

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 24th MARCH 2011

Present: Councillors J Soni (Chair), G Thomas, W Hawkins, T Spence, A Crump, B Thomas, P Caruana, P Thomas & D Smith

In attendance: Mrs D Carro & Mrs D Sanders

157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Waller – Work Commitments
Cllr D Isham – Personal
Cllr L Tasker – Holiday
Cllr C Worsh – Personal
Cllr D Wise – Work Commitments

RESOLVED:

i) That apologies are accepted

ii) No apologies were received from Cllr L Hewer

158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Soni declared a personal interest in Town Clerk Report Confidential Item 2 and in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr G Thomas declared a personal interest in Town Clerk Report Confidential Item 2 and in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr B Thomas declared a personal interest in Town Clerk Report Confidential Item 2 and in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr D Soni declared a personal interest in Town Clerk Report Confidential Item 2, Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam and all items relating to Southam Christmas Lights Association

Cllr A Crump declared a personal interest in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr W Hawkins declared a personal interest in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr T Spence declared a personal interest in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr P Caruana declared a personal interest in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam and in Correspondence Item 10

Cllr P Thomas declared a personal interest in Planning Application 11/00488/FUL Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam

Cllr D Smith land adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam Planning Application 11/00488/FUL

159. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs Preston, 40 Barkus Close, Southam

Spoke concerning the possible closure of the Public Toilets in Southam, stating that they are a well used amenity in Southam for residents, walkers, cyclists etc

and that on behalf of Southam WI she wanted to register that they are completely against them possibly closing and that it was inappropriate to even consider it.

Mrs Harrison, 8 Bridge End, Southam

Spoke concerning the Tesco S106 money, wanted to know how much of the money has already been spent and why it was being dealt with by Stratford District Council and not Southam Town Council

Mrs Healey, 55 Banbury Road, Southam

Spoke concerning the state of Market Hill and wanted to know why it was looking so ill cared for i.e. not in keeping with a conservation area. She also wanted to know why WCC Highways were not stopping cars driving on verges and churning them up and why WCC and SDC are not making use of the Community Pay Back Scheme to clean up the footpaths etc

160. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2011 having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor

161. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

i) That payment of accounts dated March 2011, totalling £32,843.83 be authorized.

ii) That item 11 is paid under the Local Government Act 1972 2a Power (to assist voluntary organizations to provide individuals with information and advice concerning those individuals' rights and obligations)

162. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated March 2011 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council

Noted

ii) Planning Application decisions dated March 2011

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

163. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

163.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

1) Mrs Preston

Considered Town Clerk report item 6

RESOLVED:

To write to SDC stating that Southam Town Council oppose any closure of the Public Toilets in Southam, that they are aware of a petition and there is total opposition to a closure. The toilets are an asset to the Town and are vital to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

2) Mrs Harrison

It was explained that the S106 Tesco money is a legal agreement between Tesco and Stratford District Council, although the Town Council was involved in an advisory capacity with Tesco at the planning stage. That Katherine Geddes (SDC) is in charge of Business Grants, Town Consultants and enhancing shop fronts and that if residents are not happy with how the money is being spent they should write to Katherine Geddes

RESOLVED:

- i) To write to SDC stating that the Town Council understands that the lead officer on the Town Centre Development no longer works for SDC and as such the council wants to know who is dealing with it and to request a meeting with the new lead officer, as the Town Council should be consulted
- ii) That this matter is an agenda item for the next ENV re: handover to new council

3) Mrs Healey

RESOLVED:

- i) That the representation made by Mrs Healey should be brought to the attention of Katherine Geddes
- ii) That an item on parking on verges should go in the next Newsletter
- iii) That English Heritage should be invited back to see if there have been any improvements in the Town

163.2 AVONVALE VETERINARY CENTRE – ILLUMINATED SIGN PLANNING CONDITION (10/02475/ADV)

SDC advised that “compliance with conditions is the responsibility of the applicant and enforcement is done in response to complaint. It is impossible for SDC to follow up on all conditions attached to permissions and that a pragmatic view has to be taken on such matters.

RESOLVED:

That Planning Enforcement contacts are put on the Town Council website

163.3 NOTIFICATION OF REDUCTIONS IN LEVELS OF WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED SERVICES

Members considered correspondence regarding the proposed changes to the bus services in Southam as follows:

Additional Services to Banbury withdrawn

Service to Coventry withdrawn

Evening Service withdrawn

Flexibus withdrawn

RESOLVED:

- i) To request a copy of the impact assessment on Southam that has led to these decisions
- ii) To ascertain where the S278 money has gone that WCC received from Tesco’s to improve the bus services in Southam
- iii) To advise WCC that Southam Town Council object to the proposals, that they are of the opinion that the proposals are a retrograde step, that improved bus services benefit the environment and the ‘Flexibus’ withdrawal is a prime example of the most vulnerable being hit

163.4 DOG FOULING – SDC ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICER

Members considered another complaint regarding ‘Dog Fouling’ and a response from SDC.

RESOLVED:

- i) To advise SDC that they should target response resources to the winter nights
- ii) That the ‘Dog Fouling’ problem is a regular item in the newsletter
- iii) To request a supply of signs so that the Town Council can replace signs as soon as they are removed

163.5 SOUTHAM LIBRARY – BOOK DEPLETION

Members considered the following response from WCC

“I appreciate that our recent stock work may have caused some concern amongst our customers but please reassure the council that this is part of our routine stock work which is carried out at all sites. In this case we have recently been weeding out those items which are out of date, tatty or not issuing at Southam. The timing of this work coincides with our preparations to install self-service machines at Southam and has been done to ensure that we are only "tagging" good condition stock that still has a useful life span. Tagging involves attaching a small chip to the book which will enable the machines to identify it when someone borrows or returns it. A video explaining more about the self-service system can be found on our website at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

Please be assured that Southam, in common with all branches, continues to receive a share of all the new stock that is purchased for the county and a regular turn over of fresh stock from other locations as part of our rotation system.

A piece of good news to pass on to the council is that there will also be a small influx of new stock in the early summer as we are in receipt of a small pot of Section 106 monies which will be used to buy new books during April and May”

Noted

163.6 SOUTHAM PUBLIC TOILETS

Dealt with under Minute 163.1

163.7 FUNDING TO SUPPORT CAB – SOUTHAM OUTREACH

RESOLVED:

To authorise payment under the Local Government Act 1972 2A (to assist voluntary organisations to provide information and advice concerning those individuals rights and obligations).

163.8 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Members at ENV requested to have an item on the March ‘Town Clerk Report’ regarding the possibility of Southam Christmas Lights applying for a grant from Tesco S106 to improve footfall in the town and improve the environmental impact of the lights (all lights to be LED) and that the Town Council is asked to consider whether they would be prepared to underwrite any shortfall in the projected cost for 2011. Also considered was a letter from the Chairman of Southam Christmas Lights Association, in response to the meeting that took place.

RESOLVED:

To advise Southam Christmas Lights Association that they have the Council’s full support and that the Town Clerk ascertain if there are any surplus funds available in the ‘Credit Crunch – Economic Regeneration’ budget that would enable the council to contribute additional funding on top of the S137 grant that they normally receive.

163.9 MAYOR’S RESPONSE TO SOUTHAM TESCO ‘DISLOYAL’

Members considered the newspaper article

RESOLVED:

To included an article about the Tesco S106 in the next edition of the Newsletter

163.10 MAYFIELD ROAD ESTATE – LITTER AND PARKING ISSUES

Members considered correspondence from Orbit Heart of England in response to complaints made at the January meeting.

RESOLVED:

Noted

163.11 STREET CAFÉ APPLICATION – THE COFFEE CUP – 16 MARKET HILL, SOUTHAM (Part V11 Highways Act 1980)

Members considered the application

RESOLVED:

To respond as follows:

- i)Southam Town Council seek assurance that neighbouring businesses and residential properties have been made aware of the application**
- ii)Does the footway legally need to be a minimum width to allow street furniture**
- iii)On the application form where it asks for 'Times Each Day' it just states 'once' but no times. The Town Council are led to believe that this furniture is left outside all the time and do not consider that this is necessarily appropriate in a conservation area.**

163.12 HIGH SPEED RAIL: INVESTING IN BRITAIN'S FUTURE – HS2 CONSULTATION

Members were advised that the Town Council is now in receipt of the consultation document relating to HS2. The consultation closes on Friday 29th July 2011 and members were requested to decide how they propose to complete the Consultation Response Form.

Members considered the following options:

- That the Consultation Response Form is completed at a Town Council Meeting
- That the Council appoint a working group to complete the Consultation Response Form which is then put to council to be ratified before it is submitted
- That the council elected in May complete the Consultation Response Form

RESOLVED:

- i)That the council elected in May 2011 complete the Consultation Response Form**
- ii)That this matter is an agenda item for the next ENV re: handover to new council**

163.13 MAYORAL REPORT

This month the Mayor has attended the following functions on behalf of the Town Council

- * Warwickshire County Council Civic Dinner
- * Mayor of Kenilworth's Civic Dinner
- * Civic Service for the Chair of Warwick County Council
- * A Preview of an Art & Textile Exhibition at Leamington Town Hall
- * A Charity Concert at Coleshill Town Hall featuring Coleshill Town & Youth Brass Bands
- * Civic Service for the Chairman of Stratford District Council
- * Hosted a Coffee and Bring & Buy event in Southam for Civic and Local Ladies to raise money for the Mayor's Charities

Noted

163.14 MEETINGS, TRAINING AND EVENTS

- WALC One Day Briefing Seminar – Saturday 5th March 2011, 0915 – 3pm at Myton High School – cost £37.00
- National Awareness Training – Gypsy and Traveller – Friday 11th March 2011 at Warwick University from midday to 4pm – Cost Free

Noted

163.15 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2011

Thursday 24th March
Thursday 28th April
Thursday 12th May (Town Meeting & Mayormaking)
Thursday 26th May
Thursday 23rd June
Thursday 28th July
August – Summer Recess
Thursday 22nd September
Thursday 27th October
Thursday 24th November
December – Christmas Recess

ENV MEETING DATES 2011

Thursday 10th March
Thursday 14th April

Thursday 9th June
Thursday 14th July

Thursday 8th September
Thursday 13th October
Thursday 10th November

Noted

163.16 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

164. CORRESPONDENCE

164.1 CLLR R WALLER – PLANNING PERMISSION BREACH (09/00227/OUT CONDITION 18)

Noted

164.2 WARWICKSHIRE POLICE – STRATFORD DISTRICT – COUNCILLORS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 2011

Noted

164.3 SOUTHAM 2020 VISION ACTION GROUP – FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Noted

- 164.4 SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB – GRANT THANK YOU**
Noted
- 164.5 WCC DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE IN RELATION TO THE SHIPSTON TO SOUTHAM CYCLE SCHEME**
Noted
- 164.6 WCC SPEEDAWARE – CHANGES TO CURRENT SCHEME**
Noted
- 164.7 UFTON IN VESSEL COMPOSTING AND LANDFILL SITE LIAISON MEETING MINUTES**
Noted
- 164.8 WARWICKSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES**
Noted
- 164.9 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY MINUTES**
Noted
- 164.10 PROPOSED STOCKTON – SOUTHAM CYCLE ROUTE – FEBRUARY MINUTES**
Noted
- 164.11 SIMON FARO – THE ITALIAN FOOD MARKET 5TH JUNE 2011**
RESOLVED:
i)To respond stating that the Town Council agrees in principle to the market being held in Southam subject to them getting necessary authorisation from the relevant authorities
- 165. REPORT ON A JOINT MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL I & II WORKING PARTY ON 10th FEBRUARY 2011**
- 165.1 THE TOWN CHURCHYARD AT ST JAMES PARISH CHURCH**
John Tresidder attended the meeting to discuss with members the problem of the churchyard running out of space. The Clerk advised that no one had a duty to become a burial authority, although under the Health and Safety Act Stratford District Council had a duty to dispose of bodies. Members were also provided with information relating to the finances of Stratford Town Council being a Burial Authority. Mr Tresidder advised members that 2 acres would be needed and this would last about 40 years and that both Harbury and Bishops Itchington are Burial Authorities
RESOLVED:
i)To ask Harbury and Bishops Itchington the costs of running their cemeteries
ii)To ask the Church Commission where they own land and how they could help solve this problem
iii)John Tresidder to let the Town Clerk know the Church Commission contact
iv)To ask SDC to set up a Municipal Cemetery
v)To inform Southam United Charities of the situation and ascertain if they know of any suitable land or other help that they could suggest.

165.2 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION

The Chairmen and Treasurer attended the meeting to discuss the future funding of the Christmas Lights. They presented two alternative schemes for 2011, but even the smaller event would see a shortfall of £2000

RESOLVED:

i) That Southam Christmas Lights apply for Tesco S106 for capital projects in the Town to increase the footfall in connection with Events and Festivals

ii) That Jane Soni finds out from Katherine Geddes the time scale for such applications and let Southam Christmas Lights have this information.

Emphasise the WCC directive to make functions environmentally friendly as part of any application.

iii) To have an item on the March 'Town Clerk Report' regarding the possibility of Southam Christmas Lights applying for a grant from Tesco S106 to improve footfall in the town and improve the environmental impact of the lights (all lights to be LED) and that the Town Council is asked to consider whether they would be prepared to underwrite any shortfall in the projected cost for 2011 (see attached proposals A & B for councillors only)

165.3 DOUBLE YELLOW LINES – ST JAMES ROAD

Members considered correspondence from the Civic Ideas Forum seeking the council's support in their request for the double yellow lines to be extended

RESOLVED:

To advise that residents have to be consulted before the Town Council can register any comment

165.4 TOWN ELECTIONS – 5TH MAY 2011

Members were asked to confirm if they want Poll Cards for the forthcoming Town Council Elections

RESOLVED:

i) To advise SDC that Southam Town Council want Poll Cards

165.5 NALC POLICY CONSULTATION – A COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Members considered the consultation document

RESOLVED:

That Councillors complete the consultation document on an individual basis should they wish to

165.6 NALC POLICY CONSULTATION – A COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

Members considered the consultation document

RESOLVED:

That Councillors complete the consultation document on an individual basis should they wish to

166. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

None present

RESOLVED:

To write to Paul Lankester, Chief Executive and ask why the Town Council still has not received a copy of the report regarding the Elizabeth House refurbishment that was requested in January 2008 and state that a response is requested by the April Town Council meeting and if not received the

council will consider referring the matter to the ombudsman

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

167.1 TOMKINS CONSTRUCTIONS – WELSH ROAD EAST DEVELOPMENT 10/02780/FUL

Members considered correspondence from Steve Bromley regarding the above application

RESOLVED:

To respond to Steve Bromley and the planning department at SDC advising that the council support the proposals

167.2 VICTOR HODGES HOUSE

Members considered correspondence from Orbit Heart of England

RESOLVED:

i) To respond requesting more information on timescales

ii) To forward the correspondence to Mr G King

167.3 STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL

Members considered correspondence from Stockton Parish Council requesting whether they have the Skate Park ramps that are being taken out

RESOLVED:

To respond stating that they cannot have them because they do not meet current Health & Safety legislation

167.4 TOLLGATE ROAD LEASE

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk is requested to obtain an update on the current situation

168. 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

169. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

i) to authorise payments of staff salaries dated March 2011

ii) to authorise payment of ‘Confidential Accounts’ dated March 2011

170. STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) – STANDARDS AND ETHICS SUB COMMITTEE

Noted

Meeting closed 10.10pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MARCH 2011 - ISSUE 2					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
11/00390/VARY	Tesco Stores Ltd	W of Kineton Road Land off, Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate Southam	Variation of condition 18 of planning permission 09/00227/OUT to allow the store to open between the hours of 6am to midnight Monday to Saturday and 10 am to 4pm on Sundays (conditions currently restrict Monday to Saturday opening to 8am to 10pm	Southam Town Council maintains its original position as agreed with Tesco prior to planning being granted and objects to the store being open until 12 midnight. Tesco has flouted this condition.	
11/00392/VARY	Tesco Stores Ltd	W of Kineton Road Land off, Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate Southam	Variation of condition 18 of planning permission 09/00227/OUT to allow the store to open between the hours of 8am to 10 pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays (condition currently restricts Monday to Saturday opening to 8am to 10pm)	No representations	
11/00382/FUL	Mr J O'Brien	53 Banbury Road, Southam, CV47 1HJ	Proposed vehicular access	No representations	
11/00186/FUL	Mr & Mrs S Forgan	1 Abbey Lane, Southam CV47 1HR	Proposed two storey rear extension with the creation of a balcony (following demolition of existing rear extensions) insertion of no.3 dormer windows to principal elevation and insertion of a no 1 dormer window to the rear elevation.	No representations	
11/00488/FUL	Miss Harriet Wood	Land Adjacent to 71 Mayfield Road, Southam	Installation of small childrens play area on communal grassed area owned by the Housing Association	Southam Town Council has cooperated with the housing association in preparing this application and fully supports this proposal.	
11/00409/FUL	Mrs M Frogley	Field House, Daventry Road, Southam CV47 INN	Erection of a detached garage	No representations	
11/00561/ADV	Mr John Bridges	Co-op Late Shop, Coventry Street, Southam CV47 0EA	Erection of non-illuminated sign over store frontage	No representations	