

# **SOUTH CADBURY & SUTTON MONTIS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30pm IN SUTTON MONTIS VILLAGE HALL**

Those present: M Coombs (Chairman), M Toop (Vice Chairman), J Griffiths, M Semmons, E Tabor, D Soper  
C A Burnett (Parish Clerk), W Wallace (County Councillor) + 5 Members of the public

Note: The Chairman opened the meeting by directing those present to the paragraph at the top of the agenda on the Parish Councils Policy on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings but advised that in fact the Parish Council would be recording this meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – H Burt (District Councillor), P.C.S.O.
2. Disclose or declare any interests arising under the council's code of conduct and consider and decide on any dispensation applications received – None declared.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and Extraordinary meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – the Chairman asked members if they all agreed that they were a correct record and members unanimously agreed, therefore, the Chairman signed both sets of minutes.
4. District & County Councillor's Reports (if any) – William Wallace introduced himself to members of the public and requested that the Clerk read out a small report that Hayward Burt had e-mailed as he was not able to attend in person. The Clerk read out the two items in his report, the first being that Churchfields SSDC based in Wincanton is going to be sold, it was due to go on the market this month, but they are revisiting the issue of whether the car park will be sold as well. The second item was to urge parishes to take up the offer on the great tree giveaway from SSDC. The Clerk advised that she had checked this out and it seems that a mix of small to large trees have been planted up about a foot tall at present and a maximum of 50 trees each parish could be applied for by the second week of February. The Chairman asked what type of trees were on offer, but the Clerk said her contact did not know specific details. This prompted discussion resulting in no action being agreed. William thanked the Clerk for her input and added his views on Churchfield site and confirmed that the police station was also to be sold, but he did not know where it would be going. William advised that Churchfields SSDC staff will be re-located back to Yeovil, therefore, no council offices anymore in Wincanton. He was asked if there would be any job cuts and he said he did not know, he felt that the memorial hall may well be used for Area East meetings. He further advised that high level discussions were taking place to go the unitary route which is what was happening in other areas, it will mean job losses, but should tidy things up and make life more simple for the general public. It would mean keeping the larger offices like Yeovil but having only satellite offices in rural areas. He advised that the County Council is keen to go the unitary route, but District Council is not so keen. He also advised that he had attended a recent budget meeting and the budget is looking healthy and progressing well. William offered to take any questions, but none were brought up. The Chairman thanked William for his report.
5. P.C.S.O items (not always in attendance) – The Chairman asked the Clerk if the P.C.S.O. had submitted a report, but no report had been sent in.
6. OPEN SESSION – a member of the public raised the question of the new parish council website which she felt was a good idea, but the last minutes shown were dated July 2019, she acknowledged that she was aware the minutes also get displayed on the notice boards, but she also felt that a flyer should have been sent out to each household in Sutton Montis and South Cadbury advising that there is now a parish council website. This member of the public stated that there was a coffee morning held recently in South Cadbury Village Hall and hardly any residents knew about the coffee morning, and why were the September minutes not on the website. The Chairman advised that due to the November parish council meeting being cancelled the September minutes were only approved this

evening, therefore the approved minutes will now be put on the website. The member of the public stated she had had a conversation with the Clerk as she felt that minutes were not being displayed on the notice boards as she had gone to the notice board and no minutes were there, at the time the Clerk advised that if she ever wanted to see any minutes please contact the Clerk. The Clerk advised that she remembered the conversation and the minutes were always put on the notice board, but the Clerk could not be held responsible if someone came along and took them down to put their own notice up, it is not a dedicated notice board for the parish council it is there as a public notice board, so any one can put up or take down anything. The Clerk was then told by the member of public quote "don't you give me that look" the Clerk responded by saying "please don't be rude to me, I don't deserve to be spoken to like that", the member of public replied "and you should give me respect". The Chairman stepped in and said we note what you have said to which the member of public replied, the July minutes were totally misrepresented I know what minutes should be like, those minutes are monotonous and boring and what's with the points system. We need to know what is going on in this village in a coherent and sensible manner. The Chairman stated that all meetings are recorded, the member of public insisted that the July minutes were misrepresented (regarding the section on the telephone call the Clerk had had with her). The Chairman said, well I'm sorry if you feel it was misrepresented and we note what you have said. The member of public, said she wished to reiterate that she wanted to see the minutes go up on the notice board 3 days before the next p.c. meeting and she felt that if there is a parish website it should be available for everyone in the village and at present very few people know about it. The Chairman pointed out that it is a parish council website only, it was set up as a legal requirement necessary for all parish councils and minutes cannot be put on until they are approved at the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed that it is not a village website, it is for parish use only, to which the member of public stated "I know that Carole you are being pedantic". The Chairman stated once again that all comments would be noted and had the member of the public now finished, to which she replied, "oh yes". The Chairman asked if any other members of the public wished to say anything. Another member of the public introduced herself and her partner as new residents to South Cadbury as they wished to be involved in helping the village in any way they can. Another member of the public introduced herself as a new resident and stated she wanted to support/help the village and she found it difficult to find out what was happening in South Cadbury and she was unaware that there was a parish council website. The Chairman stated that he was happy that something could be put on both notice boards confirming the address for the parish council website but stated again it is not a village website. Some discussion took place with one of the new residents stating that they feel it would be easy to get people and children to volunteer to paint the village hall. At this point the Chairman advised the new resident that South Cadbury Village Hall is run separately and does not come under the parish council. A resident stated that they knew the parish council paid for the maintenance of the cutting of the grass on the playing field/play area due to lack of funds in the village hall kitty. She continued that to her knowledge there had not been an AGM at the hall and possibly no accounts generated. The Clerk confirmed that she knew accounts had been generated and submitted to the Charity Commissioner. At this point the Chairman stated that anything to with the village hall should be brought up with the village hall committee, it is not a parish council matter. The Clerk pointed out that currently as so many members had resigned from the hall committee there was effectively not enough people to be a committee, but Sam Davey wanted to stay as hall bookings Clerk and as the Parish Clerk was the Chairman she was deciding whether or not she wished to currently stay involved with the hall committee, but if new people wanted to take it over then that was absolutely fine. The Chairman stepped in at this point and stated that this subject must now come to an end as it was not a parish council matter. A member of the public asked if there was a separate village website and it was confirmed that there was currently no village website, but anyone can set one up if they want to. The Chairman was asked by another member of the public what happens at parish council meetings and he gave a brief overview of meetings and advised that anyone is entitled to attend meetings.

## **7. Planning Applications**

- Update on any existing planning applications and update on potential planning applications/issues arising
- The Clerk confirmed that the Farm Shop/Sinfield application has now been approved with a lot of conditions. The Clerk confirmed that the Chairman and the Clerk were both invited to a photoshoot on Friday which was to mark the start of the building works, but neither attended.

- Saxon Hill – James Tyler application has now been approved with conditions

The Clerk advised the following:-

- 8 Castle Lane have had some tree work done, but permission was granted without consultation being required.
- The Rathbone's who bought East End Cottage have had approval for an amendment to original planning, but consultation was not required.

- No other Planning issues/matters were brought up.

- Discuss any new planning applications that have come in since the agenda generated – No new planning applications had been received.

#### **8. Matters arising**

- Defibrillator Project – the Clerk confirmed that it was going ahead, the Miles family have kindly agreed to have it sited on the side of the workshop in South Cadbury and inside the telephone box in Sutton Montis, so if the cheque could be signed now it can be ordered. The Miles family have offered to put a step to stand on underneath the defib and the electrician is on board to do the work which was agreed at the previous meeting. Once delivered, we have to sign the lease for the 2 defibs. The Ambulance Service have offered to have one meeting for both villages to cover training of how to use the equipment. They state if two separate training sessions are held i.e. one in each hall then they would not be free of charge. The Clerk would need to get this organised and obviously the Clerk would mailshot each individual household as anyone living in each village can attend. The Chairman asked all members if they were happy to go ahead and for a cheque to be signed, all members were in agreement. Mike Semmons asked the question why would we have to pay to have two separate training sessions, just because we have two villages within one parish, if we were two separate villages in two separate parishes then that would be two separate training sessions. The Chairman felt he raised a good point. The Clerk confirmed she would raise the matter with the Ambulance Service. She pointed out that these training sessions would be held yearly, so what normally happens is it would be held in one hall one year and the other the next, but if members were unhappy with the proposed arrangements she will talk to the Ambulance Service. A member of the public asked where both were going to be sited. The Chairman responded with the information.

**NOTE** – at this point William Wallace County Councillor gave his apologies and left the meeting.

- VE Day Celebrations in May 2020- the Clerk confirmed that she had been asked to check out locally if and what other parishes/villages might be holding and she gave the feedback that was currently known to her which was that North Cadbury were leaving it to residents to hold an event. Corton Denham are having a private tea party, the Chairman confirmed that Sutton Montis were holding a coffee morning event. Queen Camel are holding a weekend of events, but she had no idea who was holding it. This brought some discussion, with the Vice Chairman confirming that Horsington are holding some form of event, but not sure who is organising it. The Clerk stated that the general feeling was that if villages wanted to organise something then that was entirely up to residents, it appeared that parish councils were leaving it up to residents rather than it be a parish council led event.

#### **9. New items**

- Agree dates for 2020 parish council meetings – the Clerk confirmed that if members were happy she has kept it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month:-

18 <sup>th</sup> March	South Cadbury Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Sutton Montis Village Hall
15 <sup>th</sup> July	South Cadbury Village Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Sutton Montis Village Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> November	South Cadbury Village Hall

Some questions and discussion came from members of the public about the dates of the meetings and the Clerk explained, but the Chairman stated that he wished to move onto the next item.

- Set precept for the coming year – the Clerk advised that funds were pretty good at present and referred to the budget previously generated, reminding members that grants to both village halls and both churches and Air Ambulance and CAT bus have been taken into account. The Chairman asked members for discussion as to whether the precept should be increased. After discussion members voted unanimously to keep the precept at the same level i.e. no increase. The Clerk confirmed that the government grant through the District Council had ceased on precepts. A member of the public asked for an explanation regarding the government grant and the Clerk explained that it came from the government who passed it down to District councils who passed it on to parish councils, but it had now stopped.

- Agree any donations to be made – the Clerk asked for permission to now pay the agreed grants/donations as per the agreed budget. The Chairman asked members if they wanted to pay any additional grants/donations. Some discussion took place, but no additional grants/donations were agreed. The Chairman asked for agreement to be reached as to what individual grants should be paid to the nominated recipients. The Clerk confirmed that the CAT Bus had invoiced for £100, this was agreed. Churches were put up by £10 as were the halls.

Amounts agreed: halls get £100, churches get £90.00 and Air Ambulance to get £100 and CAT bus to get £100.

- Annual Review of Clerks performance and salary – members were asked for their views, all members confirmed they were very happy with the Clerks performance, Liz confirmed that she was aware many Clerks were giving up doing the work as workload was ever increasing, the Clerk confirmed Liz was quite correct. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she would like her salary increased, but the Clerk stated she knew was underpaid, but she keeps it as low as possible as a gesture of goodwill towards the community. The Chairman thanked the Clerk.

#### **10. Clerks Items**

- Finger posts – Update – the Clerk advised that she had forwarded the photographs on as requested for a quotation, but Roger had now come back and said that the main problem is dismantling them, he had advised that it appears to him that there are 3 different ways of fixing the finger post and had given his thoughts and views from the photographs which the Clerk passed on to members. He is now saying he wants further clarification and wants to talk it through with someone in more depth. This brought discussion, the Chairman suggested that Roger can ring him, but if he wants the job he may well have to come up and take a look for himself, the Clerk thinks he comes from Blandford and may well charge for coming up. Members of the public tried to give their comments and views on the subject and started talking loudly amongst themselves about the subject, but the Chairman asked for members of the public to please be quiet. The Chairman stated again that the Clerk should ask Roger to get in touch with him for further discussion on the matter.

#### **- Maintenance issues/Update**

- The Clerk advised that she had been busy reporting pothole issues in both villages and she had also checked on the drain issue/road breaking up outside of East End Cottage in South Cadbury and it was still showing as under investigation, so she had re-reported it again under a new reference number to see if she could get action carried out. The Clerk stated that if this didn't work, she may well have to ask the Highways Supervisor to come out as no action appears to be being taken.

- The Clerk advised she had reported from the church (South Cadbury) all the way through to Rectory Hill as being an area of poor potholes and road breaking up issues, she had also reported all the way through Sutton Montis and all they way through the rat run in Corton Denham.

- The Vice Chairman stated that the drain opposite him never ever got sorted out properly and overflows.

- The Clerk felt she had reported everything she had been made aware of or seen.

#### **- Footpath issues**

- Liz stated that the footpath issue brought up previously had now been sorted with Eve Wynn and all is well.

- The Vice Chairman reported that the footpath near Chapel Cross was getting overgrown again.

- Dog Bin for Sutton Montis – the Clerk advised she had been trying to get one free of charge as they are £160 + VAT and she has now finally managed to get agreement that we can have one as there is currently not one there, but he wants to know where we want it sited. The Chairman had previously stated that he thought it should go on Mr Kertons fence opposite the village hall, but if it is to be sited on private property the council will need something in writing from Mr Kerton to say he is happy for it to go there. The council advised that a lot of people are not happy to have dog bins on and/or anywhere near their property. The Chairman stated that he would speak to Mr Kerton about it, leave it with him. A member of the public brought up that the dog bin in South Cadbury car park had been removed. The Clerk confirmed she would get it re-instated.

#### **- Miscellaneous items**

- The Vice Chairman reported the two slip roads leading onto the A303 are not in a good state of repair.

- The Clerk advised that the Sinfield project i.e. Farm Shop have applied to re-name the single off-spur section of 'Old A303', Chapel Cross, South Cadbury to Orchard Lane.

- The Clerk advised that she had finally got hold of Mr Todd the owner of Orchard Cottage and had a word with him about the complaint regarding dogs barking at night and the rubbish stacking up outside and he said he has previously spoken to Lyn about it, but will have another word with her. He said he understood his responsibilities and he would speak to her. John stated that he had heard that there were possibly rats seen at the property. The Clerk stated this was a different issue. This would be an environmental issue and discussion took place. Members were all in agreement that if it is confirmed that there was a definite sighting of rats then action should be taken. The Chairman confirmed he would check with the resident concerned that they were sure it was a rat they saw and ring the Clerk to let her know and the Clerk will take the necessary action.

- The Clerk advised that the District Council are promoting health walks and if anyone is interested, she can give them details.

**11.** Any other business – Nothing brought up

**12.** Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm at South Cadbury Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting ended at 8.40pm.

*Carole Burnett*

**Parish Clerk**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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