

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

**Held on WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:-** Mrs S. Penton (Acting Chairman), - Parish Councillors:- Mr D. Saw, Mr M. Rawson, Mr I Davies and Mr. D Felce. District Councillor Mr. T. Hayward, County Councillor Mrs. J. Wisson, the Clerk and five members of the public.

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

Parish Councillors Mrs. H. Ramply and Mr. A. Marnes (Chairman) had sent apologies, which were accepted.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest received for this meeting.

### **3. HIGHWAYS MATTERS REGARDING THE VILLAGE**

#### **3a. Highways Improvement Scheme**

Following the last meeting, a letter had been collated, agreed by all Councillors and was sent to the Highways Officer. The Council were now in receipt of the final scheme drawing which had been circulated to all Councillors and was available for those present at the meeting as well. The Council expressed that they are in support of this recent final drawing and that the Officer to be notified of this. It was agreed that the final drawing would be placed on the notice board, website and information be included on the 'Grapevine' with the Officer's contact details included in case any residents had any questions on the scheme.

**Mrs. Penton closed the meeting for the next item**

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident reported that there are two dips in the road along the High Street by the entrance to the Village Hall, some nearby pot holes have recently been marked for repair and it was suggested that it would be sensible for these dips to be investigated at the same time. County Councillor Wisson agreed to follow this up.

Councillor Wisson then gave an update on the electoral review process that is currently taking place. The Boundary Commission are reviewing the electoral wards for District Councils and at present there is currently a variance in electoral numbers that each Councillor serves. The County Council have put forward their ideas, which is to go from 69 down to 63 Councillors. For the parish it would mean, under the new proposals, that Southoe would be within the Brampton and Kimbolton ward. Comments can be received up to 19<sup>th</sup> January and it was agreed that this would be a future agenda item for the Parish Council to agree a response.

Councillors Wisson and Hayward had attended a recent meeting on A14 environmental impact, which looked at traffic movements and considered noise impact as well. Cllr Hayward added that he had contacted the Highways Agency over the confusion and lack of signage during the previous A1 closure. The Highways Agency had apologised that there had not been sufficient warning for local residents or suitable signage displayed and that this would not happen again.

Cllr. Hayward reported that there had been a meeting between the A1 Safety Advisory Group and the Sandy SG19 Road Safety Group, including Jonathan Djanogly, MP and Alistair Burt, MP for NE Beds. to discuss the need for improvements to the A1. It was noted that earlier in the week the government had announced there would be a review of the A1 from London to Alconbury looking at making the road motorway standard. Cllr Hayward also reported that the Offord level crossing will be adjusted and the details were outlined.

**Mrs. Penton reopened the meeting**

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

These had been circulated to all Councillors and it was unanimously agreed by all present to accept the minutes as circulated ahead of the Council meeting. Resolution passed.

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

Date: - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

Mrs. Penton read out the link to the Little Paxton Mill Lane petition for keeping the road open in times of floods to try and avoid traffic build-up. The information is to go on the Grapevine.

The Clerk had submitted the completed new Councillor documents which Cllr Davies had completed and these were sent to the Monitoring Officer.

All other items to be covered during the meeting.

**7. REVIEW OF CLERKING SUPPORT**

It was detailed that Barnicoat Ltd would not be able to support the Council from April 2015 onwards, so work needs to commence on finding alternative support. An advert would be drafted and all Councillors were welcome to provide input into that process and then the advert to be placed with CPALC and it was suggested also advertising in parishes on the Bedford Borough border as well to try and find someone if possible with experience.

**8. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Cllr Davies had attended a recent meeting on this with information leaflets available to go on the village notice board. It was felt that at the next meeting with the Council agree a formal response that the parish needs to be in the same District and County wards, as this is logical.

**9. ALLOTMENT PROVISION**

The Clerk reported that there had still been no response from the Allotment Association to date. The Clerk had made the agreed feedback at the last meeting to the landowner, and it was agreed that until the allotment association had made further contact with the Parish Council this item to be removed from the agenda.

**10. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mr D. Saw detailed that all Councillors had been invited to a meeting with a representative from the preferred company, UKCCTV. All questions had been put to the individual and the feedback was outlined. It was commented that the display is much clearer than expected and Cllr Saw had also contacted an organisation for a testimonial who had been very complimentary about the company. The Council agreed they wished to still proceed with this, as the Council did have the funds available for such a purchase, so the next step would be to seek appropriate permission from the Diocese for siting cameras at the church. There would also need to be a survey done to know how much the trenches would cost. Cllr Saw to liaise with the Diocese and a letter to be drafted to be sent to UKCCTV asking for a cost survey to be carried out.

No Cold Calling - Cllr Penton gave an update on communications with the local authority Officer. The Parish Council can proceed with having a zone for the High Street and a joint talk from the County Council and police has been offered. It was agreed to proceed with the zone but without the talk.

**11. A1 MATTERS**

These items had already been covered.

**12. VILLAGE MATTERS**

As agreed at the November meeting, a new refuse bin was to be ordered for Rectory Lane replacing the old yellow bin that has now been removed. Mrs. Penton placed the order on 7<sup>th</sup> November through Chris Jones. On 28<sup>th</sup> November Mrs. Penton met with the HDC Street Cleaning Team Leader, Mr. Matthew Freemantle, on site and confirmed the correct positioning of the bin.

**13. FINANCE**

The following invoices were presented:

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting totalling £230.00

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £429.44

These were unanimously agreed and approved that they be paid.

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

Date: - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

There was an invoice from Classic Window for the completed work to the Village Hall. The Clerk to confirm the correct amount as it made no reference to the previously paid deposit for the work. It was agreed that if the invoice for £1,450 is confirmed as being accurate then a cheque to be issued between meetings.

The Council spent some time reviewing the current financial position of the Council including the estimated carry forward level into 2015/16, as well as the budget spends against actual figures. The tax base information had also been obtained and it was noted that this had increased from 148 in 2014/15 to 149 for 2015/16. It was agreed that the contribution per household to remain at £80, therefore a precept to be collected of £11,920. Resolution passed and the Mrs. Penton signed the paperwork. The Clerk to send back to the District Council.

There had been further communications from NatWest regarding bank signatories. This work would now have to go on hold till a new Clerk is in post.

It was noted a thank you letter had been received from Hunts Citizens Advice Bureau for our £100 donation.

Councillors also agreed that it would be easier if the cheque book remained in the village with the Vice Chair between meetings.

#### **14. PLAYING FIELD**

The play area inspection had been carried out recently and the report to be circulated electronically.

It was also noted that when an invoice is received for this inspection it needs to be checked to ensure that it reflects an unaccompanied inspection was carried out.

#### **15. VILLAGE HALL**

The Council discussed whether a group should be set up to look at opportunities for the Hall and the Field, as there are some interested people in the village that would be happy to look in this, the Councillors were supportive of those individuals taking this forwards in principle with a view to improving facilities for the benefit of the community. It was felt that having feedback to the Council in three months time would give the group an opportunity to make some initial enquiries.

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

It was noted that the Clerk does need to follow up the quotes for matting.

#### **17. PLANNING**

There had been no applications received between meetings, however, some members of the public were aware of an application relating to the temporary monitoring mast for the Common Barn Farm. Evidently, there is an application currently being considered. However, it was noted that the Parish Council had received no notification of this. It was agreed that this matter to be followed up with the District Council as this is concerning.

#### **18. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS**

The correspondence was reviewed; all items had been covered during the meeting.

#### **19. WIND FARM UPDATE**

See Item 17 above.

#### **20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The responsibility of updating the village web site is being discussed with an individual it was noted.

#### **21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This would be Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at **7.00pm**; the meeting was closed at 10.00pm

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

Date: - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014