

SOUTHOE AND MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Southoe and Midloe Parish Council held in the VILLAGE HALL, SOUTHOE on WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2015 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillor D Felce – Vice-Chairman in the Chair.

Parish Councillors I Davies, A Marnes and M Rawson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mrs J Wisson and two members of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of District Councillor T Hayward, Ms C List, PCSO and Parish Councillors Mrs S Penton (Chairman), Mr R Saw and Mrs H Ramply.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor D Felce welcomed the new Clerk, Nicola Webster to the meeting. He also asked for it to be noted that he would be undertaking Chairman duties on an ad hoc basis only.

20. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A query raised by Ms A Saward in connection with the current position regarding churchyard rubber matting was deferred to the Church and Burial Matters item to be considered elsewhere on the Agenda (Minute No. 32 refers).

22. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No new declarations of interests were received.

The meeting was closed for the next item.

23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Attention was drawn by Ms Saward to the following items –

- Cold Calling in the Street – A resident's information pack is in the process of being compiled by Huntingdonshire District Council. However, there are a number of schemes currently in operation, most of which are structured on a Neighbourhood Watch basis. A co-ordinator would be required to organise the delivery of leaflets, etc. and liaise with local towns/villages in the vicinity in order to gather relevant information. A "No Cold Calling" sign would also need to be erected in the village.
- Village Fayre – A leaflet giving details about the fayre has now been distributed to households.
- Development of Village Hall – In order to gain feedback, a 'through the door' consultation survey needs to be undertaken.

County Councillor Ms J Wisson updated those present on a variety of issues, namely –

- **Street Lighting**

- (a) It was confirmed that a County-wide policy to turn street lights off from 12 midnight to 6.00 am is to be introduced. In the meantime Cambridgeshire County Council will be contacting individual Town/Parish Councils to enquire as to whether or not they would be prepared to take over the running costs of the lights situated within their own boundaries. Exceptions to the policy would include lights located on highways and those already owned by a local Council.
- (b) Unfortunately no progress has been made in connection with the wrongly sited street light in Thurley Close. The Parish Council has offered to pay for it to be repositioned to where it is needed but the engineer has reported that it cannot be located there. It was suggested that the County Councillor might like to make a site visit.

- **Fly Tipping**

As a result of her conversation with the person responsible for fly tipping at the Bell, it transpired that this had been undertaken in order to prevent motorists doing 'U' turns. The resident has since received a letter from the District Council informing him that he should not have filled the ditch in and requesting that it be emptied. For public safety reasons once ownership of the ditch had been established, the Environment Agency be contacted for permission to fill it in. In the meantime the matter should be monitored.

- **Car Parking Charges**

Attention was drawn to the fact that a £1 car parking charge has been introduced by the County Council at their Longstanton and St Ives car parks.

- **Boundary Review**

The Boundary Commission is currently undertaking an electoral review of Cambridgeshire County Council. It is proposed that the number of County Councillor seats be reduced from 69 to 61 and the draft consultation document suggests that the current Southoe, Diddington, Buckden and the Offords Division becomes part of Brampton and Buckden. Full details are available on the Commission's website and any comments must be submitted by 6 July 2015. The Commission's final recommendations will be published on 29 September 2015.

Before the meeting was re-opened, it was agreed that the 15 minute rule would be adhered to whenever possible.

The meeting was re-opened.

24. REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

This item was deferred to a later meeting due to the documents requiring further amendment.

25. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of District Councillor T Hayward, the Chairman presented the Ward Member's report on the following items -

(a) A1 Matters

Although the Councillor had recently attended a meeting with the Huntingdonshire District Council Officer responsible for A1 matters, all local, County and District Councils were currently involved with discussions regarding the A428. A further meeting had therefore been arranged to take place on 23 July 2015. In the meantime, to enable consideration be given to the setting up of an A1 Action Group, Councillor Hayward was proposing to contact the Member of Parliament for Huntingdon, Mr J Djanogly. It was intended that the Group would be made up of area representatives from the M25 - Peterborough section of the road.

(b) Planning Matters

Due to a variety of concerns raised by both Members and local residents regarding problems experienced with planning enforcement issues, Councillor Hayward reported that a detailed review of current procedures was to be undertaken by the District Council. The resultant findings would be considered by its Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) Panel in July or September 2015.

(c) Committee Membership

For the current municipal year, District Councillor Hayward has been appointed to serve on the following Panels and Groups –

- (i) Employment Panel
- (ii) Overview and Scrutiny (Social Well-Being Panel)
- (iii) Tree Preservation Sub-Group; and
- (iv) Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group.

26. VILLAGE SECURITY AND POLICING MATTERS

(The second member of the public joined the meeting at this point)

(a) CCTV, Southoe

Arrangements have now been made for the distribution of a leaflet to all households in the village giving details about the proposed installation of CCTV cameras.

To date, two written queries have been received. One resident has enquired as to whether or not permission would be required from English Heritage if a camera were to be placed within the curtilage of a Grade 1 listed building. The clerk is to pursue this matter with the Conservation Team at Huntingdonshire District Council. The second respondent questioned the accuracy of the portrayed crime levels and expressed concerns relating to legislation issues, control and responsibility for data. It was confirmed that the statistics did reflect incidents of crime in the village had increased over the past few years but there may be a need for CCTV cameras to be registered.

A question regarding the exact location of the proposed cameras was asked at the meeting. This resident was concerned about privacy matters. She was reassured that they would be placed in a set position facing on to the road in order to record the vehicle registration numbers of cars travelling through the village.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that the leaflet did not mention Lees Lane.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to be mindful of privacy issues and Councillor D Saw would respond to individual CCTV queries.

27. HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Street Lights

Minute No. 23 (a) ante refers.

(b) High Street Traffic Calming Measures

The High Street safety measures were installed on 28 May 2015. Whilst some people were unaware that the work was to be carried out that day, problems occurring as a result of limited village hall access had been resolved by the contractors allowing cars to park as near as possible to the entrance and assisting users/visitors when necessary.

The calming measures have been put in place in an attempt to make vehicles passing the village hall entrance on the High Street slow down but its effectiveness would be monitored. Councillor A Marnes asked for it to be minuted that he “does not believe that it will make the entrance safer for all users”.

28. A1 MATTERS

In addition to District Councillor Hayward’s update referred to in Minute No 25 (a) ante, it was mentioned by Councillor Marnes that there were no plans for a flyover yet, motorists were still experiencing problems at the Black Cat roundabout and the firm awarded the A14 upgrading contract had just been announced. A request was also made to provide the Police with registration details of any vehicle witnessed doing a ‘U’ turn.

29. FINANCE MATTERS

A draft accounts statement had been previously circulated by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended to the Minutes). Mr Holdaway had been paid up until April and grass cutting would now be undertaken every two weeks. There was however an outstanding payment due for the printing of the CCTV leaflet.

Following the recent appointment of a new Chairman and Parish Clerk, attention was drawn to the fact that both bank accounts and E-on direct debit contact details would need to be updated.

30. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYGROUND MATTERS

A number of items relating to these matters were raised –

- a request was made for the grass to be cut before the fayre;

- the “no dogs in playground” notice was currently lying on the ground and needed to be re-instated. Following a query as to whether new signs had been ordered it was agreed to check this with the previous Clerk;
- hedge cutting would begin again in September after the birds have stopped nesting;
- although weeds needed to be removed because of health risks and the associated high cost, Councillor Felce offered to investigate new contractors. As Huntingdonshire District Council also undertake similar cutting and spraying jobs, Councillor Marnes agreed to contact them.

31. VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

Ms Saward reported that an application for a grant towards new doors and windows had been completed and submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council approximately four weeks ago. It was suggested that District Councillor Hayward be asked to follow this up.

32. CHURCH AND BURIAL MATTERS

Ms Saward raised a query regarding the provision of rubber matting in the churchyard. Due to the fact that the churchyard does not fall under the responsibilities of the Parish Council this was a difficult situation. Consideration was given to safety issues such as whether the matting could be a potential trip hazard and dangerous during inclement weather. Concern was expressed that in the event of the Parish Council paying for this, would it be liable if any such accident occurred. As a result of these comments it was decided to defer the decision.

33. PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) The following three applications had been received and circulated. However, due to the recent appointment of a new clerk limited documentation was available -
- (i) 36 Rectory Lane, Southoe – Ref 15/006221/LBC:
Insert internal steel frame with new concrete floor on mini piling support system
 - (ii) 15 Town Orchard, Southoe – Ref 15/00740/HHFUL:
Single/1/5 storey front/side extension
 - (iii) 49 High Street, Southoe – Ref 15/00782/EXTDET:
Single storey rear extension (extends beyond the rear wall by 5 metres, maximum height of 3.47 metres and height of 3.47 metres to eaves)

The applications had been viewed online by Councillor Marnes and Councillor Felce had knowledge of the planned work at 36 Rectory Lane. After discussing the applications individually, it was agreed to approve all three.

- (b) **Retention of Meteorological Mast, land north west of Church Farm, Rectory Lane – Ref 15/00426/FUL**

As a result of the Parish Council objecting to an application for retaining a meteorological mast on land north west of Church Farm, Councillor Felce acquainted Members on its subsequent consideration at a meeting of the District Council’s Development Management Panel on 27 May 2015. Councillor Saw submitted the Parish Council’s objections.

During the District Councillors’ debate, a question was asked as to whether approval of the extra two years for the temporary mast would mean that the developer would in effect be postponing development of the wind farm for the

same period. The Planning Officer present replied “yes, that was correct” and one of the District Councillors changed their mind to support the application.

Both Parish Councillors thought that the advice given by the Officer was misleading and incorrect. The developer can start construction of the wind farm at any time within the next three years. However, no further comments were allowed from the floor. The first motion to refuse the application was close and the Parish Councillors believe the second motion resulting in approval of the application had been influenced by this advice.

During the ensuing discussion it was agreed unanimously that the circulated draft complaint letter should be sent to Huntingdonshire District Council and copied to the Chairman of the Development Management Panel, the Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, the Ward’s District Councillor and the local Member of Parliament. It was also decided that due process should be followed and adhered to before taking the complaint to the Ombudsman. Councillor Felce confirmed that he would be sending a personal objection letter.

34. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND E-MAILS

An email addressed to the previous Chairman had been received which gave notification of a revised bus route between Huntingdon and Kimbolton.

35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Marnes is to obtain some recycled paint for village hall use.

36. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 8 July 2015 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Councillor D Felce
Chairman