

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2013

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 4.00pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mr. D. Saw, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), Mr. D. Felce, Mrs H. Ramply, Mrs. S. Gadsby, , Councillors R. West and Cllr. J. Wisson the Clerk and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. M. Farmery, Mr. M. Rawson and Cllr T. Clough had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

It was noted that Mr Mark Deas had been invited to attend the meeting to talk through low cost housing options that may be available, however, the District Council are considering this matter so the visit had been postponed till the District Council had made a decision.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd October 2013

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted one amendment to be made under the Village Hall report section, with this change it was proposed by Mrs. S. Gadsby that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mr. D. Saw and unanimously agreed by those present, the Chair signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

It was suggested having a specific highways agenda item on the future agendas as this is often an area of discussion at meetings, Clerk to action.

Mr. D. Saw updated all that he had met with Ian Winfield along with Mr. M. Rawson and Mr. D. Felce to raise awareness of the problems in the village as when as showing him the extent of the issues. When reviewing the High Street and looking at cost effective ways to reduce the speed of vehicles it was felt that white cross hatchings in the road outside the Village Hall entrance area couple with children crossing signs would be a good way to reduce vehicle speeds. Other options had been considered during the site visit, however, it was noted that the road at this section is not wide enough to take traffic calming measures. Those present discussed this idea and felt as a first step that this is a good idea; the Officer will be providing additional information with Councillors being mindful of the recent local highway initiative scheme. The Town Orchard and High Street adverse camber at the junction was also discussed during the highway meeting, with the Officer agreeing to look at the possibility of an extra drain. If the Council wished to pursue the option of having 'village entry' signage then these would need to go on the A1 which would mean the Highways Agency would need to be contacted, it was suggested that such signs could be placed on the average speed camera signage to minimise cost, this item to be raised at the A1 Safety Group.

In regards to Rectory Lane it was fed back that it should be 30mph to the point of the furthest street light, however, Ian Wingfield to check this, the road should be included on an occasional cutting schedule and this also to be clarified. The dangerous bridge on the way to Midloe had been highlighted to the Officer as it does not have any railings, it was confirmed that this is part of the bridleway network so is not a highway matter. It had also been raised during the visit that there have been a number of below satisfactory road repairs within the village recently.

All other 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 that had been expected regarding the outcome of their recent discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk to forward the appropriate contact details to the District and County Councillors.

6. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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It was reported that there had been one burglary in the High Street recently, and it was commented that there had been a greater police presence in the village recently. Mr. A. Marnes had again followed up with the police the matter regarding cars continuing to park dangerously on pavements.

7. A1 MATTERS

The next A1 Safety Group meeting is scheduled in December it was noted.

Following on from the last meeting and the discussion at the meeting regarding the A14 consultation, the Parish Council had collated a response which had been submitted, there is further public consultation expected next year on this scheme. It was noted that the local MP had expressed a view that the tolling of the road is pivotal to the scheme.

8. FINANCE

The following invoices were presented:

Mr R Holdaway grass cutting £215 x3, total payment to be made £645.00

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £238.57

It was unanimously agreed that the above cheques be paid.

It was noted that the Eon bill stated that there was a current credit of £46.00, the hedge cutting work had recently been carried out by the District Council estimated to be approximately £300. The Clerk had circulated the initial precept and budget setting information to Councillors, including letter from the District Council outlining the timescales for the Parish Council to follow.

The further updated NatWest forms had been submitted it was confirmed, and it was suggested the Council considering looking at Kingdom Bank who the PCC have their account with as they have a better interest rate than the Council are currently getting, it was agreed that Mr. D. Saw to provide further information.

9. PLAYING FIELD

The hedge cutting work had recently been carried out, there had been a couple of complaints from residents, however, on balance the Council felt the contractors had done a very good, they had been thanked for their work and this may be a future area to consider as whether the work should be carried out annually.

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.

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the external lighting has been switched off to reduce energy usage, to date there have been no feedback or comments received regarding this.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that there had been investigations into maintenance of the fascia and soffits, the fascias cannot be painted as they are too rotten, therefore as replacement of fascias is needed the Committee will look to have this work done in the springtime. It was added that there is a new hirer of the hall.

Some CAMBS ACRE information was provided to Mrs. S. Gadsby and the Clerk to provide login details.

11. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND

It was reported that there will be carol singing and the nativity in December, and that the clock is fully operational.

12. PLANNING

The Council considered application 1300885LBC and 1300884FUL extension to and conversion of store to be used as a separate dwelling at 36 Rectory Lane, Councillors supported this application as felt it would be an improvement to the building.

13. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS

Details regarding the Huntingdonshire Parish Conference were circulated, it was agreed that Mr. A. Marnes to be registered to attend by the Clerk. The Highways Initiative Scheme supporting information had been circulated and it was agreed to put forward an application for the white cross hatchings, with it being formally resolved that the Council would provide provision for up to 10% of the scheme costs to improve the High Street, Mr. D. Saw to collate the application information.

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14. WIND FARM UPDATE

The Clerk reported that to date there had been no communication received.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was a report of a flickering street light on Rectory Lane; Mr. A. Marnes agreed to report this (PC7).

It was commented that following the discussions about the highways meeting and a possible High Street scheme, that it would be best to avoid permanent structures as they would have implications for local residents. On 14th October in the first lane there was an obstacle reported on the fast lane of the A1, it was reported immediately to the police, this had to be done twice as the police took no action, still no action has been taken which is very worrying.

Cllr. West reported that pleasing to hear about the recent publicity in the local press regarding the roundabout at Buckden, there was background information given on a previous survey to dual the A428 further and noted that the A11 consultation is taking a lot of focus at present, adding that the A1 issues are still important and should not be forgotten about.

Cllr. Wisson detailed community sped watch and welcomed volunteers to join a training session, there had also been confirmation that Neighbourhood Watch numbers are falling nationally so it was discussed how to highlight the usefulness of the neighbourhood alert email. Also information was detailed about the Cambs Community Archive network that through this resource it is a good way of sharing a village's history. Cllr. ? supported that improvements are needed to the A428, adding that over the coming years the Highways Agency is to be privatised, it is known that root based strategies are being looked at for the A1 and so the local problems need to be highlighted as much as possible.

Chairman reopened the meeting

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Monday 9th December at 4.00pm, the meeting was closed at 5.25pm