

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on WEDNESDAY 1 Feb 17**

**In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm**

Present Sheila Penton (SP) Chairman, Dick Saw (DS) Vice - Chairman, A. Marnes (AM), Sue Brierley (SB), Andrew Kiley (AK), Sharon Mitchel (SM).  
Ms R. Mimiene (RM) Parish Clerk  
HDC Cllr T Hayward (TH)  
No members of the public.

**2016/17**

### **02/191 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non Attendance**

01/191.1 Clerk reported that Cllr I Davies sent apologies for absence due to work commitments.

01/191.2 Cllr SP informed that she cannot attend Jul PC meeting, Vice Chair DS agreed to chair this meeting. Cllr AK is away for Jun PC.

### **02/192 Declarations of Interest for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)**

02/192.1 There were no declarations of interests.

### **02/193 A1 Matters (this item was brought forward on the request)**

*Cllr AM joins the meeting*

02/193.1 To approve a letter drafted by Cllr D Saw addressed to local MP, Jonathan Djanogly, re: A1 solutions; to be sent from the whole council, Cllr D Saw  
Letter to Mr Jonathan Djanogly, MP Member of Parliament for Huntingdon was drafted and circulated to PC by Cllr DS. All members agreed to sign the letter. HDC Cllr TH reported that A1 Safety Advisory Group already in place and meeting is set in Feb. Traffic volume gone up. PC is looking for a short-term alternative to sort the problems. HDC Cllr TH will contact MP J Djanogly's assistant to arrange MP to visit the village and see how dangerous A1 crossing is. Hard copy of the letter to be attached to these minutes as an Appendix 1.

TH  
PC  
Clerk

*Meeting was closed for the following item*

### **02/194 Open Forum – For all members of the public and press present including District and County Councillors.**

02/194.1 HDC Cllr TH reported that there are no major problems with lorries by Brampton re: A14. Sweepers are there 2-3 times a day but roads still get dirty in certain places due to wet weather. Ouse Valley working group meeting is set in Mar 17.

02/194.2 Village asked for the 'Village only' sign previously as vehicles from A1 encountering a traffic hold-up enter the village expecting a shortcut there but then they end up back on A1 again.

02/194.3 HDC Cllr TH reported that there is going to be Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mayoral and Cambridgeshire County Council Elections on 4 May 17.

*Meeting was re-opened*

### **02/195 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4 January 2017**

Proposal: Proposed by Councillor SB, seconded by Councillor AK, all in favour, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting. Minutes were signed. **Carried**

### **02/196 Matters arising from those Minutes**

02/196.1 01/175.1: Cllr AM spoke to the NatWest again re: Internet banking. It can be done, but PC would need to be issued a bank card. But PC only needs the Clerk to be able to view the accounts balance. Agenda item for March PC meeting. Resolution needs to be passed. PC to draft a letter to the bank with the instructions.

PC  
Clerk

02/196.2 01/175.2: Cllr AM reported re: Defibrillator in Buckden was supplied through Buckden surgery. People got training, instructions are located on the box. Defibrillator could be installed on the VH in Southoe. Get advice. This matter will be discussed under Minute 02/199.

*Cllr SM leaves the meeting*

02/196.3 01/175.4: Highways Maintenance in Village, it has not been done yet.

*Cllr SM re-enters the meeting*

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

*RSS*

2016  
CHAIRMAN



02/196.4 HDC Local Plan to 2036: Wind Energy Developments: PC reply was submitted HDC on 9 Jan 17. Cllr AM read the statement of Warboys PC as well as his personal statement which is attached the PC's reply to the above consultation. PC comments are attached to these Minutes, Appendix 1.

02/196.5 Draft Corporate Energy Strategy reply to CCC: Cllrs ID and DS drafted a reply which was circulate to full Council prior to the meeting. Deadline for comments was 31 Jan 17.

**Proposal:** **Proposed by Councillor DS, seconded by Councillor SP, 3 Councillors voted for, 2 Councillors abstained and 1 Councillor voted against it and it was RESOLVED that the reply to be submitted CCC.** **Carried**

*Note since meeting: Clerk submitted PC comments on 2 Feb 17 after the PC meeting. Clerk checked with CCC will the comments still be accepted. Comments were accepted. A copy attached to these Minutes, Appendix 2.*

*HDC Cllr TH leaves the meeting*

## 02/197 Planning

02/197.1 Construction of new residential dwelling, Land At 32 Lees Lane Southoe, 16/02515/FUL – extension provided till 2 Feb 17.

PC has no objection but wishes to bring to HDC attention that there is an oil pipeline running very close to the proposed property which should show on historic land maps.

**Proposal:** **Proposed by Cllr AM, seconded by Cllr SP, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that the comments to be submitted HDC.** **Carried**

*Note since meeting: PC planning recommendations submitted HDC on 2 Feb 17.*

Clerk

## 02/198 Finance

02/198.1 Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation for the Quarter: Oct, Nov and Dec 16, Approved

02/198.2 Income and Expenditure report as at 31 Dec 16, Approved

02/198.3 Pensions Regulator, to note a staging date for Southoe & Midloe

*Cllr SM leaves the meeting*

PC is now registered as an employer and contact details are confirmed. Staging date is 1 Nov 17.

*Cllr SM re-enters the meeting.*

02/198.4 Expenditure for approval 1 Feb 17:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee and Description	Amount
1 Feb 17	958	R Mimiene, Clerk wages £213.66 and expenses £4.80 (mileage £4.80 and sky phone calls £0.00) Jan 17	£218.46
		Total Feb Payments:	£218.46

**Proposal** **Proposed by Cllr AM, seconded by Cllr SM, all in favour and it was RESOLVED that all items listed in 02/198.4 are to be paid.** **Carried**

## 02/199 To further discuss the Defibrillator for Southoe & Midloe Village

02/199.1 Cllrs SP and AM will approach Buckden surgery as the defibrillator purchased through the SP, AM Surgery is much cheaper.

## 02/200 Village Security & Policing Matters

02/200.1 To further discuss the Issue with a portacabin which is sited on Southoe playing field/football pitch, outcome of the meeting with the local police

PCSO for S&M is Richard Braddick (St Neots Safer Neighbourhood Team) apologized that he could to attend tonight's meeting, but noted that he is intending to come to the council meetings in the future. PCSO was patrolling the village, and made a presence around the playing fields, and apart from one occasion have not met anyone at the cabin. PCSO suggested to keep in contact, if PC has any issues in the village. Any crime, please call 101 or 999.

02/200.2 Cllr AM and SB are happy to clear the portacabin.

*Note since meeting: Portacabin cleared, no suspicious items found.*

AM, SB

## 02/201 Highways Matters

02/201.1 Waiting for I Winfield to complete the jobs agreed at the site meeting with Cllr DS.

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

CHAIRMAN



- 02/202 Play Area & Playing Field**  
 02/202.1 Action assigned to Cllrs ID and AK re: removal of coil spring ride in the play area, complete.  
 02/202.2 Play area inspection – Kay Lightfoot, volunteer, is doing regular checks - risk assessment and reports back. No other problems raised other than matting (which was brought to PC attention by Wicksteed yearly inspection too). Cllr SP will pass the tick list forms to K Lightfoot so that PC could have the writtenevidence for the file. **SP**
- 02/203 Village Hall**  
 02/203.1 Mrs A Seward, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, is looking at the Insurance quotes for the VH.
- 02/204 Village Matters**  
 02/204.1 Notice Board, update from Cllrs A Kiley and I Davies  
 The notice board appears in good condition and to accept an internal board that would accept pins or some other means of correspondence mounting, the board appears to be restricted by the fact that the transparent Perspex frontage is on the INSIDE of the door hence sit directly on any mounted information circulars. To obtain clearance between this front Perspex sheet and document - could modify the existing doors by rebating the front to accept the Perspex on the front outside face of the door to provide clearance between the 'glass' and sheet.  
 More of an aesthetic issue and padlock is so rusty. It was agreed to purchase a new padlock. Cllr AK will meet with Cllr SP and set the options what needs to be done. **SP, AK**  
 02/204.2 Finger Post, update from Cllrs A Kiley and I Davies  
 Cllrs checked the broken sign and confirmed the fingers appear to have disappeared. 'Engineered' options can be proposed/costed to salvage this post as future focal point for the village.  
 It was agreed to look at the cost to fix the broken part. Finger post belong to CCC. It is buried in the hedge, PC could approach the landowners to cut/clear the hedge. Cllr AK will do further research and will put together a plan for refurbishment. **AK**
- 02/205 Streetlighting**  
 02/205.1 Streetlight outside No 9 Bell Lane, pole 106 been reported and repaired.  
 The contractor also attended the lamp outside No 11 the pole 104 (14 Jan 17).  
 Lights are working now.
- 02/206 Church & Burial Matters**  
 02/206.1 Grave digger could not dig the plot marked No BC1 and with the PC approval dug the one next to it, No BC2 which was also purchased by the same family. Notice to put next to plot BC1 that due to the roots gravedigger needs to leave themselves enough time to facilitate that plot.  
*Note since meeting: The Cemetery plan updated with the note as instructed.*  
 02/206.2 The chq payment received from AJ Mills Master Masons for erection of the memorial plot BB15, Clerk  
 the receipt issued. Paperwork filed.  
*Note since meeting: Chq banked.*  
 02/206.3 Risk Assessment: Cllr A Kiley drafted a Risk Assessment which was circulated to PC members. Members agreed to walk the churchyard and cemetery area and check if there are any risks which are not covered, report back. It is a grassed cemetery. Churchyard is closed which is in PC responsibility to maintain, but the land belongs to PCC. PC agreed to check with PC insurers re: liability, is there any difference between grassed churchyard path and graveled path? To discuss at the next meeting.  
 02/206.4 To note a quote received from the stone mason re: repairs of the memorial stones, Cllr A Marnes  
 Cllr AM contacted 3 companies but only 1 company quoted for the work. Cllr AM met with a stone mason in the cemetery to look at getting a quote to secure the grave stones identified as needing fixing. Quote was received from Wrighton & Barker for fixing/anchoring the 6 headstones at a price of £140.00 each depending on the work. A separate quote for all 6 headstones to be fixed with a global discount making total of £570.00 was also provided. It was agreed to contact the families 1<sup>st</sup>. Cllr AM will approach 2 families.  
 There is also another one that just needs the soil leveling under the fixing stone. **AM**  
 02/206.5 To discuss the safer pedestrian access to cemetery & church, Cllr S Penton  
 Cllr SP raised the issue of entrance to the burial ground, stating it is difficult for some residents to walk and asked for PC to consider putting a path. It is a grassed cemetery and the contractor cuts the grass which PC pays for. Members raised a question if the graveled path was laid where the path would end? How many people will it benefit? For PC to put a path a Faculty permission is needed. PC looked at this issue and options previously but due to the high price it did not seem to be practical.

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....**RSS**.....2016

CHAIRMAN

- 02/207** To agree PC meeting dates  
02.207.1 Agreed.
- 02/208** Correspondence  
2/208.1 All correspondence is dealt with.
- 02/209** Councillors Questions  
02/209.1 There were no Councillor questions.

**02/210** Date of the Next Meeting: Wed 1 Mar 17 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 10.18pm

*These minutes are considered draft until ratified at the Parish Council meeting*

R.J.S. →



Appendix 1  
020217

**SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL**

CHAIRMAN: Sheila Penton

Mr Jonathan Djanogly  
MP Member of Parliament for Huntingdon House of Commons  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

2 February 2017

Dear Mr. Djanogly,

As you may know, access to Southoe village across the A1 is becoming difficult and very dangerous. With increasing traffic volume, especially at rush hours, even confident drivers are expressing concern or refusing to make the crossing. Driving to Buckden and using the round-about is a very poor option at busy times, as the traffic queues back past Southoe, turning a 5 minute journey to St. Neots into 20 minutes. During this winter, with the rush being in the hours of darkness, crossing has been even more of a problem.

In living memory, four villagers have died crossing the A1. Looking at this statistically, from a village of 350 people, the probability of a Southoe resident dying on the road is 20 times the national average.

Southoe Parish Council participates in and supports the A1 Safety Group. Recently Highways England has published three alternative strategies for A1 improvement. However, we are well aware that the A1 is well down the priority list for road investments. The A428 and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway seem to be the top schemes.

There are two reasons why we believe that something should be done in the short-term for Southoe and the A1:

1) Unlike many other road congestion problems in the area, eg Black Cat and A428, life is at stake. With prevailing traffic volumes, forecast to increase with A14 improvements, it cannot be long before there is another fatal accident at Southoe. Drivers are forced to use smaller and smaller gaps in the traffic. Surely this must raise the priority of some action.

2) A very acceptable solution to the problem would be at relatively low cost. Using standard road building data (building.co.uk) a one kilometre service road from Southoe village to the Little Paxton Flyover would cost £1.3 million (£1300/m, 7.3 m wide, rural location).

For these reasons, we ask that you support our case for action. There are a number of ways that such a scheme could be funded. Highways England now supports projects that alleviate problems on their trunk road network (such a service road would fit in with their strategic option B for the A1). Cambs. County Council (Highways) might be involved. However, in these times of limited government spending, another option would be for the scheme to be funded by a developer building a small housing scheme between Manor Farm, Southoe and the Paxton Crossing. This would require Huntingdon DC Planning support.

We do hope that you feel able to support our case. Perhaps, you might suggest how we can pull the different bodies together and produce a plan of action.

Sheila Penton, Chairman

Dick Saw, Vice Chairman

Ian Davies, Councillor

Alan Marnes, Councillor

Andrew M. Kiley, Councillor

Sharon Mitchel, Councillor

Susan Brierley, Councillor

Ramune Mimiene  
Clerk to Southoe & Midloe Parish Council

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RSS.

## Comment Receipt

Event Name	Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Wind Energy Developments
Comment by	Southoe & Midloe Parish Council (Ms Ramune Mimiene)
Comment ID	HLP-WIND:43
Response Date	09/01/17 20:51
Consultation Point	Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036: Wind Energy Development ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1
How would you characterise your comment?	Have observations

Please fill in your comments here. Please try to be as clear as possible about what you are commenting on.

### Your comment (please be concise)

Southoe has a consented wind turbine development within its Parish boundary. Planning permission was awarded to Common Barn wind-farm in 2013 to build 3 turbines with maximum height of 130 metres, but as yet, no construction work has begun. During the last five years this Parish Council gained real insight into local opinion on such developments and into the Planning Inquiry process.

From an early stage it was clear that the people of this and surrounding villages were strongly opposed to such a development. A referendum held by the Parish Council showed that 83% of the village was against the scheme. The proposed site is within a mile of the village centre and in an area which is widely used for recreation and leisure, but the inspector at the inquiry took no notice of this. Those attending gained the impression that he had been told to award planning permission, regardless of local feeling and impact on the area. Almost everyone in the village hopes that the Southoe turbines will never be built.

Large wind turbines have been built in neighbouring villages; one can only have sympathy for those who have to live close to these dominating structures. Local resistance to onshore wind-farm developments in England had, we understood, led to the government subsidies favouring off-shore wind developments. Hence, this local plan seems somewhat mis-guided. This move from on-shore to off-shore is supported by there being no wind-farms in planning in this District, as shown in the plan.

Given our local experience and the move away from on-shore wind as a renewable energy resource, this Parish Council would support Option A, (small turbines are suitable). Such devices in farm-yards or on industrial estates do make a contribution to green energy but do not dominate villages or recreational areas. Any further construction of "monster" turbines must be well away from where people live or play.

RSS.



## Draft Corporate Energy Strategy: Cambs. County Council

### Consultation Response from Southoe and Midloe PC

Southoe and Midloe Parish Council is generally in agreement with the sentiments and analysis contained in the Draft Strategy Paper. For the County Council to move, wherever possible, towards renewable energy sources to service assets is an obvious objective at this time. However, the economic case must be made for each project in these times of financial stringency.

There is one area where our recent experience as a Parish Council is relevant. Southoe and Midloe Parish has a consented wind farm development within its boundary. During the planning process, which included a public inquiry, we were able to judge the reaction of local inhabitants. It is our strong belief that large turbines (130metres +) should not be built close to where people live or take recreation. This view would seem to be supported in the document where it mentions "impact on local communities" and "policy not to build wind turbines on assets".

There might still seem to be a case for small turbines, such as are used in farm-yards or on industrial estates. If there was no impact on nearby residents, this could include using the guided bus-ways.

These are the only observations from this Parish Council.

RSS.