

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2014

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT: - Vice Chairman Mrs S. Penton and Parish Councillors Mrs. H. Ramply, Mr D. Saw, Mr M. Rawson, District Councillor T. Hayward, County Councillor J. Wisson, the Clerk and seven members of the public.

In the absence of Mr. Marnes Mrs. Penton chaired the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillors Mr. A. Marnes and Mr. D Felce had sent apologies, which were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received for this meeting.

The meeting was closed for the next item

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

County Councillor Wisson detailed that she had been asked to follow up the freedom of information request regarding the reduction in streetlights. She felt that it would not be appropriate for her in her position to be involved with this, and that the Parish Council would be better placed to follow this matter up further with Cambridgeshire County Council if they wanted to. Councillor Wisson was supportive of helping the Parish Council pursue the streetlights, which remained at the wrong location, if more detail could be forwarded to her regarding this.

Regarding County Council news it was noted that the main current focus is the budget review which will include a full review of the library service, a review of dimming street lights from midnight to 5am, as well as reviewing winter gritting routes and management of household recycling.

Cllr Hayward reported that he had looked into the issue around the bin on the Playing Field. It is not a District Council bin, however, it has now been removed and the area cleaned it was noted. The area will now be monitored by the District Council to see if there is a need for a bin in this location, the Parish Council also has the option of purchasing a bin if they wish.

Other District Council information reported was that all the leisure centres are doing a number of activities over the winter months to help people be active.

A resident expressed disappointment that there had been no feedback to residents after the last meeting regarding the traffic calming scheme on the High Street.

There was support that there is a need for cold callers in the village to be deterred.

It was reported that a neighbouring parish has commenced a petition to stop Mill Lane road being closed when it is flooded.

The recent quiz event held in the village had been very successful.

There has been interest from some residents to form a development committee regarding future aspirations relating to the Playing Field and Village Hall, so this may be a future agenda item for the Parish Council.

There was concern by residents that the A1 had been closed due to roadworks, which had not been previously advertised by the Highways Agency so residents had no idea they were going on, and therefore would have planned their journeys accordingly, as the works caused severe disruption to the local road network. It was asked if the A1 Safety Group representatives could follow this up and encourage better planning and roadside advance advertisement of any such closures in the future.

It was also added that there is a dip in the road outside the Village Hall entrance section of the High Street, Cllr Wisson agreed to follow this matter up.

The meeting was re-opened

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 3rd September 2014 and 1ST October 2014

These had been circulated to all Councillors. It was unanimously agreed by all present to accept the minutes of both meetings as circulated ahead of the Council meeting:- resolution passed.

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council...S. Penton (**Vice Chairman**)

Date: - 3rd December 2014

Page 1 of 3

5. MATTERS ARISING

All items to be covered during the meeting.

6. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

It was noted that the appropriate notices had been displayed in the noticeboard for the required time period, so the Parish Council was now in the position to co-opt, as an election had not been called. Councillors had been provided with some guidance notes on the co-option process and there had been one expression of interest received. It was proposed by Cllr Rawson that Mr Ian Davies be co-opted as a Parish Councillor, seconded by Cllr Penton. All present unanimously agreed and resolution passed. Mrs. Penton invited Mr. Davies to join the other Parish Councillors at the table.

The Clerk to provide all relevant paperwork to Mr. Davies electronically.

7. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Clerk reported that there had been no response from the Allotment Association to date. It was agreed that it would be courteous to notify the land owner that to date the Council had had no feedback from the Allotment Association.

8. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr D. Saw detailed that the Parish Council had previously considered having some type of surveillance cameras in the village, at present three quotes had been obtained ranging from £4,270.26 to £5,280.00 (including VAT). Councillors discussed if an ongoing maintenance contract would be needed for the cameras. It was detailed that there would be minimal maintenance expected and no regular upkeep or statutory testing required. It was noted that the groundwork costs need to be obtained, with local residents offering to help with digging holes. There were then questions regarding whether they are constant cameras or motion activated as well as the capacity of the storage unit on the facility. It was felt that while the Council are still supportive of such a scheme in the village it would be sensible to obtain a picture of a still from the CCTV at night time to ensure that there is sufficient clarity in any pictures generated.

It was reported that the discussion at the last meeting regarding having a no cold calling area in the village had been followed up and it has been confirmed that there have been sufficient incidents in the village reported for this to go ahead. It was unanimously agreed by those present to pursue a no cold calling zone for the High Street.

9. HIGHWAYS MATTERS REGARDING THE VILLAGE

9a. Highways Improvement Scheme

It was noted that after the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Highways Officer as discussed and it was detailed that still to date no report had been received from the Road Safety Team either supporting or opposing the traffic calming scheme put forward. More recently the Parish Council had received a communication from the Highways Officer detailing the possibility of having the platform part of the calming measure made out of a recycled rubber material instead of tarmac. Councillors had considered this between meetings and there had been a general feeling that this is a good idea as it is more cost effective and would cushion the noise. It was added that a platform made of this material would be 3 metres once on site rather than 2.7metres, which had been the previously reported size of a tarmac platform.

The Council agreed to a material change to the platform in principle and this to be fed back to the Officer by the Clerk. It was also agreed that the Clerk to collate a letter to the Officer requesting again sight of the Road Safety Team report feedback to the scheme, seeking clarification in terms of maintenance responsibility of the recycled rubber material platform and further highlighting the need for this scheme to progress given the tight deadlines before the funding is lost. County Councillor Wisson also agreed to support the Council with ensuring there are no further delays to the scheme.

8b. Street Lighting

It was discussed what the Council should do regarding pursuing the freedom of information request to the County Council relating to the streetlights. It was agreed by those present not to pursue this matter further.

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council...S. Penton (**Vice Chairman**)

Date: - 3rd December 2014

Page 2 of 3

10. A1 MATTERS

There were no items to report on the A1.

11. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting totalling £225.00

Cambs County Council street lighting cost charges £321.50

Mr R Stead website hosting £50.00

These were unanimously agreed and approved that they be paid.

Councillors had been provided with an overview of the current financial position of the Council, and the Clerk will prepare a full budget draft ahead of the next meeting when the Parish Council will need to set the precept for 2015/16. There was discussion on the management of the website and interim updates. Mary Farmery kindly agreed to continue the updates and Mrs. Penton agreed to forward the Parish Council meeting agendas and Minutes. It was felt that on a longer term it may be best to consider integrating the website with the newly formed village forum.

12. PLAYING FIELD

The Council had received a letter to say that OUEM will be undertaking a valuation of the field shortly.

The play area inspection is also due to be carried out shortly.

There are quotes being obtained for the digging of trenches and laying of electricity cables to provide a supply to the top part of the field.

The Council discussed the recent loss of the litter bin provision by Rectory Lane, they were supportive of purchasing a bin in the region of £400-500 if the District Council are able to install it and empty it, this to be looked into to see if this is a possibility.

13. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Penton, as a Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee, fed back from the most recent Committee meeting:- The total balance in the bank is £3,215.04.

The insurance policy is being reviewed in January and it was noted that it might be beneficial to integrate the Village Hall Insurance with the main Parish Policy.

It was noted that the hire charge for residents is £5 per hour and non-residents £10 per hour.

14. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

It was reported that there is a forthcoming coffee morning on December 13th from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

15. PLANNING

No items to be discussed.

16. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

The correspondence was reviewed. The Councillors noted that there is an electoral review of Cambridgeshire Councillors being undertaken and a street lighting inventory had been received.

17. WIND FARM UPDATE

There had been no update on this item.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that footballers had been seen on the field recently. This was discussed and it was felt that it was not an arranged match, just some locals having a kick about.

It was detailed that there is the possibility of there being some large tree trunks donated which can be used as seating on the field if the Parish Council are in agreement. The Council were supportive of this idea and it was agreed that one be sited at the top part of the field and one more towards the entrance side of the field.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30pm; the meeting was closed at 9.50pm

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council...s. Penton (**Vice Chairman**)

Date: - 3rd December 2014