

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 22nd JULY 2010

Present: Councillors J Soni (Chair), W Hawkins, G Thomas, C Worsh
A Crump, P Thomas, B Thomas, L Tasker, R Waller, D Isham, P Caruana,
L Hewer

In attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr J Ellard

Prior to the meeting at 7pm

Trevor Askew – Strategic Director (Stratford District Council) and Steve Smith – Head of Property (Warwickshire County Council) attended the meeting to discuss the Town Centre Development and the Tesco S106 funding agreement in order to state the factual position to the Council. Trevor Askew stated that are two options, Option 1 is how to spend the £855,944.44 in accordance with the Tesco S106 agreement, Option 2 is that there are two potential developers who have shown interest in developing the Library area, Victor Hodges House, Police Station and the old Magistrates Court, as well as the Community Hub, which would mean that the Tesco S106 funds would not be spent in isolation but would be complimented by funds from a developer. He stated that it was envisaged that in September the Council would be invited to meet with the developers and associated partners to discuss the matter further. Trevor Askew stated that, if there was a case for funding from SDC Capital Funds, then it would be made. Trevor Askew also stated that the S106 money from the Wattons Lane development would be dealt with at the East Area Committee meeting in September and the recommendation will be to pay Southam Town Council all the money.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Spence – Personal
Cllr D Smith – Personal
Cllr J Appleton – Personal
Cllr D Wise – Work Commitments

RESOLVED:

That apologies are accepted

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Soni declared a personal interest in Planning Application 10/00128/ful
Cllr R Waller declared a personal interest in Correspondence item 2 Informing and Consulting Social Care Customers, Charging for Services 2010 - WCC

23. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs P Ireland, 12 Elm Bank, Southam

Spoke regarding the development of the library grounds, stating that she had spoken to someone who was measuring the library site on behalf of Orbit heart of England.

Ms J Eusor, 62 Mayfield Road, Southam

Presented the Council with a petition holding 200 signatures in support of a ‘toddlers’ playground’ on the Mayfield Road Estate. Stating they were extremely disappointed that Orbit Heart of England feel the need to carry out further consultation before anything is done and that she would be presenting Orbit Heart of England with the petition at their offices in Stratford-upon-Avon on Tuesday 27th July 2010 at 3pm.

Mr D Constable, 42 Springfield Grove, Southam

Spoke regarding the Mayfield Road Play Area stating that it is completely unacceptable that they may have to wait another year before anything is done and made assurance that

they would carry on fighting to get a play area installed in the estate.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th June 2010, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments:(i) that Minute 17.8 should state ‘Office Computers’ (ii) Minute 20.2 should read Acorn Store (iii) Minute 15.3 should state ‘To submit the table taking into account the amendments’

25. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED

**i)That payment of accounts dated July 2010, totalling £23,051.94 be authorized
ii)To advise Cllr B Thomas how many street lighting columns were purchased in relation to item 8**

26. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated July 2010 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council

RESOLVED:

To write to the Stratford District Council Planning Department regarding the lack of Planning Enforcement for the fence at the Market Tavern (formerly The Crown) that is now being used as reason to allow a fence around the Jam Kangaroo Nursery.

ii) Planning Application decisions dated July 2010

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Cllr P Thomas advised that he would be away for the Planning Committee meeting dated 4th August 2010

27. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

27.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mrs P Ireland

Thanks was given for the information regarding Orbit Heart of England measuring the Library Grounds site

Ms J Eusor – Play Area Mayfield Road Estate

Ms Eusor was thanked for the petition and asked to find out how many under eights’ lived on the estate

RESOLVED:

i)That the Council does support the need for a play area on the Mayfield Road estate and that Cllr D Isham and Cllr J Soni would attend the meeting with Orbit Heart of England on Tuesday 27th July at 3pm

ii)That the Town Clerk issues a press release

27.2 TREVOR ASKEW (SDC) Town Centre Development & Tesco S106

RESOLVED:

i)To write and thank Trevor Askew and Steve Smith for attending the meeting

ii)That the plans that WCC have drawn up for the Community Hub are considered at ENV

iii)That the resolutions regarding the Town Centre Development agreed by the

previous Council are endorsed by this Council, as a starting point for discussion (see appendix A)

iv) To write to Trevor Askew regarding the report by Katherine Geddes stating that the Town Council would like assurance that decisions will not be made in haste, that the Town Council want to maximize the opportunity, that it should be a quality redevelopment that Stratford District Council would be happy to see in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon and that the focus should be on achieving the original Plan B that all partners had agreed to. That the vast majority of resources should be spent on the Community Hub and that the Tesco S106 fund should be supplemented by funds from Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council in order to achieve what is required

v) That the correspondence is copied to both the Stratford District Councillors and County Councillors for support

vi) To write to SDC to ascertain what happened at the meeting on 9th July 2010

27.3 COMMA The Community Aggregates Fund 2010-2011

The Clerk advised members that the COMMA Grant application for the Park Lane Recreation Ground had been unsuccessful and that Steve Patalong (Warwickshire Rural Community Council) had advised that it was because the quarry stated on the application form was not a qualifying quarry, even though it was Steve Patalong who had provided the Town Clerk with the information. The Clerk had written to Steve Patalong (WRCC) stating that this is a completely unsatisfactory situation and Steve Patalong has responded by saying they regret that the list of quarries was not filtered to exclude the Southam quarry, but it was still the responsibility of the applicant to establish whether the quarry extracted eligible aggregates and paid an aggregates levy. The Town Clerk advised that she was still of the opinion that WRCC advised her, in writing, that Southam Rugby Cement works was a qualifying quarry and had no reason to believe that this information was incorrect and that Southam has lost out on vital funding through no fault of their own as a result.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk writes to the Warwickshire Rural Community Council Chief Executive and expresses the Town Council's disappointment, stating that these types of errors should not be allowed to happen and could anything be done to resolve this situation?

27.4 EXERCISE WATERMARK

Members considered correspondence from WCC regarding a national flood exercise taking place across the whole country from 4th – 11th March 2011, called Exercise Watermark. The Town Council had expressed an interest in participating in the exercise and for the next part of the process WCC are organising a meeting of all those interested to enable them to present more information about the exercise and the commitment required, so the Town Council can decide, definitely, if they wish to participate or not.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr P Thomas attends the meeting on Wednesday 8th September at Leamington Spa Town Hall (in the evening) along with the Deputy Clerk

27.5 CIVIC IDEAS FORUM – TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Civic Ideas Forum requested a new council representative

RESOLVED:

That Cllr D Isham is the Town Council representative

27.6 YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES MEETING MINUTES – 21ST JUNE 2010

Members considered the minutes

RESOLVED:

- i) That a bin is installed near to the five bar gate at the bottom of the Park lane Recreation Ground**
- ii) That the Town Clerk contacts Warwickshire County Council regarding getting PODS (Positive Operational Drop-In Strategy) to come to Southam**

27.7 MAYORAL REPORT

The Mayor, Cllr Jane Soni, informed members of the functions she has attended over the last month:

- AGM of WCVS Warwickshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services, with impressive displays by the Groups they support, Scouts, Brownies etc
- Tour of the Knot Garden at Kenilworth Castle with other Civic ladies hosted by the Mayor of Kenilworth
- Garden Party hosted by the High Sheriff of Warwickshire
- Civic Service at St. Mary's Warwick for the Mayor of Warwick.

Noted

27.8 MEETINGS, TRAINING AND EVENTS

- Mayor Cllr Jane Soni Civic Service - Sunday 19th September 2010 at The Grange Hall, Southam, 3pm
- Stratford District Council Open Day – Thursday 23rd September 2010 at Elizabeth House, 1pm – 8pm

Noted

27.9 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2010

Thursday 23rd September
Thursday 28th October
Thursday 25th November

Noted

ENV MEETING DATES 2010

Thursday 9th September
Thursday 14th October
Thursday 11th November

27.10 UNRESOLVED MATTERS

MINUTE SUBJECT

1997/98

123.6 Mountfield Gardens

2000/2001

133.3 Adoption of footway below flue, Market Hill

2002/2003

305.8 SWHA - Parking Problems - Mill Crescent/Mill Close

2003/2004

110.1 Safety on the Bypass

2004/2005

113 Traffic Calming Projects

2009/2010

101.3 Planning Committee – Stratford District Council
(Meeting times and Venue)

Noted

28. CORRESPONDENCE

28.1 TESCO PLANNING APPLICATION 10/01136/VARY – Richard Gardner SDC

Members considered correspondence from SDC in response to the Town Council's concerns about trolley parking on the above application.

Noted

28.2 INFORMING AND CONSULTING SOCIAL CARE CUSTOMERS, CHARGING FOR SERVICES 2010 – WCC

Members considered a consultation document from WCC regarding their review of charges that customers pay towards the costs of their adult social care services. Cllr P Thomas stated that the document was extremely poor, full of loaded questions, assumptions, bias questions and assumed knowledge.

RESOLVED:

i) That Cllr P Thomas produces a letter for the Town Clerk to send to WCC requesting that the consultation is run again

ii) That a copy of the letter is sent to each of the group leaders at WCC, the MP, Minister of Health, Disability Action Groups and to the press

28.3 STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - SDC

Members considered correspondence from SDC relating to nominations for the position of Parish Council representative on SDC's Standards and Ethics Committee

Noted

28.4 HS2 – CHETWODE PARISH MEETING

Members considered correspondence from Chetwode Parish Meeting regarding the proposed High Speed Rail Line.

RESOLVED:

To complete the form giving details of the number of inhabitants

28.5 SOUTHAM CIVIC IDEAS FORUM

Members considered correspondence from the above group regarding the painting of the St James Church railings

Noted

28.6 REPORT OF THE SOUTHAM/FELDON COMMUNITY FORUM

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2010

RESOLVED:

To invite the Police to attend the September Town Council meeting in order for the Police to update the Council on the drug operation

28.7 YOUTH ACTIVITIES FACILITIES MEETING MINUTES – 21ST JUNE 2010

Dealt with under minute 27.6

28.8 WARWICKSHIRE DRAFT LTP3 CONSULTATION

Members considered correspondence from WCC regarding the Local Transport Plan that expires on 31st March 2011

RESOLVED:

To respond to the consultation stating that HS2 is not mentioned in the document,

that the east of the town is isolated because there is no bus service and that this is an unsatisfactory situation that needs addressing, that the lorry route should be mandatory apart from access to industry or commercial properties for deliveries and that there needs to be clearer signage for foreign drivers

29. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

**REPORT ON A JOINT MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL I & II
WORKING PARTY ON 8th JULY 2010**

29.1 STREET LIGHTING

Bob Yarwood attended the meeting at 7pm to discuss with members the Street Lighting adoption programme.

RESOLVED:

i) Arrange a site visit with Mr Yarwood (he will give some dates)

ii) Mr Yarwood to cost up Stowe Drive to get it adopted by WCC (None extremely urgent)

ii) It would be very expensive to extend capital replacement programme. An exercise needs to be undertaken for the savings benefit/costs of replacing more lamps over a 10 year period.

29.2 HS2

Cllr B Thomas and Cllr Linda Tasker updated members following the HS2 Action Group meeting they attended.

RESOLVED:

The Consultation is likely to be moved back to 2011 because of the extension of the link to Heathrow. Therefore there is not much urgency to comment but will need to do something in the Autumn. STC to continue as a communication conduit (essential information from all parties) and publish, if appropriate, fact sheets on the issues - need to establish Southam residents' opinions on this issue through the website and the newsletter

29.3 GROUNDSMAN/HANDYMAN CONTRACT

Members were requested to review the contract requirements and make arrangements for his replacement

RESOLVED:

To keep the contractor to his 3 months notice as it may be difficult to appoint someone. The TC will consider any quotations received at the recess meeting. It was agreed that the contract should be 15.5hrs to include Riverside Walk. Mayor, Deputy Mayor and past Mayor (if he's available) to deal with appointment. The contract will need to be revised in the confidential part of the Town Council Meeting in July.

30. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

**REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL I WORKING PARTY
ON 8th JULY 2010**

**30.1 WCC DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY AND RECREATIONAL HIGHWAY
STRATEGY**

Members were requested to consider the draft strategy and make comments

RESOLVED:

To put on the Website so the public can comment on it – would like the name (from Jo Cooper) who the Rural Services Manager is, so STC can follow this up. How much of the budget is spent in Southam?

30.2 QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Members were requested to consider nominating someone

RESOLVED:

Flt. Lt. D Moreton of 2020 Squadron ATC (Southam)

Mary Adnitt – Girl Guiding Association

Kevin Etter – The Scout Association

31. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL II WORKING PARTY ON 8th JULY 2010

31.1 BENCH OUTSIDE 11 ST JAMES ROAD

Members were requested to consider correspondence from Mrs Baskott regarding her request to have the bench turned around and repositioned or removed completely. The Council resolved in 2005 not to turn the bench around as it could not justify the expenditure

RESOLVED:

i) That the bench is turned and moved as far as possible from the hedge

ii) That the concrete slab is removed

iii) That Cllr J Soni agrees location in conjunction with the Town Clerk

31.2 THE OLD MINT SOUTHAM

Members were requested to consider correspondence copied to STC regarding the rubbish left behind the Post Office and in Wood Street Car Park

RESOLVED:

i) That Robert Weeks is asked to check the CCTV camera outside the Post Office to check for evidence relevant to this. Very supportive & encourage RW to identify source of rubbish.

ii) That the Council writes to the market organiser to discourage any rubbish being put there and to check this area before leaving/closing market (copy John Liddington into this letter)

31.3 DIGITAL UK – SOUTHAM

Members were requested to consider correspondence regarding a location in Southam to hold a Roadshow on 12th July 2011 to talk to residents about the switch over from analogue to digital.

Noted that this is on a Tuesday, i.e. market day

RESOLVED:

Encourage them to come, suggest Market Hill or Police Station Car Park (whole trailer)

32. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ellard informed the Council

(i) That she had recently been elected as Vice Chair of the Community Forum

(ii) That Fenny Compton Fire Station has been saved from closure

(iii) State of District - that there will be further meetings before the budget is finalised in February 2011

33. BUSINESS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE MAYOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

33.1 POLICE AUTHORITY BRIEFING

Cllr J Soni updated members on what was stated in the Police Authority Briefing

33.2 ALUMET – COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Town Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Alumet who are considering volunteering their services for the good of the town, once a week to carry out community jobs such as litter picking etc.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr G Thomas and Cllr A Crump to meet with Rob Henson (Alumet) to discuss what they would like to do and how it would work

34. SUMMER RECESS

It was moved and

RESOLVED: that the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and immediate past Mayor, or as a minimum, any two of the above, be authorised, in consultation with the Clerk, to deal with any business arising which is deemed to be urgent during the summer recess, including authorisation of payments

35. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING

It was moved and

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

36. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

i) to authorise payments of staff salaries dated July 2010

ii) to authorise payment of ‘Confidential Accounts’ dated July 2010

iii)NALC Employment Briefing – Local Government Pay 2010/2011 and 2011/2012

Noted

37. TOLLGATE ROAD LEASE

Members considered the proposed lease from WCC

RESOLVED:

Should WCC contact the Town Clerk asking for a response regarding the proposed lease, then the Clerk should advise that the Town Council’s position remains the same as previously advised, that it is not in the Town Council’s best interests to agree to the lease and that the Town Council would like to know what response WCC has received from St James Primary School

38. TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE COMPUTERS

Members considered the report from Sort It

RESOLVED:

i)That Sort It is the Town Council’s new IT System Support provider

ii)To purchase 2 copies of MS Office 2007 and a third copy to be paid for by the Grange Hall Management Committee should they decide to upgrade

iii)To purchase an 8 port switch, Dell PC Memory upgrade, off site back up and cabling

iv)To purchase a Fire/Data Safe

39. INVESTMENT

RESOLVED:

i)To withdraw all funds from the Coventry Building Society Instant Access account and invest the funds in N S & I Income Bonds

ii)That Cllr J Soni and Cllr C Worsh be signatories on the N S & I Bond Account

40. GROUNDSMAN/HANDYMAN CONTRACT

RESOLVED:

The Council resolved the Bill of Quantity and Conditions of Contract (see appendix B)

Meeting closed 10.55pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B

Southam Town Council - July 2010 Issue 3

09/01928/FUL	Mater Ecclesiae	Our Ladys Convent, Wood St, Southam CV47 1PP	Conversion of former convent building to provide eleven residential units including the provision of new pitched roofs over part of the existing building, part two storey front extension; single storey rear infill extension and other associated works	For information only Amended Certificate of Ownership Certificate B has been submitted in respect of this planning application. The documents submitted include an amended Certificate B, Planning Notice Served on the owners and copies of all the letters sent to the respective owners of the land in regard to this matter.	The ownership certificate had been completed incorrectly. Owners are 1. Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus 2. Mr L McKinney 3. Ms H Goad
09/01928/FUL	Mater Ecclesiae	Our Ladys Convent, Wood St, Southam CV47 1PP	Conversion of former convent building to provide eleven residential units including the provision of new pitched roofs over part of the existing building, part two storey front extension; single storey rear infill extension and other associated works	For Information only Amendment removing all reference to the use of the rear access as an emergency access	
10/01281/FUL	Mr Peter King	16 Springs Crescent, Southam CV47 0HA	Construction of a rear conservatory	5th August 2010	No representations
10/01311/ADV	ISG Cathedral Ltd	6 High Street, Southam CV47 0HA	No 2 illuminated internal window displays and No 1 ATM surround	10th August 2010	Southam Town Council object to illuminated signs in a conservation area and would like this application referred to the Conservation Officer
10/00999/FUL	Mrs G Fox	Cuttle Beck, 22 Banbury Road, Southam CV47 1HL	Alteration and extension to existing granny flat	10th August 2010	No representations
10/01350/LDP	Mr Jeff Perry	42 Beech Close, Southam. Cv47 1HU	Proposed single storey side extension and conservatory to rear	12th August 2010	No representations
10/01237/FUL	Jam Kangaroo Nursery	Children Centre, School Street, Southam CV47 1PL	Erection of boundary fence	11th August 2010	Southam Town Council object strongly to the proposed fence as it is not in keeping with the age of the building or the conservation area and suggest that metal railings would be more appropriate. The Council does not believe that such an application would be permitted in the Stratford upon Avon conservation area and would like this application referred to the Conservation Officer