

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY 2014

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mrs H. Ramply, Mr. D. Felce, Mr. A. Marnes, Mrs. S. Gadsby, Mr M. Rawson, the Clerk and five members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor T. Hayward, County Councillor J. Wisson, Parish Councillors Sheila Penton and Dick Saw had sent apologies which were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Mrs. H. Ramply had a declared interest in a planning matter to be discussed, no other declarations of interest were made.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were comments received regarding the grass cutting and hedge maintenance of the churchyard, it was fed back that the contractor had been forwarded the previous comments and had acted on them, ensuring the grass cutting is not left on the gravestones.

There were concerns expressed regarding the local authority street lighting work from residents who reported that this is being done at unsociable hours and appears to be taking a long time. There was also some concern over some of the locations of the lamps and that there are some dangerous holes in the side of the pavement which are hazardous. There was a request for one of the new lamps in the High Street to be put back in the place it had come from as it is not effective in its new position.

There was an update given on the forthcoming summer fayre and activities being planned for.

Chairman reopened the meeting

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd June and 5th July 2014

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was proposed by Mrs S. Gadsby and seconded by Mr. D. Felce, and unanimously agreed to accept these minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, the Chair signed the documents.

5. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the Declaration of Interest Forms and Acceptance of Office forms completed at the June meeting had been submitted to the District Council. The Clerk had commenced work on the edited Standing Orders document, however, due to the workload associated with the High Street highways improvement scheme this document had been delayed in being circulated.

All other items to be covered during the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

There was no update, and had been no contact from Savills.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There had been no contact from the new PCSO assigned to the village, but it had been noticed that there had been some increased police presence in the village recently.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS REGARDING THE VILLAGE

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

Date: - 3rd September 2014

Page 1 of 4

Following the extraordinary meeting where the matter of the highways improvement scheme for the High Street was discussed at length, the Clerk had submitted the feedback from the Council meeting to the Highways Officer. They had unfortunately, responded detailing that some of the information they had outlined at the extraordinary meeting regarding a temporary build out being able to be tested for a period of a few weeks, was in fact not possible as they could not leave any items in situ on the highway for a period of time. The Councillors present were disappointed to hear this, and felt that now as only a temporary build out for a few hours was being offered that in this case, the best time of day would be very late afternoon/early evening so as many people as possible could have the opportunity to view it. It was agreed that the Clerk to respond to the Highways Officer expressing the Council's disappointment about the shortened time period, and ask for the temporary structure to be in situ on a weekday in the late afternoon/early evening with at least two weeks notice of the date and time this would take place so the Council could notify all residents in the village.

The Council then discussed on how best to communicate all this to residents, it was agreed that the Clerk would produce following this meeting a summary document, which included the latest information from the Highways Officer as well as the map of the proposed highways scheme. This would then be circulated amongst all Councillors for their feedback comments and would then be printed and distributed to the village. The time-scale that it was agreed to work to was the end of the following week the document be ready for circulation, and a copy of the map would also be placed in the notice board.

There had been residents' comments on the extraordinary meeting and the highways scheme received between meetings, the Clerk had forwarded these on to the Councillors. There was one resident who had directed questions at an individual Councillor, this was discussed by the Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to the resident as a corporate body and apologise for any misunderstanding from any information that may have been circulated, adding that from now on all correspondence to residents regarding this would be issued from the Clerk and a full update is being worked on to circulate very shortly.

The Councillors present discussed the next round of the County Council Highways Improvement Scheme Fund which would be open till mid September, it was agreed that more time needed to be given to the current scheme proposed for the High Street prior to the Council making a decision on another scheme. So this would be a discussion point at the September meeting with the main suggestion still being the potential for an application for passing bays along Rectory Lane.

Mr. D. Saw had sent an email thanking the County Council for the recent filling in of pot holes in Bell Lane and Rectory Lane.

The Parish Council were disappointed that after approaching the local authority regarding the future responsibility of some of the street lamps that had been proposed to be removed, asking if the Parish Council could take some on, the response had been that it was not possible. There had been a site meeting with Officers and Councillors, and prior to the end of the consultation period that had been set, the Council were notified that no changes to the plans were possible. The Council had been reporting issues regarding workmanship and location of the lamps to the relevant individuals at Balfour Beatty, being quoted a large amount of money to relocate one of the lamps to a more preferred location. It was agreed that the Clerk to request if it is possible for the Council to source their own lighting contractor to carry out the relocation of a lamp, if this is possible then a quote for such work would be obtained.

The Council had also requested information relating to other parishes and the proportions of lights they had had removed as Southoe seemed to be having a high number of lights removed.

9. A1 MATTERS

Cllr. T. Hayward had forwarded a copy of Buckden Parish Council's comments to the Clerk which had been circulated amongst Councillors regarding their comments on the A14 public consultation. Mr. D. Saw had collated the response on behalf of the Parish Council which all Councillors had had the opportunity to comment on and the Clerk had submitted in the required time-scale.

At the last meeting, Mr. A. Marnes reported that he would be meeting with Mr. Djanogly MP, between meetings an update on this meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. The Parish Council wished to make it

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Date: - 3rd September 2014

clear that to date Southoe and Midloe Parish Council as a corporate body have no formal agreed position regarding any future upgrade of the A1. The Clerk to write to Mr. Djanogly MP.

It was noted that there had been a further accident recently, and after numerous reports for the central reservation grass cutting to be done this is now expected to be done shortly.

10. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented (Mr. A. Marnes declared an interest in this item so took no part in the discussion):

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting totalling £325.00

Cambs County Council street lighting £210.61

Gill Wiggs Internal Audit £85.00

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £286.29

Mr A Marnes reimbursement of printing costs £8.40

These were unanimously agreed and approved that they be paid.

There had been notification from Eon of recent direct debit for £24.38 for the Village Hall electricity.

It was noted that the bank mandate update needs to take place removing Mrs. M. Farmery as a signatory and Mrs. S. Gadsby to become a new signatory for the Parish Council.

The updated Financial Regulations document is to be circulated with the further updates with the inclusion of the correct bank signatories as per agreed.

The Clerk reported that there had been feedback from the Internal Auditor, one item had arisen which was the Council do not employ a Clerk they use the services of a company for such work. In the submission to the external auditor additional information as supplied noting 'the Council buys in clerical services from a limited company, therefore do not operate PAYE or NI as they have no employees'.

The Clerk confirmed that all the appropriate documents had been submitted to the external auditor ahead of the revised date of 30th June.

11. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk had obtained a quote for the spraying of the field to kill the excessive number of weeds, a quote of £199 was obtained for the play area part of the field, therefore the cost if proportioned for the whole field would be significantly more. These present agreed to consider more local options and speak to some local individuals.

There continued to be some issues with the litter bins still not being emptied it was noted.

It was requested that could the contractors please cut the field in time for the summer fayre at the beginning of September so it is looking good for the event. Mr. A. Marnes agreed to follow this up.

12. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the energy survey feedback report is still awaited but the document has been prepared now. The Management Committee had also made an application to the District Council Community Chest where they had been awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the fascia and soffits work. It was agreed that the Management Committee would make a donation to the project as well, and that the Clerk to contact the relevant Officers notifying them of the Parish Council's bank details so the monies could be received.

Following the extraordinary meeting there had been a detailed discussion on whether to lock the gate into the play area, this matter was again discussed in detail and it was agreed that the gate should not be locked, however, the situation could be reviewed again if needed.

13. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

Awaiting feedback from Mr. D. Saw enquiries with the Diocese if it is agreeable or formal permission is needed for grass matting to be placed in the churchyard to make a path.

At the next meeting information would be brought regarding the request for the Parish Council to consider contributing to the Church's insurance cost.

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Date: - 3rd September 2014

14. PLANNING

It was noted that there had been a letter received regarding an application for a mobile phone signal mast in the parish, this had been circulated to all Councillors and no concerns had been raised.

Mrs. H. Ramplly declared an interest in the following applications and took no part in their discussions.

There was a planning application for consideration at the meeting, reference number 1400970FUL change of use of building of B1 to B2 for repair, maintenance, servicing and painting (retrospective) at Common Barn, Church Farm, Rectory Lane. The Council had no objection to this.

1400811FUL retrospective application for the permanent siting of two static caravans for use by seasonal agricultural workers at Common Barn Farm, Church Farm, Rectory Lane, the Council had no objection to the application though noted that seasonal should be clarified within the planning conditions applied.

15. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

The correspondence was reviewed and items had been circulated to Councillors that may be of interest, Mr. A. Marnes gave feedback from recent Low Cost Housing ACRE event.

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 3rd September at 7.30pm, the Council then would continue to generally meet on the first Wednesday of every month thereafter. The meeting was closed at 9.25pm