

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2014

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 4.00pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mr. D. Saw, Mrs. M. Farmery, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), , Mrs. S. Gadsby, Mr. M. Rawson, the Clerk and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs H. Rampley had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted, Cllr. J. Wisson had also sent apologies that may arrive late to the meeting.

2. MARK DEAS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Deas introduced himself and outlined the purpose of partnership working to deliver affordable housing for rural people in rural areas. The difference between this scheme and general affordable housing schemes were explained to those present, along with the application process and eligibility for people 'bidding' for houses that is done according to bands allocated on qualifying criteria.

When looking at how rural housing is allocated in the rural area those local individuals are not likely to find a house locally. The rural exception area was talked through that the right to buy option is excluded, and the individual must be able to show a local connection so the houses remain with people who have a local connection. The location of a rural site is usually on the edge of a village which would not normally be developed on.

The next stage if the Parish Council feels this option should be explored is a housing needs survey to see whether there is a local need; there is no cost to the survey being done. There will need to be a site identified at a further stage in the process, noting that there is a greater value than agricultural land paid, however, the value paid is not high residential development rates.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th December 2014

These had been circulated to all Councillors, however, there had been some problems with Councillors viewing them so this item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

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

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received for this meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION

The Clerk updated that there continued to be no communication received from Savills.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was reported that there had been several communications regarding thefts highlighting how common oil thefts are with suggestions of what can be done to deter thefts of heating oil. The Councillors were disappointed that there continued to be very little police support regarding thefts, from lack of interest in taking down any details to following up on information provided. Local residents need to remember to record information down on any suspicious activity or vehicles in the village so this can be reported to the police. It was suggested having cameras in the village recording number plates, at key points in the village such as at the church and the centre of the village, with the data protection aspect also discussed. It was agreed that Mr. M. Rawson to obtain a quote from a local speciality company.

8. A1 MATTERS

The speed camera reduction scheme associated work is due to start shortly, there had been very few workman seen on the A1 recently even though maintenance warning signs had been displayed. Mrs. M. Farmery detailed that following

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enquiries made she had been informed that it had been felt appropriate to maintain the 50mph limit in the interim period as that is what the new average speed limit will be. The Parish Council noted that they had received no communication regarding this, and any correspondence had detailed that the average speed limit to be enforced would be 60mph.

9. HIGHWAYS

Following the submission of the completed application to the County Council for highway funds for safety improvements to the High Street, Mr. D. Saw and Mr. A. Marnes had presented to the panel that consider the applications, currently awaiting feedback.

It was noted that there had been no items of work carried out in the village following the meeting with Ian Winfield, so this to be followed up.

10. FINANCE

The Clerk reported that there had been confirmation by the local authority that the precept request form for 2014/15 had been received.

There was one invoice presented, for Barncioat Ltd for clerking service £278.34, it was unanimously agreed to approve this be paid. There had been notification from Eon of two recent direct debits for £60.18 and £82.48 for the Village Hall electricity.

11. PLAYING FIELD

A letter received from resident was considered at this point of a meeting regarding the mud areas at the park entrances, it was noted that they had been remedied as best as possible, however, the Council agreed to add some gravel stones to the area to help improve the surface. It was also agreed to move a bin up to the Rectory Lane end of the park, which would be done shortly and the local authority notified of the change of location.

The Council felt that in response to a further resident in the resident letter that as the area is a children’s recreational area it was felt not appropriate to encourage dogs to run free in this area.

12. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that there is a plan being worked on for a summer fayre event.

14. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

It was reported that the gate is being repaired and will be returned fixed shortly.

15. PLANNING

The Council considered application 1301770FUL change of use from agricultural to B8 for the purpose of Pro Lawn Care at Common Barn, Church Farm, Rectory Lane, Councillors, Councillors had no observations to make on the application.

The Council considered application 1301929FUL construction of riding area with fencing at Midloe Grange, Rectory Lane, Councillors had no observations to make on the application.

16. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

The Council reviewed letter from a resident regarding the time of the Parish Council meetings being changed making it difficult for working people to attend, requesting that it be moved to a more realistic time slot, the Council detailed that the timing of meetings would be reviewed in April 2014 when comments will be taken into consideration. Clerk to respond to resident.

17. WIND FARM UPDATE

There had been no update on this item.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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A resident commented that they felt due to the start time of the Parish Council meeting public attendance had dropped as a result.

Chairman reopened the meeting

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that following presentation at start of the meeting that a housing needs survey be undertaken at no cost to the Council. It was also noted that HACT buses will be reducing in the village from three times a week to once a week.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Monday 10th February 2014 at 4.00pm, the meeting was closed at 5.25pm