

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2014

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT: - Parish Councillors, Mrs. H. Ramply, Mr. D Felce, Mrs S. Penton, Mr D. Saw, Mr. A. Marnes, Mr M. Rawson, District Councillor T. Hayward, the Clerk and six members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor J. Wisson, had sent apologies which were accepted. It was noted that Mrs S Gadsby had resigned from the Parish Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received for this meeting.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was a suggestion that to resolve the speeding issue on the High Street a Vehicle Activate Sign should be installed with a 20mph speed limit.

There was a thank you to all those that helped with the recently successful fayre event.

It was raised that if the playing field were to be used for future hire then there would need to be a way of getting electricity to that part of the field.

A resident gave further feed back from a meeting with a representative of the Football Association regarding extending the use of the field for a football pitch.

It was detailed that there is a quiz night being held on 1st November in the village.

Cllr. Hayward reported that the District Council will not be increasing the council tax for the coming year and at present there is no intention of Parish Council's having to carry out extra services, with it being added that the District Council are now going to a zero based budget method. Cllr Hayward also reported that he had chaired the recent A1 Safety Advisory Group meeting. Cllr Hayward asked for advice on how best to communicate with local residents and it was agreed that information could be placed on the village notice board or be added to the website.

Chairman reopened the meeting

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd September 2014

There was much discussion centred on Mr. Marnes' request to remove a particular sentence from these Minutes. However, the outcome was that 4 of the Councillors present were in favour of leaving it in and, therefore, Mr. Marnes refused to sign the Minutes.

So this item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

It was discussed by Councillors that with Mr. A. Marnes not able to attend the next meeting, that Mrs. S. Penton will be leading the meeting as Vice Chair.

All other items to be covered during the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Clerk had contacted the landowner regarding the piece of land they had suggested could be used for allotments, the feedback was that the land could be ready for spring for a two year period initially then the arrangement reviewed annually. The Clerk had forwarded this information onto the Allotment Association, however, as she had no response she had sent the information directly to an Allotment Association member. The Clerk had also contacted the National Association to seek their guidance on the next steps.

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7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr D. Saw detailed that the Parish Council had previously considered having some type of surveillance cameras in the village, following with the help of a resident who has experience in this area, an initial quote of £2,200 had been obtained. This was for a starter camera set with high resolution (including night working) with a four-camera system and eight recorders. A further quote had now been sourced for £4,000 which Mr. D. Saw detailed to the Council, work would continue on securing a third quote for this work.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS REGARDING THE VILLAGE

8a. Highways Improvement Scheme

The Clerk had notified the Highways Officer of the Parish Council’s decision at the last meeting to proceed with the raised speed hump option and enquired regarding realistic time-scales. The Officer had fed back that they had had an informal chat with the road safety team and they were not happy with the proposal put forward. They had informally fed back that the Council could have a speed bump but they would like it to be a round topped type that does not extend fully kerb to kerb (this will actually prevent any drainage issues). The reasons they gave for this were, that there is not enough room for a full size flat top cushion without impeding on the entrance to the Village Hall and the driveway next door, this would not be desirable as it could lead to problems for vehicles getting into the Hall. The smaller version that had been discussed at the on site meeting would also give a higher chance of vehicles grounding out as they would be straddling the flat top.

This information had been provided to Councillors between meetings and the Councillors again expressed the continued frustration regarding moving this scheme forwards. It was unanimously agreed that the Council in the first instance, wish to proceed with the scheme in its originally agreed format as agreed on site and as the Officer was notified on 4th September, with the raised platform option, which has previously been estimated as costing £8,680. If the road safety team reject the scheme, then please can they provide a written report to the Parish Council as to why this is not acceptable and reference the appropriate highways construction regulations in their response. Given the particularly limiting time-scales of this scheme needing to be done in order to ensure that funding is not lost, and to save further delay in the scheme progressing, the Council discussed what to do if the safety team do not proceed with the original, preferred scheme. Having looked at the feedback comments, the Council would then look to proceed with a scheme as per originally agreed, however, with the crossing aspect removed and for the raised platform not to be joined to the kerb i.e. so it slopes away just before the kerb.

The Parish Council would then like to be sent any drawings electronically in advance if the scheme has to be revised so they are sure what the scheme will actually look like, as there was a wish not to have a 'sleeping policeman' type of hump. With the above adjustments, the Council felt that two of the issues raised by the road safety team would then be mitigated. The Officer also to be asked for any further information/communications to be received as soon as possible as the Council would like to be in a position to have a confirmed final scheme in place, with expected time-scales known ahead of the next meeting in November.

It was agreed that the Clerk to draft the response to the Officer for circulation to all Councillors for their approval ahead of it being sent to the Officer. It was agreed that information should be sent to the residents using the notice board, a leaflet drop and the 'grapevine', once the Council are in receipt of the final scheme drawings.

At previous Council meetings, the Council had reviewed the resident’s questions directed to the Council; the Clerk had collated a time line of communications including emails to show how the meeting on 22nd May was arranged. This information had been sent to all Councillors for them to view and the Clerk had forwarded this information on to the resident as well. The Councillors felt in respect of this matter, as they were aware that the District Council were dealing with this matter now, any further comments on the matter should come from the Monitoring Officer.

8b. Street Lighting

It was noted that the feedback to the Council’s requested information relating to other parishes and the proportions of lights they had had removed, had now been received, however, the information received was not actually what was asked for. It was agreed that Cllr. Wisson be asked to follow this matter up, as it was still clear that the village had lost a high proportion of street lights compared to other parishes. It was also noted that two lamps continue to be in the wrong location.

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9. A1 MATTERS

District Councillor T. Hayward, Parish Councillors A. Marnes, D. Saw, H. Ramply and a resident attended the recent A1 Group meeting, where it had been reported that 1500 people had been caught by the average speed cameras in five months since they were installed. Other information from the meeting was the outcome of the London to Leeds route based strategy is likely to be known by March 2015. The group had also viewed the Black Cat roundabout design drawings at the meeting.

10. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting totalling £461.25

Hunts District Council election cost charges £105.00

PKF LittleJohn external audit £120.00

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £286.28

Broker Network Ltd insurance renewal £688.28

These were unanimously agreed and approved that they be paid.

There was a donation request from Citizens Advice Bureau, the Council discussed this and it was proposed to make a donation of £100, five Councillors in support, 1 against, so it was agreed to make a donation of £100 to this organisation.

Mrs S. Penton had visited the bank to update the mandate, the form had been updated by the Clerk and was now ready to be provided to the bank with all the relevant sections now completed.

The Clerk reported that there had been feedback from the External Auditor, the only item to come to their attention had been that there had been no 'n/a' marked regarding trust funds on the Annual Return, no other matters had arisen.

There had been some follow up work on the Parish Council insurance policy between meetings, the cover it was felt is adequate and there had been no possibility of negotiating the price any lower. The Village Hall Management Committee policy had been forwarded to the insurers as well, they could not provide any saving, however, could provide more comprehensive cover.

The Council then discussed the PCC insurance noting Cllrs Saw and Ramply's declaration of interest, following discussion it was agreed that a donation of £750 be paid to the insurance cost of the church.

It was unanimously agreed to transfer £5k between the Parish Council accounts.

11. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk fed back that an accompanied play area inspection would cost £71.00, it was agreed to accept this and proceed with getting it carried out.

It was suggested that consideration could be given for an electricity supply to the playing field with some present offering to dig the trench to save on the overall cost of this. This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

There continue to be problems with the emptying of the bin in Rectory Lane, it was agreed that Cllr Hayward to follow this up as HDC appear to be missing it off their round.

12. VILLAGE HALL

It was noted that with the resignation of Mrs S. Gadsby a second Parish Council representative is needed to report back from Village Hall Management Committee meetings. Mrs. S. Penton kindly agreed to take on this role.

13. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

Mr. D. Saw reported that plastic matting would not require formal permission if it were to be put down, therefore it was agreed that Clerk to get quotes for approximately 30 metres of matting.

14. PLANNING

No items to be discussed.

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15. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

The correspondence was reviewed.

Councillors expressed their grateful thanks to Sandra Gadsby who had recently resigned from the Council; Sandra had been a valuable member of the Village Hall Management Committee as well as being a member of the Parish Council. She had also contributed a lot of time and effort towards the organisation of many of the village activities.

The notice of vacancy will be displayed and if no election is called then the Council have the power to fill the vacancy by co-option, so this will need to be a future agenda item.

16. WIND FARM UPDATE

There had been no update on this item.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None received.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be Wednesday 5th November at 7.30pm; the meeting was closed at 9.55pm