

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2015

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.00pm

PRESENT: - Mr. A. Marnes (Chairman), Mrs S. Penton (Vice Chairman), Parish Councillors Mr D. Felce, Mr. I. Davies, Mrs. H. Ramply, Mr. D. Saw, District Councillor Mr. T. Hayward, County Councillor Mrs. J. Wisson, the Clerk and seven members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillor Mr. M. Rawson. His apologies were accepted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. H. Ramply had a declaration of interest in Items 14 & 16 on the agenda. There were no other new declarations of interest received for this meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Hayward reminded everyone that the Local Plan to 2036 is currently out for public consultation, there are no sites within the parish it was added. The elected Councillor allowances have been frozen and there will be no rise in the council tax. Cllr. Hayward reminded all that the A14 public consultation runs until 12th March for members of the public to submit any comments or feedback. The District Council did accept Cllr. Hayward's motion to press central government to improve the A1 to suitable road.

There was again concern raised at the rubbish that appears to have been left for a period of time near a house on Bell Lane. Mr. A. Marnes confirmed that this had been raised with the individual directly.

It was raised that a member of public would like to see protocols and procedures in place to raise awareness with residents of the purpose and use of the CCTV cameras that will be installed in the village.

A date has been set for the summer fayre of 5th September.

It was reported that when the road sweeper visited the village recently it did not do anything in Town Orchard; Cllr. Hayward agreed to follow this up.

Cllr. Wisson gave some more information on the A14 Development Consent Order that had been published with a reminder to send comments in.

The ongoing street lighting issues were discussed. One column in Thurley Close was due to be re-sited by Balfour Beatty, however, we are now informed that, due to potential conflict with underground services, it cannot be moved. Cllr. Wisson offered to provide support with this issue.

It was raised that a new location had been marked out for a lamp column to be re-sited in Thurley Close as it had been erected incorrectly on private property. A Councillor reported that the new location marked out for this column is also on private property and added that Balfour Beatty has confirmed it would be relocated onto the footpath and off all private property. Not all Councillors could recall being copied in on the communication of this lamp being re-sited.

Chairman reopened the meeting

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th February 2015

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was unanimously agreed by all present to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record of the meeting, resolution passed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs. S. Penton had sought clarification herself, directly with Cambs ACRE, regarding the Village Hall Management Committee and Parish Council Trustees previous discussions and her report is as follows:-

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

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Village Hall Matter

At the last meeting I had been put in an awkward position regarding my objection to giving out my personal details in order to register with the Charity Commission as one of the Trustees of the Village Hall. I decided, therefore, to seek advice from **Cambridgeshire ACRE**.

My contact was **Julie Weekes, Community Advisor** who advised me as follows:-

The Village Hall Management Committee are the Charity or Managing Charity Trustees and are the people who manage the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The Parish Council are Holding (or custodian) Trustees and their sole function is to hold the title to the property. They should not be involved in the day-to-day running of the charity.

I understand that the Governing Document, which I haven't actually seen, calls for 2 Councillors to volunteer to attend the VHMC meetings as representatives of the Parish Council. Those 2 representatives are the only Council members who have to provide their personal details and not the other 5 Councillors. However, all of the Village Hall Management Committee members are required to give out their details.

Following on from that I am now standing down from the VHMC as volunteer representative of the Parish Council. Therefore, if David is still willing to stand as a PC rep. then there is still a requirement for one other Councillor to volunteer for this position.

Although the VHMC are not members of CAMBSACRE Julie Weekes is willing to help with any further information on behalf of the Parish Council and I have her contact details if required.

All other items to be covered during the meeting.

6. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr. D. Saw had forwarded a copy of the detailed report following the meeting held with the UKCCTV representative now to the Diocese. As a point of clarification Mr. D. Saw has asked UKCCTV if they do need to lay the cable two foot under the ground, as one foot seems to be sufficient.

The Councillors discussed the item raised during the Open Forum and were supportive in principle of a protocol document being produced and in place.

Mr. A. Marnes reported that he had answered a recent police survey from a personal perspective on the police service and highlighted that they are never seen in the village.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS REGARDING THE VILLAGE

The issue raised at the last meeting regarding the dip in the High Street near the entrance to the Village Hall had been followed up; Councillors were due to meet with Tony King on 6th March to discuss the depression in more detail.

The Clerk had also been notified that the Officer dealing with the traffic calming measure had now left and, at present no new name has been given. However, assurance has been given that the work is programmed in for March, and that this work and the work to remedy the depression in the High Street, can and will be done together.

It was reported that potholes on Rectory Lane continue to be a problem. The new online reporting system was reiterated as a useful tool to do this through, so this to be reported via this method by Mr. D. Saw.

8. A1 MATTERS

The supporting information relating to the letter from the Highways Agency and the Draft A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme, had been circulated amongst Councillors and it was agreed that no feedback to be made to the consultation.

9. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £190.86

Stocksigns Ltd 'no dogs' sign for play area £62.42

These were unanimously agreed and approved that they be paid.

Mrs. S. Penton reported that she had visited the bank and submitted all the documents with the mandate for signatories having been updated.

The latest EON direct debit due was noted as £117.58 but it was agreed that this figure needs to be challenged as the smart meter is registering obscure readings, as witnessed on 18th February. There have been various attempts to install a smart meter, however, these have been unsuccessful and Eon are due to be visiting again on 5th March, Mr. A. Marnes agreed to follow this discrepancy up.

It was noted that the Clerk had not received a copy of a bill from the District Council for the litterbin for £457 to date. Mrs. S. Penton reported that a prospective candidate for the Clerk position was no longer available, therefore it was agreed to circulate the advert, with the remuneration scales information included, to local Parish Council Clerk's. To facilitate this the Clerk to send the latest NALC scales to Cllrs. Penton, Marnes and Davies. The advert would be displayed wherever possible locally and it was noted Barnicoat Ltd would continue until a new person in post and would be completing the year end accounts.

10. DOG CONTROL ORDERS IN THE VILLAGE

Following the discussions at the last meeting the Clerk had drafted a Dog Control Order information leaflet for the village, all Councillors were welcome to feedback on the document. The Clerk had requested and received the no dog fouling stickers, these it was agreed to be given to Mr. M. Rawson for displaying round the village.

11. PLAYING FIELD

Mr. A. Marnes has spoken to an electrical engineer who has detailed that the current supply to the playing field would allow for lights to then work from that point with further cables etc.

The Council had received a grass-cutting quote from the District Council for £110 per cut, it was unanimously agreed to accept this quote and the Clerk to feed this back.

The Clerk had organised an invoice for the Council to raise a cheque so the dog signage relating to the play area and that no dogs allowed, could be purchased.

It was also noted that the logs for seating had been selected. However, as the weather and ground has been wet, in order to reduce the damage to the field surface the seating will be brought down when the conditions are better.

12. VILLAGE HALL

It was reported that now the correct information that is needed for the Charity Commission website is known this will be updated. It was agreed that the second Committee representative from the Parish Council is to be Mr. A. Marnes. There was an update that the small group of people looking at the Village Hall development and feasibility will be meeting shortly.

13. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

There has been a request for a double depth reservation for a burial plot, the Council agreed and the Clerk to issue the plot number.

15. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

The correspondence was reviewed.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk to report the fly tipping at Bell Lane to environmental health it was agreed.

Mrs. H. Ramply took leave at this point of the meeting.

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

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14. PLANNING

Application No: 15/00187/S73 - Variation of Condition 4 of Planning Permission 0900560FUL Queenswood Cottage Common Barns Farm Rectory Lane Southoe St Neots PE19 5YA – the Parish Council discussed the application and felt the statement that there is little market for short stay holiday accommodation in the Huntingdonshire area, was not accurate given the number of successful local tourist accommodation, some of which have expanded. It was also felt that the Parish Council have not seen this property marketed as a holiday let, as well as there being an error on the application as the property can clearly be seen from a public right of way. On this basis, the Council overwhelmingly voted to object to this application for change of use of Queenswood Cottage, Common Barn.

16. WIND FARM UPDATE

The Officer has updated the Clerk that as the temporary time limit for the application had expired as the time the more recent application for the extension was received the local authority has asked the applicant to submit a full application.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be Wednesday 1st April for the Parish Assembly at 7pm, and then Wednesday 6th May 2015 for the AGM at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm