

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

**Held on WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:** - Councillors Mr. A. Marnes (Chairman), Mrs. S. Penton (Vice Chairman), Mr. I. Davies, Mr D. Saw, Mrs. H. Ramply, Mr M. Rawson, District Councillor Mr. T. Hayward, Mrs. Barnicoat (Parish Clerk) and nine members of the public.

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

Parish Councillor Mr. D. Felce and County Councillor Mrs. J. Wisson had sent apologies, which were accepted.

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

No new declarations of interest were received for this meeting. It was noted that there was a planning application to discuss for which Mrs H. Ramply would have to leave the room.

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

#### **Highways Improvement Scheme**

Following the last meeting the Clerk had notified the Officer that the Parish Council were supportive of the final drawing, the scheme had also been on the notice board, website and information had been included on the 'Grapevine' with the Officer's contact details included in case any residents had any questions on the scheme. The Officer had fed back to the Clerk that there had been a few comments received from residents during the consultation period. The product had now been ordered and the earliest the installation would take place would be 7<sup>th</sup> March. However, as the works have to be programmed in to suit the product supplier and local authority workmen it is expected that realistically the installation will be later. The Officer has confirmed that if the work is not carried out until the next financial year this is not an issue regarding the funding, as this has been secured and will not be lost.

#### **The Chair closed the meeting for the next item**

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr. T. Hayward highlighted to those present the local MP's petition regarding the A1, encouraging residents to sign it, noting that it is for no particular plan or route, it is just a petition to say something needs to be done about this stretch of the A1. Some Councillors and members of the public raised that people would have their own opinion on whether this petition should be supported or not, naturally depending on their personal view. It was noted that there is a forthcoming A1 Safety Advisory Group meeting later in the month, which all the representatives from the surrounding villages are invited to, with this item being one of the discussion points.

The vicar thanked the Parish Council for their support and recent donation towards the insurance costs.

A resident gave an update on the no cold calling zone being set-up. There does need to be a point of contact in the village for this, and two individuals are considering this. They will liaise directly with the Officer concerned and keep the Parish Council updated regarding the communications.

It was highlighted that the government have recently updated the code of practice and associated guidance regarding CCTV cameras in public places, so it was suggested that it would be worth making sure that any cameras the Parish Council are looking to have installed in the village are in accordance with this new guidance. It was noted that this needs to be brought up with the company the Parish Council are currently in discussions with.

It was raised by a resident that they were disappointed that the Southoe parish representatives at the A1 Safety Advisory Group are not elected, given that their role is to represent the views of the village. As there may be individuals who would like to be involved who have not had the opportunity to be involved.

There was concern expressed that the recent variation application for the renewal of the wind monitoring mast is overdue by three weeks and the mast should have been taken down by now.

There was a request for an update on the sinking road outside the Village Hall entrance, following any inspections undertaken by the local authority, in the absence of Cllr. Wisson this would have to be followed up.

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## **Chair reopened the meeting**

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014**

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted there needed to be a small amendment to the document, with this change it was unanimously agreed by all present to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record of the meeting, resolution passed.

*At this point of the meeting Cllr. T. Hayward took leave from the meeting.*

### **6. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk had submitted the precept request to the relevant Officer and they had confirmed receipt of the document. All other items to be covered during the meeting.

### **7. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

It had been discussed at the last meeting the broad proposals by the Boundary Commission and it was agreed by those present that the Parish Council have no comments to make to the overall change in elected member numbers, though they do feel it is paramount that there needs to be a consistency between the District and County Council wards. The Parish Council, were concerned regarding the proposed warding going forward, feeling it is important to raise that, as a village and community Southoe have no connection to the Kimbolton and Brampton ward or those parishes in any way. The Parish Council support remaining within the ward area they are currently in which is with Diddington and Buckden, for several reasons such as, the A1 is the only access out of Southoe. This is a matter that the local parishes understand, such as Diddington and Buckden. The parishes work already closely together on improving the A1 for the benefit of the residents, and there is an A1 Safety Group with those neighbouring parishes. The area of Buckden is geographically closer to Southoe than Kimbolton or Buckden. The local services that residents of Southoe use are those that are in the current ward, such as the library, shops, doctors, school and the church groupings. As well as the residents of Southoe feel a greater affinity to this current area. Given that the parish of Southoe and Midloe is a very small parish in terms of electorate, the inclusion of Southoe in the Buckden ward area would not impact on the overall electorate numbers for the elected Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk to submit the Council's comments.

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

It was detailed that the Police had issued a new informative publication, which had been placed on the 'Grapevine'. Regarding the CCTV installation there are ongoing discussions, Mr D. Saw updated that there is a further meeting planned with the preferred contractor on 21<sup>st</sup> January where there will be a survey of the proposed camera locations and an understanding of the cabling works required. This survey is required in order to satisfy the Diocese who wish to see design details of the proposed camera locations and associated cabling. This survey will incur a cost of £190, which the Parish Council were supportive of paying. Once the report has been received and the specification details are known this will be forwarded to the Diocese at Ely to seek their formal approval to the scheme.

### **9. A1 MATTERS**

Regarding the discussions in the Open Forum relating to the A1 Safety Advisory Group, Mrs. H. Ramply expressed that she was happy to stand down from this role if others wished to be involved, and it was agreed that Hayley Felce be a representative of the parish at future A1 Safety Advisory Group meetings.

A letter from the local MP had been received which was read out, regarding the recent news that a study of the A1 is to be commissioned.

### **10. FINANCE**

The following invoice was presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £190.86

This was unanimously agreed and payment approved.

It was noted that the Clerk had checked and the previously presented invoice from Classic Window for the completed work to the Village Hall was correct so the invoice for £1,450 had been accurate and, therefore, as agreed at the last meeting the cheque had been issued between meetings.

It was noted that the chequebook is now remaining in the village between meetings and is currently with Mrs. Penton. Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....

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The Clerk will be undertaking a VAT reclaim shortly.

There had been an invoice received for an accompanied play area inspection from Wicksteed Leisure. However, despite Councillor Rawson making every effort to let the inspector know when he would be available the inspection was carried out, but unaccompanied. This meant there should be a reduction in the cost incurred to the Parish Council. This issue had been raised with Wicksteed who would be issuing a revised invoice or credit note to reflect this error, so the revised invoice once received will be a future item.

A draft vacancy notice for the Clerk has been collated which had been circulated to Councillors. Feedback was welcome and it was suggested that the advert could be displayed on the notice board, Grapevine and on the website as well as being distributed to local parishes. It was agreed that in order to allow this matter to progress that Cllrs. Penton, Marnes and Davies be the Councillors to take this forward including meeting any potential candidates. The Clerk offered to support the Parish Council until a replacement could be found.

**11. PLAYING FIELD**

The play area inspection had been carried out and the report had been circulated electronically to all Councillors. The report feedback included that the dog footrests and shrinking matting need attention. Mr. M. Rawson detailed that he had reviewed these. It was agreed that Mr. M. Rawson would look into a solution for the shrinking matting which it was felt could be filled in with sand and Mr. I. Davies would send the Clerk copies of the detailed pictures relating to the dog play equipment which quotes would need to be sourced for from ABC (the manufacturer).

It was also noted that there needs to be further children’s play area signage in the area, so quotes will need to be obtained for these by the Clerk.

There had, between meetings, been a resident enquiry regarding the future use of the Playing Field in terms of type of events that it would be hired for, and questions regarding appropriate insurance. It as agreed that the Clerk to respond to detail that at present this matter is just being investigated and the questions raised would be considered at the appropriate time.

**12. VILLAGE HALL**

There were no items to discuss.

**13. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND**

It was noted that following a resident communication between meetings regarding dogs accessing this area, it was noted that the Burial Ground rules are posted on the notice board by the entrance.

**14. PLANNING**

There had been an application received 1402111FUL and LBC which the Parish Council reviewed and raised no objection to.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS**

The correspondence was reviewed and it was noted that there are information events being held on the Local Plan document to 2036, which had been circulated to all. There had been a resident letter asking specific questions regarding dog free areas in the village. The Councillors had all seen the letter and it was agreed that the Clerk to respond to the resident detailing that the specific questions relating to regulations and enforcement of any laws in the village applicable to dogs, the Parish Council cannot fully answer as they have no laws in place regarding dogs. Highlighting that the appropriate authorities who are able to take action on the items raised in the letter, are the Dog Warden and Police. It was felt by the Council that it is not clear where in the village dogs can and cannot go so this would be a useful future agenda item with the Clerk to make some enquiries with the District Council in the meantime.

It was raised that an individual Councillor had contacted Chris Foyle of Local Infrastructure and Street Management (CCC) to object to the recently proposed and approved traffic calming measure on the High Street, clearly identifying his position on the Parish Council and that he objects to the current proposal. The concern was raised by another Councillor that the manner of this contact had caused confusion for Chris Foyle, could have caused further delays with the scheme and had seriously undermined the majority

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decision made at the September meeting of the Parish Council and the unanimous decisions made by the Parish Council at the October and December meetings. The Councillor suggested that he was entitled to object as an individual, which, of course, is perfectly correct. But on this occasion the Councillor had made it clear that he was commenting as a Parish Councillor and it was on a matter where he had already been outvoted in his presence. As a result it was agreed, to avoid any such confusion in the future, that all councillors understand that any future outside communications must state clearly if they are being expressed as an individual or on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Mrs. H. Ramply left the meeting at this point*

**16. WIND FARM UPDATE**

The Clerk had raised with the District Council the concern over the lack of communication regarding the more recent planning application for the wind monitoring mast. The Officers had responded between meetings to detail that they were experiencing a backlog of applications and that the application had been received, however, had not been processed. Those present expressed concern over the mast remaining while there is no planning permission in place and that the renewal of the application had not been within the correct timescales as well as there being no intention by the applicant to remove the mast. There were also concerns expressed using Woolley Hill as a precedent when the total time the mast had been up there was three and a half years, whereas the proposal at Common Barns would be a total of in excess of five years. There was an agreement by those present that this reason be incorporated into a letter of objection. Mr. I. Davies' draft letter to be used as a starter for the Parish Council's objection. The letter to be sent to all for comments prior to the Clerk submitting the Council's comments.

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items received.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This would be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at **7.00pm**; the meeting was closed at 9.15pm