

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

**Held on WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm**

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

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Parish Councillors Mrs. S. Gadsby and Mr. M. Rawson, County Councillor Mr. R. West and District Councillor Mr. T. Clough had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

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

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk had responded and acknowledged receipt of the previous letter received from the District Council stating that the Parish Council would be receiving financial assistance from the District Council given the recent changes to the calculations of council tax.

The Councillor vacancy notice had been received from the local authority and to be displayed.

County Cllr. R. West had reported that between meetings he had continued to pursue the bus service meeting.

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 further declarations received by those present.

**Chairman closed the meeting for the next item**

### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident enquired regarding land rent from Common Farm going to the PCC, it was noted that this is not a Parish Council business matter and any such questions should be directed at the PCC. There was clarification around the current Parish Councillor vacancy and the processes. A resident raised that the old village sign is in need of the vegetation around it to be cut back and the sign needs restoring, this is something that is being looked into it was noted. It was added that the Parish Council meeting minutes could be made more public, so it was suggested they be put on the notice board.

**Chairman reopened the meeting.**

### **6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION**

The Clerk had pursued and read out recent response from Savills, it noted that discussions are ongoing in a wider context for the local area and it is hoped for feedback in the near future.

### **7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Neighbourhood Watch changes and information about this had been received by the Council

### **8. A1 MATTERS**

There had been a meeting of the A1 Safety Group the previous day, Cllrs Marnes, Ramply and Saw attended along with John Woodward a parishioner, there was a concern raised over the membership of the group, the process and format was detailed. The new Chair, Fiona Shirley, had asked about interest in the village, some present expressed disappointment that they had not been considered or put forward as they had an interest in the A1 safety matters. Representatives present at the meeting had included, the Police, Highways Agency and County Council Officers, the focus is still trying to secure funding for the average speed cameras with a further bid being made. The accident data

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was discussed, along with grass cutting problems with the central reservation, as well as a feeling the junction markings are misleading. The group feel that the concerns need to be taken further by the local MP so this is being done. It had been suggested starting a petition and it was noted the recent press interest was an unfortunate missed opportunity. It was agreed that Mr. D. Saw to liaise with the Diddington representative about being involved with a petition.

**9. FINANCE**

The following invoices were presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £159.05

Oxford University Chest Recreation Ground rent £327.50

Kirkham Planning services, donation to the wind turbine group £3600.00

Mr R Holdaway hedge work in the churchyard £105.00

Direct Debit from Eon notification for £74.21 for Village Hall electricity

St Neots Museum donation of £50.00

It was noted that Mrs. H. Ramply had an interest in this item so took no part in the discussion, it was proposed by Mrs. M. Farmery that the cheques be paid, seconded by Mr. D. Saw, unanimously agreed and.

**10. PLAYING FIELD**

It was raised that dog fouling continues to be an issue, it was agreed that the Clerk to circulate a copy of a warning letter available in another local authority.

**11. VILLAGE HALL**

It was reported that the PAT testing is due to be done shortly, and that quotes are being obtained for new heaters and a new fuse box.

**12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND**

There had been a resident reserve request for a plot close to family members, the Council felt that it would be agreeable for a reserved plot to be allocated out of order. There had also been a request that a grave stone for a grave in the closed part of the churchyard have a memorial erected, as the headstone is no longer standing, the Parish Council saw no objection as to why this could not be done.

**13. PLANNING**

**Application 1300200FUL change of use of domestic garden to campsite with 3 camping pods and shower/WC pod at Highfield Farm, West Perry** – after consideration of the application the Council noted they approved the application.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS**

A copy of the items received between meetings was circulated.

At this point of the meeting Mrs. H. Ramply took leave from the meeting.

**15. WIND FARM**

Mr. D. Saw had circulated representation to be made at the public enquiry on behalf of the Council, all had been welcome to comment, in addition, a copy of the representation to be made by Stop Common Barns had been circulated to all Councillors.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that the Southoe parish website still needs prompting, it was asked that the Parish Council take on the website in principle and look at ways to solve this issue.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 with a 7pm start and then 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 for the Annual General meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm

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