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SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY, 9th January 2013

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 seventeen members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th December 2012

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted that donation to fighting the wind farm development to be £3,000 in total, with the addition it was proposed by Mr. D. Saw that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mrs. H. Ramply and unanimously agreed by those present, Chair signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed the new code had been sent to the Monitoring Officer at the District Council.
Other 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.

It was agreed that the Vice Chair, Mr. D. Saw, to lead the Open Forum agenda item and that the agenda order to be altered to allow discussion of the wind farm item to immediately follow on from the Open Forum.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Vice Chair commenced with reminding all present of the appropriate etiquette during this session.

Cllr. T. Clough reported on the wind farm application that was recently heard by the District Council Planning Committee, they had unanimously agreed to refuse the application, however, because of the already triggered appeal process due to HDC's non-determination this application will still be going to appeal for the applications determination. The reasons for the committee making their decision was detailed to those present including concerns regarding road access, transport issues and lack of data provided. Cllr. T. Clough also reported that the District Council had been informed by central government that in 2014/15 the District Council would receive a 1.7 million cut to their budget.

Cllr. R. West reported that there could be a possibility of the introduction of yellow lines in village for places where there are parking issues, basic detail of the process, Mr. Rawson / Mr. Marnes to investigate. A resident quoted the Parish Council's code of conduct and raised questions as detailed within letter recently sent to the Parish Council about the conduct of a Councillor and the District Council's processes for speaking at Planning Committee meetings not having been adhered to during the recent consideration relating to the wind farm application. It was added that there was no update on the village website of the District Council's decision and noted that the District Council meeting minutes were not available on their website presently. Elected Councillors responded that there had been senior Legal Officer present during the Planning Committee meeting and no concerns had been raised by them, the timings of the 'right to speak' at such meetings was also clarified and that if anyone felt there had been a breach of the rules then the Monitoring Officer, Colin Meadowcroft, to be contacted.

A resident raised concern that Mr. A. Marnes had given an inappropriate introduction at the recent Planning Committee meeting and given inaccurate information regarding the usage of Green Lane.

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

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agn marnes

The recent article in the Huntingdonshire Post was raised as there was concern from some members of the public present regarding the statements made within that article. Updated information was provided about the local press poll relating to further wind farms in the District Council area.

Mr. D. Saw was thanked for his representation made as was resident David Phelps.

There was clarification given over a Parish Councillor introducing themselves and stating whether they are speaking on behalf of the Parish Council or expressing their own personal views.

There was some concern raised used over items in the public domain being from the Chair of Southoe and Midloe Parish Council's email address.

Chairman reopened the meeting.

At this point of the meeting Mrs. H. Ramply took leave during the discussion of the next item.

15. WIND FARM

It was reported that Mr. D. Saw spoke at the recent Planning Committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council in objection to the wind farm application, it was noted that the application had been rejected due to concerns relating to the following areas: highways, archaeological and impact on rights of way. The comments presented by Mr. D. Saw had been agreed by the majority of the Parish Councillors electronically prior to the District Council meeting it was noted.

There had been some information received from Eon regarding different power source supplies nationally.

At this point of the meeting Mrs. H. Ramply re-joined the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

It was reported that a freedom of information request had been received by a member of the public; the Clerk had collated and forwarded approximately 12 documents to the individual within the required time frames. It was noted that there is availability at Little Paxton presently for allotments.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk had reported the parking problems raised at the last meeting in Lees Lane, PCSO Corn had stated she would attend when possible to look round the village and had also signposted the Clerk to find where the latest local crime and detection figures can be found on the web.

8. A1 MATTERS

Mr. A. Marnes had written to the Minister following the information received at the last meeting, the letter from Stewart Agnew of the DfT was read out, it detailed that there is no government plan to upgrade the A1 between Baldock and Alconbury. There had been a response sent to express the Parish Council's great disappointment about this given the announcement in the government budget.

9. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £198.82

Cambs County Council street lighting energy charges £292.01

Digley Associates play area inspection £60.00

Hunts District Council Recreation Ground grass cutting £979.20

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

It was confirmed that the Clerk had submitted the Council's precept request to the District Council within the required timeframes.

It was unanimously agreed to transfer £5,000.00 from the savings account into the current account, the letter was signed and Mr. A. Marnes to visit bank.

The quote from the District Council was considered for the 2013 season for cutting the Recreation Ground grass, it was felt that they continue to provide good value and a good service, it was unanimously agreed they be awarded the work for 2013, Clerk to write and confirm.

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

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It was asked that the Clerk enquire regarding with the Council's insurers clarification of a marquee being used on the Recreation Ground for a private event.

10. PLAYING FIELD

The recently installed gate had been repaired so Clerk had sent cheque to contractor it was reported. It was noted that if the field were to be used for a private event then a music license would need to be sort by the individual if music to be played.

11. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the Management Committee had received the millennium monies totalling £574.46, ideas were welcome for the Queen's coronation celebration planned for late summer, a fete is to be held. It was noted a new bank account has now been set up.

12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

It was reported that there is an open meeting on 2nd February were the grouping of parishes will be discussed.

13. PLANNING

There were no items to be discussed.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

A copy of the items received between meetings was circulated, the member of the public communications had been circulated to all, there was a general allotments email received and information about a Keeping Warm campaign being run.

The information about having yellow lines in a village for parking issues was discussed, it was noted that funding is needed from a third party to pay for the legal and installation work required, it was agreed that Mr. A. Marnes and Mr. M. Rawson to look into the matter further. It was also noted that it is hoped a meeting will take place shortly about the lack of village bus service which Mrs. S. Gadsby and Cllr. R. West will be attending.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported there had been a number of diesel spills on Rectory Lane and that the state of the highway continues to deteriorate, the pot holes have increased so agreed that this to be followed up by Mr. A. Marnes, Mr. D. Saw ad Cllr. R. West. It was also suggested that it would be useful for this area to have speed monitoring equipment placed on here, so Mr. A. Marnes to request.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 6th February 2013.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.