

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY, 31st July 2013

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th June 2013

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was proposed by Mrs. S. Gadsby that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mr. D. Felce and unanimously agreed by those present, the Chair signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Parish Council requested that could a copy of the Dog Warden granting dispensation for the forthcoming fayre event be provided to the Parish Council in writing from the last meeting, it was reported that the Officer would not put this in writing when this had been followed up. The District Council had detailed now more recently that it is for the Parish Council to make the decision.

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received for this meeting.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was noted that although the poor condition of Rectory Lane had been reported, there continue to be problems with the highway surface and the verges, it was agreed that Mr. D. Saw to follow this up again.

The forthcoming fayre event is progressing well, an update was given, it was agreed that the organisers to write a brief overview of the activities taking place so the insurers can be notified in advance.

It was requested that the wind farm agenda item be moved forward to the next matter to be discussed, this was agreed.

Chairman reopened the meeting

15. WIND FARM UPDATE

Mrs. H. Ramply left the room for this item. The Inspector's decision from the recent public enquiry had now been received and circulated, it was felt that the decision to grant permission and the public enquiry report in no way reflects the items that were raised and put forward in objection. The Action Group had already sought advice, which was detailed about the next steps that could be taken to over rule the Inspector's decision. It was reported by a Councillor that there is a lot of hurt and anger in the village with concerns around the future impact the turbines will have on the village. There was a strong feeling that the District Council Officers had failed the local authority with weak representations during the initial District Planning Committee meeting as well as at the public enquiry where the Officers seemed badly prepared. The reasons for refusal given at the Committee meeting were not adequate, there were other more extensive planning reasons that could have and should have been included. The process has also not taken into account the recent government changes in respect of wind turbines, and none of the village concerns were included in the conditions in the Inspector's final report.

The Parish Council felt it important to hold the District Council to account and voice concerns around the Councillors and Officers lack of thorough consideration. It was agreed that following receipt of the Action Group's letter that is being drafted to raise their concerns, the Clerk would collate a letter on behalf of the Parish Council raising the concerns detailed above, with circulation to all Councillors before submission. The Clerk also to liaise with Cllr. T. Clough regarding the appropriate named individuals the letter to be addressed to at the District Council.

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It was also felt that a letter from the Parish Council should be sent to TCI, to reiterate the Clerk's new correspondence address and include the Council's disappointment over the lack of village communication following the Inspector's decision. This letter to be collated by the Clerk and the draft circulated to Councillors so that agreement of the wording prior to submission.

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

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Clerk updated that had made two further communications to Savills about the outcome of their current discussions, with no feedback received.

The Clerk had researched the process of registering an interest in the identified land for future allotment use being placed on the community asset register. The District Council had advised that the land ideally needs to currently be providing a community benefit to the parishioners for a successful application, it was agreed that given the community aspirations for the strip of land next to the Playing Field that the Clerk to complete and submit the application to the District Council. It was also requested that the Clerk investigate when the Oxford University Chest open meetings are held.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was reported that PCSO Corn had attended the recent Tea Circle meeting in the village, it had been outlined that resources are stretched. It was noted that scrap dealers had been recently handing out notices within the village, and Mrs. M. Farmery reported that she had asked an individual if they would take on the Neighbourhood Watch coordination.

8. A1 MATTERS

The scheme to install average speed cameras along the A1 within the parish had successfully secured funding of £1 million, with the cameras due to be installed in spring 2014. The local MP had attended the most recent A1 Safety Group, item raised included the continued motorists carrying out u-turns at the junctions, the poor road markings and the need for the vegetation to be regularly cut to allow suitable visibility.

9. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Gill Wiggs internal audit £85.00

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £238.58

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting x2 £215 each £430.00

Donation to be made to pay the bill for the recent electronic works at the Village Hall totalling £1055.50

It was unanimously agreed that the above cheques be paid and the Eon direct debit payment it was noted to be £72.62 for the Village Hall electricity bill.

The internal audit had been undertaken, feedback included the VAT reclaim is due to be done, some outstanding Council documents that were in need of review, which it was noted had been done at the May 2013 meeting.

Documents had been submitted to the external auditor, no feedback to date had been received.

It was unanimously agreed by those present that a letter be sent to the bank requesting a bank transfer of £5000 from the savings account to the current account.

10. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had looked into matting for the gateway, the information was circulated to all present, it was felt the 'M522 mats would be appropriate', the approximate cost is expected to be in the region of £150, it was agreed that the area to be measured and then the mats can be ordered.

The Clerk had chased up the installation of a dog waste bin, the local authority had detailed that they do not supply nor do they empty dog bins so the Council would have to arrange this themselves, it was felt therefore that this could not be progressed.

It was commented that the recent field cut had been very good.

11. VILLAGE HALL

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Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the electric works had recently been carried out and all completed, there is approximately £1k of Jubilee and Millennium monies in the Village Hall bank account so these will be used to support the forthcoming village fayre. The next project the Management Committee are looking at is the building fascias, and how best to secure external funding sources was discussed.

12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

The clock dial is now up, the Diocese are keen for the community to use the church it was reported. Mr. A. Marnes had been trying to meet up with Mark Egerton regarding the purchasing of a reserved plot, and it was agreed that Mr. D. Saw and Mrs. H. Ramply to look into suitable trees to be planted in the churchyard.

13. PLANNING

Some Councillors had attended the Local Plan consultation event, there was the some discussion on how to secure start up houses for people to allow them to stay in the village.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

A copy of the items received between meetings was circulated, items noted included the local authority budget consultation process, highways improvement funding opportunity, and a request for support from CAB. It was agreed that the Clerk to ask CAB what support they are looking for, a request be sent for an Eon Smart meter for the Village Hall, and noted that cold calling stickers are available.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk reported that had been having some problems uploading documents to the village website, Clerk to send pdf files to Mrs. M. Farmery for the website. Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the Village Hall had been booked for next years elections.

It was also reported that the verge outside a bungalow on Lees Lane is in need of cutting, this to be followed up with the County Council and a farm gate access in the village overgrown with brambles, Mrs. H. Ramply agreed to look into.

There had been a request made for the High Street to become a no cold calling area, Mr. A. Marnes that the process includes checking with the police reports, this is being done.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm.
The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.