

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY, 5th December 2012

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), Mr. D. Saw, Mrs. S. Gadsby, Mr. M. Rawson and Mrs H. Ramply, Mrs. M. Farmery and Mr. A. Parsons, County Councillor Mr. R. West, District Councillor Mr. T. Clough, the Clerk and 26 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th November 2012

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was proposed by Mrs. H. Ramply that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mr. A. Parsons and unanimously agreed by those present, Chair signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Items to be discussed from the last meeting to be covered during the agenda.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. H. Ramply's declaration in relation to the wind turbine application was noted, there were no declarations received by those present.

At this point of the meeting Mr. A. Marnes gave background regarding the revised Code of Conduct that had been issued by NALC, the local authority revised Code and a copy of Ducklingworth Parish Council's Code, the Councillors considered all three. After discussion it was proposed by Mr. A. Parsons that the Ducklingworth Parish Council Code be used, with the Southoe and Midloe Parish Council header to be inserted, seconded by Mr. D. Saw, unanimously agreed resolution passed. All Councillors signed the new adopted Code of Conduct document, Clerk to submit to the Monitoring Officer.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. A. Marnes commenced with detailing the recent ACRE meeting he had attended regarding an eco-friendly community building which had been built entirely through grants, it had solar panels, ground source heating and used recycled water. The community were now looking to have a wind turbine nearby to generate energy and promoting a community oil buying scheme.

Cllr. T. Clough reported that the car park charges would not be rising and then moved on to detail the legal aspect of the wind turbine application in Southoe and why there had been a non-determination to date, it was detailed that this is mainly due to the applicant with holding information requested by the District Council. The process now the applicant has gone to appeal due to non-determination is that the Development Control Committee at the District Council at their next meeting will receive a report from the Officers and make a decision as if they were going to determine the application. After this the matter would then go to the Planning Inspectorate who would hold a public enquiry and the application would be determined. Cllrs. West and Clough were questioned by members of the public on the determining criteria set, about how a non-determination on such an application had been allowed to happen, the planning process, national planning policy on such applications as well as local examples of wind turbine applications that have gone to appeal.

A member of the campaign group against the wind turbine reported that they will be looking to work with experts to fight at the appeal, noting they had requested the Parish Council consider as part of their budget and precept setting contributing towards supporting the fight against the application.

Chairman reopened the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....

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Following the latest letter sent by Mr. A. Parsons, Savills have responded noting a January timescale with a full response.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There had recently been some vehicle crime in Buckden it was reported, it was raised that detection rates and information would be helpful so information to be requested, in addition care parked on path in Lees Lane continue to be a problem so these to be reported to.

8. A1 MATTERS

Mr. A. Marnes read quote from the Chancellors Autumn statement made that day that decision to increase the A1 to motorway standard between the M25 and Newcastle, all present were very pleased to hear such good news and Mr. A. Marnes added that he had contacted the local MP requesting the timescale information of such works taking place.

9. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £159.05

Mr Holdaway grass cutting £105.00

Mr Holdaway Village Hall outside maintenance work £475.00

St Neots Fencing installation of new gate £284.59

It was proposed by Mrs. S. Gadsby that the cheques be paid, seconded by Mr. A. Parsons unanimously agreed and resolved that the above cheques be signed.

It was noted that Eon direct debit for the estimated bill reading scheduled payment for Village Hall electricity is £16.41.

It was added that conformation had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee that the work done to the outside area was acceptable.

At this point of the meeting the Council considered the budget for 2013/14, reviewing the costs to date and expected carry forward position at the end of the year. It was proposed by Mrs. H. Ramply that the precept be maintained at a level of £12,000.00 for 2013/14, this was seconded by Mr. D. Saw and unanimously agreed by all present, resolution passed. The Clerk to send supporting documents to the District Council. It was also agreed to maintain the current reserves at £6.5k and earmarked fund levels at £3k for allotment provision, £5k car park work and £2k play equipment.

The Council were also mindful of the request to provide some financial assistance to contribute towards representation against the wind turbine application, at this point Mrs. H. Ramply took leave from the meeting. This matter had been researched and approaches to this in other parishes were discussed, the Council were aware that under Section 137 there is a power of expenditure of up to £6.80 per elector for items which are not covered by another local council power. It was proposed by Mrs. S. Gadsby that in principle £3k be allocated to fighting the wind turbine application, seconded by Mr. A. Parsons, unanimously agreed by all present.

Mrs. H. Ramply rejoined the meeting at this point.

10. PLAYING FIELD

There had been a request for whether the field was available to rent out, and discussion on difference between use of field for football match use and then private function use and subsequent appropriate liabilities. In principle the use of the field only for football matches was agreeable to the Council.

It was noted that the repairs to the recently installed gate need to be checked that they have been carried out prior to the cheque being sent.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby detailed that the committee had changed the bank account from Halifax to Natwest, when opening the account a copy of the constitution had been required, so this had been researched and a constitution agreed, the Council were given a copy for their records.

12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....

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It was noted during the previous meeting discussions that there maybe some church land for allotment usage, this had been looked into further and it had been confirmed that this no such land available in the village. It was noted there is a forthcoming coffee morning.

The future maintenance of the area was discussed and a quote had been received from Mr Holdaway for next year, £107.50 for cutting the grass areas, it was considered whether more quotes should be obtained, however, given the previous tender undertaken by the Council it was felt on balance that Mr Holdaway provide very good value for money, so it was unanimously agreed to continue with him.

13. PLANNING

No matters arising.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

A copy of the items received between meetings was circulated it was noted an old postcard of the village had been received.

15. WIND FARM

It was agreed that Mrs. H. Ramply take leave at this point of the meeting.

Following the recent news regarding the non-determination appeal lodged by the applicant the Council were aware that the District Council would be considering this application shortly. It was agreed that Mr. D. Saw to take the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Council in objection to the application with a pre-agreed wording that would be circulated amongst Councillors prior to the Development Control meeting.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There is continued frustration at the number of dangerous potholes in the village, photographs to be taken and sent to Brian Murdoch. There is a new bin emptying schedule from February it was noted, and the Nene and Ouse bus is operating in the village. Cllr. West welcomed a village representative to outline to Officers what the parish needs are to help with the fight to have a regular service return to the village, Cllr. West agreed to liaise with Mrs. S. Gadsby.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 9th January 2013.
The meeting was closed at 9.40pm