

# **SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of MEETING**

**Held on MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 4.00pm**

**PRESENT:** - Councillors, Mr. D. Saw, Mrs. M. Farmery, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), Mrs H. Ramply, Mrs. S. Gadsby, , Councillors R. West and Cllr. J. Wisson the Clerk and one member of the public.

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

Mr. D. Felce and Cllr T. Clough had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted that in section 3, Officer name is Ian Winfield, proposed by Mrs. S. Gadsby that the minutes with this amendment were correct, seconded by Mrs. H. Ramply and unanimously agreed by those present, the Chair signed the minutes.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

All items to be discussed from the last meeting to be covered during the agenda.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received for this meeting.

### **5. ALLOTMENT PROVISION**

The Clerk updated that there continued to be no communication received from Savills, a further email had been sent which had been answered by an auto response message that individual out of the office. The Clerk had forwarded appropriate contact details to the District and County Councillors.

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

It was reported that there had been a generator stolen from the village which had been a very heavy piece of equipment, it was noted that there had been an increase in police presence in the village recently. Those present discussed that the lack of detection or resolved crimes is very frustrating, a number of examples were given and it was agreed to raise these concern direct with the Police Crime Commissioner, the Clerk to write expressing that the Parish Council feel that rural villages are being neglected.

### **7. A1 MATTERS**

There was feedback from the recent A1 Safety Group meeting, the new Highways Agency Area Manager had been present as well as the County Police Traffic Manager, items of interest discussed were that from May to November in 2014 there would be works done to improve the Black Cat roundabout layout. The service contract is no longer with Carillion, it has now been awarded to Amey, there have also been announcement that there will be a new route based strategy used with a larger overall budget for roads. The village only sign was raised as a need for Southoe and it will be looked into, it was noted that the sandbag discussed at the last meeting was still a hazard in the road so Mr. A. Marnes had removed it from carriageway. The average speed cameras work is expected to start in the new year, it had also been confirmed that the no u-turn signs are statutory and therefore enforceable, so the police had suggested locals taking registration number details. The police confirmed that to date they had not received any traffic management plan in relation to the wind farm access.

### **8. HIGHWAYS**

Following the agreement at the last meeting the Clerk had submitted the completed application to the County Council for highway funds for safety improvements to the High Street, Mr. D. Saw had prepared the text after consultation with local residents. There had been a resident communication received between meetings from a parent who was concerned over the speed recently of a tractor in the High Street.

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It had been announced that the A14 would not be tolled, however, the next stage of consultation would be taking place shortly.

It was agreed to bring forward the Open Forum agenda item as Cllr Wisson needed to leave early.

**Chairman closed the meeting for the next item**

**16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr. Wisson reported that the budget is the main focus of the County Council and this will have a number of impacts as the county is expanding as a specific large growth area and localism now becoming more of a focus.

**Chairman reopened the meeting**

**9. FINANCE**

There were no invoices presented, but it was noted there had been an Eon direct debit of £61.18 recently for the Village Hall electricity.

At this point of the meeting the Council considered the budget for 2014/15, reviewing the costs to date and expected carry forward position at the end of the year. Given the change to the council tax base there were two proposals put forward, one option that the precept be maintained at a level of £12,000.00 for 2014/15, or that the precept be set at £11,840 for 2014/15. It was resolved that the precept to be requested be £11,840 for 2014/15, resolution passed. The Clerk to send supporting documents to the District Council. It was also agreed that the current reserves be £7.5k, with earmarked fund levels at £3k for allotment provision, £5k car park work and £2k play equipment and £2.5k for the highways scheme funding..

It was noted that the County Council had notified by letter that Parish Council's would be charged for the actual cost of street lighting energy and that the bill would be issued shortly.

**10. PLAYING FIELD**

Mr. A. Marnes and Mr. M. Rawson would be completing the gateway work shortly, utilising some paving slabs that would improve the condition of the gateway.

**11. VILLAGE HALL**

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the District Council would be surveying the hall shortly about possible future funding opportunities for heating and insulation, it was also added that the recent wine night had been successful in raising funds.

The CAMBS ACRE log in information had been provided to Mrs. S. Gadsby by the Clerk.

**12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND**

It was reported that the new vicar is due to start shortly, with Mr Haddaway due to undertake the winter work on the hedges and removal of the elder tree shortly.

**13. PLANNING**

The Clerk had fed back the Council's comments on applications 1300885LBC and 1300884FUL extension to and conversion of store to be used as a separate dwelling at 36 Rectory Lane.

The Council considered application 1301859FUL to take down and rebuild the boundary wall to include gate piers at Midloe Grange, Councillors supported this application as felt it would be an improvement.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS**

It was noted that Mark Deas from CAMBS ACRE to attend the January meeting, and the Clerk had circulated a letter from TCI which detailed work in satisfying the planning conditions is ongoing. The Code of Conduct training information had been circulated to all Councillors.

**15. WIND FARM UPDATE**

This had been detailed under the previous agenda item.

**Chairman closed the meeting for the next item**

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

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**16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was raised on behalf of a resident that they were suffering from problems with crows in their chimney; the Parish Council felt that this was not a matter that the Council could help with.

**Chairman reopened the meeting**

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. A. Marnes had attended the HDC parish conference event and bought back information that maybe of help to the Village Hall; there had also been reports of loose dogs on Rectory Lane causing problems in the village.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was agreed to be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 4.00pm, Mrs. H. Ramply sent apologies in advance, the meeting was closed at 5.05pm