

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Held on WEDNESDAY, 3rd October 2012

In SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT: - Councillors, Mr. A. Marnes (Chair), Mr. D. Saw, Mrs. S. Gadsby, Mr. M. Rawson and Mrs H. Ramply, County Cllr. Mr. R. West, District Cllr. Mr. T. Clough, the Clerk and 11 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Parish Councillors Mrs. M. Farmery and Mr. A. Parsons had sent apologies, all apologies which were received were accepted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th September 2012

These had been circulated to all Councillors, it was noted that some small amendments to be made to the minutes, with these it was proposed by Mr. D. Saw that the minutes were correct, seconded by Mrs. S. Gadsby and unanimously agreed by those present, Chair signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING Items to be discussed from the last meeting to be covered during the agenda.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mrs. H. Ramply's declaration in relation to the wind turbine application was noted, there were no declarations received by those present.

Chairman closed the meeting for the next item

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Cllr. West commenced with thanking Mrs. S. Gadsby for trying to take the volunteer driver initiative forwards, it was noted that still no decision from the Planning Officer regarding the wind farm application. Cllr. Clough reported on the recent meeting regarding the Local Plan with Wyton and Alconbury planned to be the biggest areas of growth up till 2036. The District Council's leisure centres had won a prestigious award, work is being done on improving older and younger people's services. Mr.M. Rawson reported problems with the waste refuse collection and subsequent highways damage the collection vehicles are causing.

Two residents raised concerns regarding the churchyard maintenance with broken glass, weeds and some of memorial stones have been chipped it was reported.

The lack of transport in the village was raised and that services such as Nene and Ouse buses have to be booked in advance and are often full.

It was raised that the new gate installed at the playing field is felt to be opening the wrong way.

Chairman reopened the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENT PROVISION A letter had been sent by Mr. A. Parsons immediately after the last meeting and two responses had been received from Savills to explain the delay in replying due to the individual being away.

7. POLICING ISSUES/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH It was reported that the Village Hall and neighbouring sheds had been broken into on 11th September, the police visited with scenes of crimes officers and PCSO Corn did some house to house enquiries, overall the police response to the incident had been very disappointing. There had also been a recent break in down Lees Lane and parking opposite the Town Orchard junction continues to be an issue, so it was agreed that restrictive parking signs need to be looked into so Cllr. West to liaise with Officers.

It was noted that there a group of youths, believed not to be local, gathering regularly on the playing field.

8. A1 MATTERS Mr. A. Marnes detailed the background the A1 Safety Group, two meetings had taken place in the last month and Mrs. M. Farmery also attended the meetings, where the discussion was to raise concerns regarding the proposed wind farm access and to reiterate the need for no left turns into Bell Lane. Barbara Boddington had arranged the meeting with appropriate District Council Officers and Highways Agency Officers in attendance at the site meeting, it was clearly stated by the Councillors present that the Parish Council do not want the wind farm or any left turn into Bell Lane. It was noted that the Highways Agency are still trying to get the average 60mph speed cameras through the bidding process for this stretch of the A1.

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

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At the more recent site meeting, Stuart Bell (Transport Officer), David Abbott (Highways Agency), Mr. A. Marnes, Mr. A. Parsons, Mrs. B. Boddington and Mr. R. West were in attendance, Mrs. M. Farmery and Mr. D. Saw were unable to attend it was noted. It was reiterated that the Parish Council wish there to be no left turns into Bell Lane and reiterated the Parish Council do not want the wind farm. At the meeting Mr. A. Parsons shared his personal ideas of what could be done from a highways prospective if the application was successful.

9. FINANCE The following invoices were presented: Barnicoat Ltd clerking service £159.05, Moore Stephens external audit fee £190.80 Cambs ACRE membership renewal £120.00, R J Holdaway grass cutting £210.00

It was proposed by Mr. D. Saw, that the cheques be paid, seconded by Mrs. S. Gadsby unanimously agreed and resolved that the above cheques be signed.

The external auditors report was detailed to the Council and noted that the conclusion of audit notice had been posted, It was noted that second half of parish precept had been received and letter for submission of precept for 2013/14 deadline this year is 21st December.

10. PLAYING FIELD It was noted the entrance gate had been raised, however, it is still not closing properly, Mr. M. Rawson and Mr. D. Saw to look into.

11. VILLAGE HALL Further quotes had been received for the hedge work, however, it was noted that this matter had been discussed at the meeting and formal resolution made awarding the work to R J Holdaway who had been notified. R J Holdaway had reported that for the additional hedge work and clearing the damp proof course it would be no more than £500, the quote received from Mr Pender for £380 was noted.

Mrs. S. Gadsby reported that the windows had been made secure following feedback from police and the committee would be looking at whether to update the fire door. There had been a cooker donated and electrical work is being quoted for as well as alternative heating systems being looked into as and possibility of CCTV.

12. CHURCH MATTERS & BURIAL GROUND The Clerk had sent letter of approval regarding the two memorial stone applications previously agreed. The churchyard maintenance concerns previously raised were considered, it was agreed that Mr. A. Marnes to speak to contractor again regarding this matter. Mrs. H. Ramply agreed to tidy up the area around the memorial garden and Mr. M. Rawson and Mr. D. Saw to look at securing the dangerous grave stone. It was agreed that going forwards the Council to consider having a tender specification for maintenance work so Clerk to look at.

13. PLANNING No items for consideration.

14. CORRESPONDENCE / EMAILS A copy of the correspondence received was circulated, it was noted that a member of the public had contacted the Monitoring Officer regarding the conduct of the Chair and Clerk responses to emails, the events were detailed and timescales as well as feedback from Officer. The forthcoming District Council Code of Conduct training event was detailed as well.

Correspondence from a member of public raised concern regarding a Parish Councillor allegedly contacting TCI which they felt from a moral and legal aspect may be against the Code of Conduct, and was causing a lot of strong feeling in the village. At present it was reported that no Councillor present was aware of any such contact having being made with TCI.

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

The Clerk had submitted letter written by Mr. D. Saw on behalf of the Council regarding the conflicting information being received relating to highway issues, the District Council Planning Officer had responded detailing that highways issues had been raised by County Council Officers as well as the Highways Agency.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS It was reported that Brain Murdoch has insisted that a gate be removed along a bridle lane at Common Barns, the County Council are not doing the resurfacing of Rectory Lane due to budgetary constraints. Mrs. S. Gadsby raised that a resident had felt that no HGV's should be allowed up Rectory Lane.

Mr. A. Parsons and Mr. A. Marnes had attended the recent Hinchingsbrooke AGM, main issues raised were car parking charges and accommodation. It was reported that anyone can use the St Neots volunteer car scheme, the costs were outlined and is calculated from when the driver leaves their home, currently a parish volunteer is being sought.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was agreed to be on Wednesday 7th November 2012, at 7.30pm. The meeting was closed at 10.20pm

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

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