

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

**Held on WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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 two members of the public.

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

Mr. D. Saw had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was proposed by Mrs. H. Ramply 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 Clerk had sent further documents to Mrs. M. Farmery for uploading to the website.

The Clerk had sent a letter to Ramply and Sons as requested at the last meeting.

The Council's comments to the planning application previously discussed at the meeting had been sent to the district Council.

Mr. D. Felce reiterated the poor condition of Rectory Lane, it is a very dangerous stretch of road which is in need of maintenance, it was agreed that this to be followed up again by Mr. D. Saw along with the previous request by the Parish Council for yellow linage in certain locations.

Councillors raised their disappointment at the continued lack of attendance from the new County Councillor, even though Mr. A. Marnes had written inviting her to attend.

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**

Everyone was thanked for their help and attending the recent fayre which had been very successful raising approximately £500 for the village fund, the Parish Council expressed their thanks to those that had organised it.

**Chairman reopened the meeting**

### **6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION**

The Clerk updated that had a communication had been received from Savills detailing that the outcome of their current discussions is expected at the end of September, the Clerk is monitoring.

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

Mr. A. Marnes had followed up with the police again the matter regarding cars continuing to park dangerously on pavements.

### **8. A1 MATTERS**

The A1 Safety Group meeting had been attended by Mr. A. Marnes, the new Traffic Management Supervisor was present as well as the new County Councillor, the responses received to the previously raised items by the Group were feedback to the Councillors. The request for further U-turn signs would be in the region of £10-15k, and it is not cost effective to use weed killer for the overgrown vegetation, cutting is preferred. The Councillors wished this last item to be challenged and evidence seen of the calculations that show cutting the vegetation is more cost effective than applying weed killer a few times a year. It was noted that the camera scheme work is expected to start early 2014 and finish March 2014.

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

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There been discussion at the meeting regarding the current A14 consultation, the A1 Group will be responding and a copy of Buckden Parish Council's response had been circulated to all Councillors. The Parish Council agreed that they would like to respond to the consultation as there are great concerns over the detrimental effect the proposed changes will have and the impact on the parish. Mr. A. Marnes and Mr. D. Saw to collate a draft response and then to be circulated to all Councillors for their input.

## **9. FINANCE**

The second half of the precept had been received totalling £6,000, and it was noted the supporting insurance premium documents had been received.

The following invoices were presented:

Littlejohn LLP external audit work £120.00

Oxford University Chest Recreation Ground rent £327.50

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £159.05

Bugs Pest Control invoice for clearing wasp nest £30.00

It was unanimously agreed that the above cheques be paid.

The feedback from the external auditor was noted no matters arising and two comments made, one which had been the omission of the Council's name on one section of the Annual Return document, the notice of conclusion of audit to be displayed on the notice board for the specified time.

It was noted that the recently submitted NatWest forms had been returned to the Council and that an 'additional party' form would also need to be completed to update the signatory list.

## **10. PLAYING FIELD**

The measurements for the gateway had been checked and it was felt that a more cost effective way forwards would be to utilise some paving slabs that would improve the condition of the gateway.

There was positive comment from the recent cut done by the District Council, however, it was noted that dog fouling appeared to be an issue again on the field.

Mr Holdaway had been asked to include some grass within Lees Lane that the County Council do not cut and advice to be sought from him regarding the hedge in the Playing Field hedge that is in need of cutting back Mr. A. Marnes had followed up. The additional grass and hedge would not be able to be undertaken by Mr Holdaway as he does not have access to the suitable machinery.

## **11. VILLAGE HALL**

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the Smart meter is to be installed, there had been a visit from the Environmental Health Officer and a quote received for the fascias to be repainted.

## **12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND**

It was reported that that coming Sunday would be the Harvest Festival, any produce would be donated to the Foodbank in St Neots.

## **13. PLANNING**

The Council considered application 1301381FUL a proposed first floor side and rear extension over the ground floor extension at 47 High Street, it was agreed to recommend approval of the application.

## **14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS**

Mr. A. Marnes reported back from the ACRE AGM, items had included community enterprises and planning for affordable housing for local people, this particular subject was discussed by the Council and it was agreed that the speaker to be invited to a future meeting.

## **15. WIND FARM UPDATE**

The Clerk had circulated response received from the District Council.

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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Mr. A. Marnes and Mr. M. Rawson had witnessed fire engines having issues accessing the High Street recently due to parked cars, it was agreed that this area to be looked at when the Highways Officer visits the parish to discuss the other outstanding issues.

Mr. A. Marnes reported that the District Council had been asked for a quote to cut the Playing Field hedges.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was agreed to be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm, given the change to the timing of the meeting Mr. A. Marnes would place a notice round the village alerting residents to the change, the Open Forum agenda item to be placed at the end of the meeting as well.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm