Rural Contractors for work in the sum of £1,997 plus VAT, for Shoots Along the Routes scheme with HCC RESOLVED to approve payment. Cllr Searl reported the trees are in and the hedge has been completed. Cllr Searl confirmed the job was done to a high standard. Cllr Searle also mentioned that one of the elm trees that was planted had already been pulled at the stake and as a result is leaning over to one side. **Action: Cllr Searle to support the tree with cable ties.** Cllr Younger suggested a CCTV camera could be installed in a bid to deter vandalism. It was suggested that the council could apply for grant money to cover some of the camera.
24/289/FC	**To consider** quotes from three tarmac companies It was decided to defer this item to next months meeting due to only receiving two quotes out of three back in time. Cllr Searle proposed it is possible to use the money saved in the charity commission towards the work and then close the charity down as the charity is currently serving no real purpose and is essentially just added paperwork.

	Action: Cllr Jaggard to look at the charity commission file for clarification on the procedure of closing it down.
24/290/FC	**To receive** update on generator status Cllr Dunger reported that he had met with the contractor and work on the generator was completed. An electric point was put in along with a new battery and charger. The generator failed to start at first but did eventually go when kick started. Cllr Dunger suggested a fuel change of 25 litres at the cost of around £40. Cllr Dunger will implement a regime to regularly start the generator to maintain its reliability. Cllr Younger suggested the fuel could be kept in a container and regularly topped up however Cllr Dunger is confident it just needs to be started often as it hasn't been run for a long time. Cllr Beacham suggested easy start could be used. It was agreed Cllr Dunger will use a higher grade of petrol. Cllr Dunger also reported that he had some difficulty with the gate at the village hall due to the hinge which had to be moved for the gate to shut. Cllr Beacham will pass this information onto the village hall.
24/291/FC	**To consider** maintenance work to the Yew tree outside the church and the overgrown hedgerow at the entrance to Up Somborne Rec Due to the Yew tree being inside the conservation area, the council decided more information was needed to be able to inform a decision. **Action: Cllr Brock to carry out a site visit.** The Council heard that the hedge bordering the road to the right of the entrance to the Up Somborne rec needs maintenance. The Council decided to agree based on obtaining more detail.
24/292/FC	**To consider** quotes from three container companies and to receive quote from Traditional Brick Work for the building of the foundations for approval RESOLVED to purchase the container from Cleveland Containers as the company was the most competitive in price (£2,830 including VAT and transport cost). Proposed by Cllr Dunger, seconded Cllr Jaggard Cllr Searle reported that the clerk contacted the planning officer at TVBC to ask if the council needs to an apply for a lawful development certificate to site the container on the scout premises. The response was that the container can be sited without the certificate, but the onus would be on the parish council, not Test Valley. Cllr Searle remains confident that it is in fact lawful according to the original deeds. The clerk reported the quote was received from Traditional Brick work for laying the foundation the container will sit on. RESOLVED to approve up to £2,000 which includes the forklift hire. **Action: Clerk to circulate Traditional Brickwork quote for approval.**
24/293/FC	**To receive an update** regarding planning consent from the playing field association and their response to permission The Clerk reported that she had contacted Fields in Trust to seek permission for siting the container on the scout premises. However, the container doesn't require consent, but they did make a note of it for their records.

24/294/FC	**To receive an update** on bulb planting and the involvement of the children from the school/preschool Cllr Jaggard reported that because of a delay in response from the school/ preschool, the snowdrops, daffodils, and bluebells are all planted due to the bulbs beginning to sprout. However, there are still bulbs left to plant. Cllr Jaggard suggested it would be a good idea to create a plan for what needs to be done to get to fields in bloom status. Cllr Beacham reported he had done his own small survey of the road that suggested a zebra crossing was needed near the school. Cllr Beacham expressed concerns that a zebra crossing would in fact cause more trouble and add to the traffic problem during school drop off and pick up time. Cllr Younger mentioned that a path was built leading from the village hall car park to the school to ease the traffic problem, however was informed this is not utilized. Cllr Beacham suggested himself and Cllr Jaggard have a meeting together with the head teacher at the school to talk about planting the rest of the flowers and the school's travel plan. **Action: Clerk to email the head teacher to arrange a meeting.**
24/295/FC	**To receive an update** of the issues facing the preschool in respect of the exterior walls Cllr Searle reported Tony Ward is on the case to resolve the issue and is currently in talks with the manufacturers of the building. **Action: Cllr Beacham to ask the village hall committee for an update.**
24/296/FC	**To consider** purchasing new padlocks for the playground and the gate at Palace Farm Cllr Searle reported there has been issues where padlocks are disappearing at the playground, on the gate of the John O Gaunt field and at the skate ramp. Mick Rebbeck has already replaced the skate ramp with a new padlock. Cllr Searle has come up with an idea to use a welded box that would sit over the hasp and the key be stored underneath. Peter Storey suggested to ask Mike Ellis to produce three boxes for the above locations. The Council unanimously agree that the boxes are worth trying due to stolen padlocks becoming a regular occurrence. Cllr Qassim asked for clarification on why these areas are locked. Cllr Searle clarified the padlocks are used so that no one unauthorised can grant access to the three fields. The skate ramp is also locked due to being used as storage. **Action: Cllr Searl to instruct Mike Ellis to build.**
24/297/FC	**Clerk's Report:** To receive the Clerk's report (information only) **Playground Inspections** Up Somborne - All the equipment appears to be in good order and clean, and the field is tidy and free of any litter. The only small problem is rabbit holes, but these are not causing any serious concern at present. Kings Somborne Recreation Ground – No issues Muss lane – Cllr Beacham verbally reported that there are no issues but will complete a spreadsheet and send to the clerk going forward. Trim Trail – Cllr Searle to send report this week. The Clerk reported that the accounting year end for the charity commission 31st March 2023 Annual Return was due by 31st January. It will be done during the next training day with Sara Sawyer (Locum), and it'll be flagged up on the Charity Commission website until then for anyone who looks. The Charity Commission has only recently set up the new clerk on the account, so it was not possible to upload the return.

	The clerk received concerns about the ruts appearing on the Up Somborne Field due to the cyclists who rent time on the field using the same circuit at each meeting. **Action: Clerk to write to the cyclist group to ask that they change their circuit at regular intervals and especially during wet weather otherwise there will be a charge.**
24/298/FC	To note items of **Correspondence Received** (information only) • Email received from Tony Knight thanking the Council for the grant to Somborne Neighbourcare group. • Email received from TVBC informing of the local plan. If approved, it will go on to public consultation next month. • Email received from Hampshire Mineral and Waste plan Consultation- The Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Consultation on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has begun.
25/299/FC	To receive **Councillors' Reports and questions** Cllr Brock reported that the University of Southampton wanted to donate £100 to the green project for the Bourne to be able to plant flowers including bluebells and snowdrops. The university must pay into a charity therefor it was decided that it can be paid into the playing field charity. Cllr Beecham reported two burials took place in the last month. **Action: RFO to confirm payment has been made for both plots.** Cllr Jaggard asked if the council owns the small triangle of land at the war memorial, the reason for the question being it is a key area for the village in bloom project. **Action: Clerk to ask Peter Storey which company has previously cleaned the memorial.**
24/300/FC	**Date of next Full Council meeting** The next meeting of Full Council is confirmed as Monday 11th March 2024 at 7pm in the Epworth Hall.
24/301/FC	**Exempt Matters:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public & press to protect the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
24/302/FC	**To discuss** increasing Mick Rebbeck's rate of pay and standardise the rate across all jobs. The Council agreed that Mick Rebbeck's rates should be equal across the board. However, without adequate evidence of his current rates it was agreed to defer to next month's agenda. Action: Clerk to find itemised spreadsheet of Micks rates for all jobs. Clerk to email Peter Storey to ask his opinion on the amount of inflation and if it can be simplified to create the same rate for all tasks. Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

With no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signature (Chair): …… Date:……