

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY, 5th September 2012

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.40pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), Mr. A. Parsons, Mr. D. Saw, Mrs. S. Gadsby, and Mrs. M. Farmery, the Clerk and 13 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillors Mr. M. Rawson and Mrs H. Rampley had sent apologies. County Cllr. R. West, and District Cllr. T. Clough had sent apologies as attending meeting regarding Local Plan, all apologies which were received were accepted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st August 2012

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted that some small amendments to be made to the minutes, with these it was proposed by Mr. A. Parsons with these amendments that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mrs. S. Gadsby 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

There were no declarations received by those present.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public enquired regarding further progress to moving the position of the current Village Hall entrance gates. There was concern raised regarding people feeding the ducks within the village at the pond, the water is particularly deep so safety concerns raised with the idea of having signage warning children of the deep water, Mrs. S. Gadsby to ask resident if notice can be put up warning of water depth and asking ducks not to be fed.

An enquiry was received on the consultation undertaken relating to the recently new equipment installed in the play area, background information of SPACE was given and the limited funds available.

A resident raised concern at the length of time the Clerk had responded to an email communication.

Recent communication from TCI in the form of newsletters had been distributed to the village and the literature stated that the workers would be travelling through the village; this was raised with the Council. A member of the public raised that they felt the Chairman should not represent the Parish Council at the District Planning Committee meeting.

Chairman reopened the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

Following letter sent by Mr. A. Parsons, a response had been received from Savills which all felt was pleasing, the letter was read aloud and the Council felt that there is clear evidence of the many different ways such a provision has tried to be secured for the village, including contacting DEFRA, local MP, Luminus, District Council, as well as letters around the village and to all known landowners in the village. There also is still an option for the Parish Council to put their details on the 'community list' seeking land, a draft letter was discussed and it was agreed that Mr. A. Parsons to send to Oxford University Chest encouraging response by next meeting.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There had been no police report received.

8. A1 MATTERS

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Mr. A. Marnes had reported again the vegetation on the central reservation, the feedback from the Highways Agency is that they will not cut this vegetation regularly; however, Mr. A. Marnes agreed to encourage them to spray the weeds off and cut as often as possible.

9. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £198.82

R J Holdaway grass cutting £105.00

Oxford University Chest Recreation Ground rent £327.50

Broker Network Ltd insurance renewal £720.66

Komplan play equipment installation £2,721.60

Pro-Scope Ltd play equipment installation £870.00

It was proposed by Mrs. M. Farmery, that the cheques be paid, seconded by Mr. D. Saw unanimously agreed and resolved that the above cheques be signed.

It was noted that there had been some additional information requested from the external auditors between meetings which the Clerk had responded to.

10. PLAYING FIELD

Mr. A. Marnes reported that had received one quote for the proposed tree and hedge cutting work required including digging down to damp from R J Holdaway £350.00, the actual figure may be lower depending on the depth needed to dig down to it was noted. The quote was discussed and it was felt that as workmen would be on site that there were other hedges that require maintenance, so it was agreed to action the additional work up to a value of £550.00, resolution passed.

Two quotes had been sought for the gate, it was agreed to go with St Neots Fencing at £237.16 plus VAT and that the contractor be asked for a gate with paling gaps for greater visibility.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that there is painting work in progress, and new blinds and curtains have been installed, with a new session of a Breakfast Club from October. The heating options are still being investigated and Mr. A. Parsons offered to help research this area. There is still a general concern for the safety of children accessing the Village Hall site in relation to the position of the gate, it was felt in the first instance that Mr. A. Marnes to look at securing the gate fixings more permanently.

12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

There had been two memorial stone applications received which were discussed and agreed. Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that some residents have complained regarding the poor quality of grass cutting in the churchyard in particular around the cremation plots, this was discussed and on balance it was felt that generally the contractor does do a good job and there had been unseasonable weather conditions.

13. PLANNING

No items received.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

A copy of the correspondence received was circulated and no item raised.

15. WIND FARM

There is still no feedback from the District Council as to when the Planning Committee will hear the application it was reported. It was agreed that following the recent newsletter communications from TCI that Mr. D. Saw to draft a letter that once agreed to be sent to the District Planning Officer and Highways Agency to alert them to the change in information not contained within the application particularly regarding highways access. It was also agreed that Barbara Boddington to be contacted requesting a A1 Safety Group to meet to discuss the Bell Lane access concerns in particular.

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

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16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None received.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 3rd October 2012, at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm