

SOUTHOE AND MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Southoe and Midloe Parish Council held in the VILLAGE HALL, SOUTHOE on WEDNESDAY, 8 July 2015 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mrs S Penton - Chairman
Mr D Felce - Vice-Chairman
Mr I Davies
Mr A Marnes
Mrs H Ramplly
Mr D Saw

Mrs N Webster - Parish Clerk

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor T Hayward, Ms C List, PCSO and one member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Parish Councillor M Rawson and County Councillor Mrs J Wisson.

37. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor A Marnes confirmed that he had submitted a request for recycled paint for use at the Village Hall (Minute No. 35 refers).

39. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs H Ramplly declared an interest in Agenda Item 14: Planning Matters: Meteorological Mast - Response to complaint lodged with Huntingdonshire District Council.

The meeting was closed for the next item.

40. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During this item, a number of issues were raised –

- (a) Ms A Saward drew Members' attention to a recent incident where two people travelling in a "P" registration transit van had been seen driving up and down the High Street and acting suspiciously. Following investigation, it had been confirmed by the Police that they were undertaking work on behalf of the Council. District Councillor T Hayward requested a copy of the relevant Police text message due to the fact that no one had been aware of the reason for their presence in the village and they should have been carrying some form of identification.
- (b) In the absence of County Councillor Mrs J Wisson, District Councillor Hayward advised Members that the County Council were to consider the electoral boundary review at their meeting to be held on 21 July 2015.
- (c) With regard to A1 matters, District Councillor Hayward confirmed he would be attending an update meeting with Mr I McCurdy, Corporate Director (Delivery), Huntingdonshire District Council on 23 July 2015. Mr J Djanogly, MP was also planning to arrange a meeting sometime in September/October 2015.
- (d) The District Councillor reported that following publication of Network Rail's review of level crossings in the area, a local regional working party would be set up to consider the changes/closures contained therein.
- (e) General disappointment was expressed by Councillors who attended the presentation/content of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Update meeting held on 29 June 2015. There would be an increased volume of traffic using Mill Road, Buckden but potentially less on the High Street.
- (f) Two complaints had been received regarding the state of the A1 reservations bordering the village. Some vegetation had now been cut down but unfortunately the rubbish had not been removed.
- (g) The induction of the Rev Canon Annette Reed as Rector of Southoe had taken place on 28 June 2015.

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- (h) Ms C List, PCSO advised Members that Traffic Police were aware of the problem regarding motorists doing 'U' turns at the Bell Lane junction with the A1 and they were monitoring the situation with the intention of apprehending offenders.

The meeting was re-opened.

41. REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

As these documents were still being updated, the item was deferred to a later meeting.

42. VILLAGE SECURITY AND POLICING MATTERS

(a) CCTV, Southoe

Councillor Saw updated those present on the current position. Unfortunately as English Heritage had objected to a camera being positioned on the lychgate he was now investigating the possibility of it being placed on a nearby lamppost with Balfour Beatty. They have requested further information in respect of the camera's size, weight, etc. Members thought it would look unsightly there and were reminded that the lychgate was not a listed building and did, in fact, belong to the Parish Council. In the meantime, Councillor Saw offered to contact Huntingdonshire District Council regarding any planning permission required.

(b) Street Lighting

Although County Councillor Mrs Wisson had made a site visit to Thurley Close, no further progress has been made with regard to repositioning the lamppost.

To date, no additional information had been received regarding the introduction of a county-wide policy to turn street lights off from 12 midnight to 6.00 am.

Attention was drawn to the fact that trees obscured the light in Rectory Lane. It was, however, difficult to ascertain who was responsible for undertaking the necessary remedial work.

(c) "No Cold Calling" Scheme

Ms Saward confirmed she had written to Mr P Street advising him that she would undertake the role of co-ordinator but due to office changes she was now awaiting further information.

(d) Bell Lane – Monitoring

It was explained that the ditch had originally been filled in because of motorists turning in driveway. Although it was now being emptied it had been reported that vermin had been observed.

43. HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) A14 Update

In addition to previous comments made (Minute No. 40 ante refers), both Councillors Marnes and Saw were of the opinion that despite the A1 being designated as an approved route for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme construction/plant traffic, the scheme itself would have little impact on Southoe. At this stage it was not known if there would be any night time working.

The proposed demolition of the Huntingdon flyover in 2020 would allow more time to consider its retention for use by local traffic as its removal could affect surrounding towns and villages. If the flyover is taken down, Mr S Bell, the Transport Team Leader at Huntingdonshire District Council believed the area would be lighter and more attractive. Although no statistics were available it was also thought it would reduce pollution levels.

(b) High Street Traffic Calming Measures

Following observation of traffic travelling along the High Street since the installation of the calming measures, the majority of Members concurred that they had achieved their set purpose of making road users slow down.

44. A1 MATTERS

Minute Nos 40 (c), (f) and (g) ante refer.

45. FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk had previously circulated a draft statement of accounts and the Chairman reported that a cheque for £12.80 made payable to Councillor Saw for the printing of CCTV notices (Minute No 29 refers) had now been raised.

It was RESOLVED

that the following payments be made –

(i)	Mr R Holdaway	Grass cutting: 12/26 May 2015 (£230) and 9/23 June 2015 (£230)	£460.00
(ii)	Mrs N Webster	Training and June clerking services	£176.64
(iii)	Inland Revenue	Income Tax - Mrs N Webster	£ 44.16

46. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYGROUND MATTERS

The following items were raised –

(a) **Additional Grass Cutting**

A request had been submitted by Councillor Marnes for the grass to be cut before the Autumn Fayre. However, since it was unconfirmed it had been logged in the appropriate diary at Huntingdonshire District Council. Ms Saward agreed to follow up the matter.

(b) **Weed Control**

Councillor Felce reported that he had a forthcoming meeting with a potential contractor.

(c) **Signs**

It was thought that the new signs had been received and Councillor Davies volunteered to put them up. In the meantime it was agreed that the displaced “no dogs in playground” sign would be re-instated as soon as possible.

47. VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

Ms Saward was pleased to inform Members that the PAT testing of all electrical equipment located in both the Village Hall and Church had been successfully completed free of charge. She had also spoken to Mr D Smith, Healthy Communities Manager, Huntingdonshire District Council regarding the current position of the grant application for new doors and windows. Decision notices following a meeting to be held on 9 July 2015 would be despatched by mid-August.

48. CHURCH AND BURIAL MATTERS

(a) **Provision of Rubber Matting**

Residents have submitted requests relating to the provision of rubber matting in the churchyard on numerous occasions. Members have fully explored the various options available together with associated safety issues and costs, the matter still remains UNDETERMINED.

(b) **Burial Plots**

Councillor Marnes informed Members that he had passed the burial plot map to the Clerk and suggested that the accounts be checked for any outstanding payments.

(c) **Church Heating**

Attention was drawn to the fact that as the church heating system needed to be replaced, fund raising events would now be held to cover any shortfall in cost.

49. CONSULTATIONS

(a) **Cambridgeshire’s Strategy for Flood Risk Management**

It was agreed that the probability of flooding occurring in Southoe was low. However, everyone in the area should be mindful of the importance of maintaining drains/ditches. The questionnaire included within the document would be completed by the Chairman.

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(b) **Huntingdonshire District Council – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy and Gambling Act 2005, Statement of Principles**

The Clerk gave a brief outline of the contents of the above statements which set out in detail the types of licences processed/issued by the authority, the legislation adhered to and details of other organisations/authorities involved.

50. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAILS

A letter had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the cutting of grass on public rights of way. Normally responsibility for this function lies with the landowner. In the event of this not being undertaken, the County Council can request the person(s) concerned to complete the task. Failure to do so may result in the work being carried out by the Council and resultant costs being recharged to the landowner.

It was also highlighted that the grass in Green Lane needed cutting.

51. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Attention was drawn to two items relating to highway issues -

(a) Councillor Mrs Ramply mentioned that there was a pothole in Rectory Lane and Councillor Felce confirmed that he had already reported this.

(b) A letter regarding a road survey had been received by Councillor Marnes.

Councillor Davies also referred an incident where car tyres had been let down. As it was pointed out that this type of action had occurred in the past, it was agreed to monitor the situation.

52. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 2 September 2015 at 7.30 pm.

53. DEFERRED AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - PLANNING MATTERS

(Councillor Mrs Helen Ramply left the meeting at this point)

Meteorological Mast – Response to complaint lodged with Huntingdonshire District Council

Before consideration of this item, the Chairman read out an email (previously circulated) containing general guidance on pursuing the complaint and disclosure of Member interests.

An in depth discussion took place. Councillor Felce stated that the concerns expressed related to apparent anomalies within Huntingdonshire District Council planning services and not the wind farm itself. District Councillor Hayward reiterated that he was aware that the Planning Team were busy and a backlog of work existed. As a result of the adverse comments, he was perturbed at the lack of confidence in the planning processes so offered to investigate.

It was also noted that only Mr A Moffat, Head of Development had officially acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's complaint. After deliberating on the points raised in his response letter dated 2 July 2015, it was decided that it would be pointless to pursue the matter any further.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Mrs S Penton
Chairman

Signed by the Chairman:

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