

South Mimms Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 6th December 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at South Mimms Village Hall

Present: Councillor Paula Arnold Vice Chair
Councillor Paul Binstead
Councillor Mark Edwards

Miss Rebecca Burdick Clerk
Mrs Julia Reading Previous Locum Clerk

Approx. 15 Members of the Public

Cllr Arnold opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

118/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Yvonne Harverson, in whose absence Cllr Arnold would chair the meeting.

The absence of Cllr Andrew Brewster was noted.

119/18 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

All Councillors decided that they should declare an interest in the Local Plan item minuted below at 124/18.

120/18 NEW PARISH CLERK

Cllr Arnold introduced Miss Rebecca Burdick who had recently been appointed Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. The Councillors and members of the public all welcomed Miss Burdick to the role.

Cllr Arnold thanked Mrs Reading, who had helped the Parish Council as Locum Clerk during a difficult number of weeks before Miss Burdick's appointment, and also Cllr Harverson for the extra time and energy she had devoted to Parish Council matters in the same period.

121/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th October 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

122/18 MATTERS ARISING

Postal address for South Mimms Parish Council

The Clerk asked to look again at this issue which had been discussed at a previous meeting and deferred until her appointment.

- The Clerk suggested that delivery of post to the Village Hall was inadvisable for security and confidentiality factors.
- Members agreed that their preference was still for an address independent of any Clerk's home address.
- Previously, the option of using a PO Box had been set aside on cost grounds. The previous Locum Clerk found the quotations considered in Minute 88/18 and Members agreed that fresh consideration should be given to obtaining a PO Box number from Royal Mail, with items being forwarded automatically to a nominated address.

Brookside Children's Play Park

The previous Locum Clerk reported that a spokesperson for Hertsmere Borough Council Parks/Recreation Team had confirmed that repairs to the play equipment and safety surfaces had been scheduled, but that no completion date was yet available.

Any other matters arising not covered by this agenda

None.

123/18 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Item	Payee	Amount	Cheque	Dated
Remembrance Sunday wreath	M Harverson	£20.00	000301	05/11/2018
Previous Locum clerk, expenses	J Reading	£50.99	000302	06/12/2018
Previous Locum clerk, salary	J Reading	£247.50	000303	25/10/2018
Christmas lights and star for Parish tree	M Harverson	£188.92	000304	06/12/2018
Salary adjustment for H Rook 01/04/2018 – 02/06/2018 (Includes payments to HMRC & the Local Government Pension Scheme)		£73.56	000305 to 000307	06/12/2018

124/18 CONSULTATION ON HERTSMERE LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Edwards reported on his visit to the Wyllyots Centre on 13 November for Hertsmere Borough Council's touring Local Plan exhibition, and circulated maps showing potential sites for housing and employment near South Mimms.

It was emphasised that no decisions or recommendations had yet been taken at any level; the current consultative stage of the Local Plan was still seeking residents' views on sites put forward for consideration by landowners and developers. Not all the sites will need to be allocated for development and it was even possible that no significant development would be earmarked for any area impacting on South Mimms. Comments and opinions from local residents would help the Borough Council to decide which, if any, locations are the most appropriate.

Cllr Edwards foresaw that there would likely be a variety of opinion about the potential sites. For instance, while growth and expansion might be considered by some to have an adverse effect on the quality of the environment, others may welcome potential benefits in terms of infrastructure. He also encouraged residents to question the long-term effects of different types of development. For example, to compare and contrast the obvious and immediate impact of a new estate with planned services, with the perhaps more insidious growth from small infill sites. Each infill would perhaps be regarded of little significance, but over time the strain on infrastructure of a haphazard and multiple number of infills might be worse overall than a single massed development.

What Cllr Edwards, on behalf of the Parish Council, considered to be vital at this stage was for residents to be informed, and make their own individual opinions known to Hertsmere to demonstrate the breadth of keen local interest about any aspect, negative or positive. The deadline for receipt of comments was midnight on 20th December.

Councillors noted that some residents appeared not to have received the information leaflet distributed in late October by Hertsmere Borough Council.

Methods were discussed of getting word out to friends and neighbours, with disappointment expressed that the Parish Newsletter recently distributed made no mention of the Local Plan. The Vice Chair undertook to produce posters for the noticeboards and would ask the church office and two publicans to display copies, and the Clerk would arrange for the Parish Council's website to display the registration and contact information for comments.

125/18 MEETING DATES FOR 2019

The Clerk had drawn up a schedule of probable dates for Parish Council meetings in 2019, which Councillors considered and agreed subject to the room hire availability at the Village Hall. The Clerk would publish the list as soon as the booking arrangements had been confirmed.

126/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The topic of the funds held by the Parish Council under the heading Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) arose from discussion on the Local Plan.

The Meeting was briefly reminded that the CIL was a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services which are needed to support new homes and businesses in the areas. While principal local authorities can only spend CIL on infrastructure projects, parish councils can use their CIL funds more widely, but spending must be within restrictions concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. Each tranche of CIL must be spent within five years or could be forfeited.

South Mimms Parish Council had received some £22,500 to date in CIL funding and Councillors were well aware of the constraints for its use. The sum was relatively small in relation to the likely cost of allowable projects and it was likely that the funds would be carried forward and accrued until a worthwhile use could be identified.

127/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30 pm.

128/18 PUBLIC QUESTION SESSION

The Clerk responded to a question about sending out updates to local residents by email. The tight restrictions imposed by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), in place since May 2018, made this very much more difficult and time consuming, and the Clerk’s role was limited to a small number of hours each week. However, consideration may in future be given to developing an anonymised email network to meet GDPR requirements when the Clerk had settled more into the role.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chair Date