

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, THE GRANGE, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010 at 6:30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair: Town Mayor (Cllr |Jane Soni) Cllrs L Tasker, L Hewer, C Worsh, A Forster, L Smith, J Smith, M Gaffney MBE TD, M Willoughby & D Wise  
Members of the public present were:  
Cllr J Ellard , PCSO Claire Murray, Fiona Perry, Margaret Rowlatt, John Gwillam, Carole Gwillam, Sarah Threlfall, Manjit Kaur Evans, Linda Doyle, Amy Richards, Katherine Geddes, Michael Hill , Rosemary Hill , Torin Spence & Hazel Preston

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Ward, Bernard Cadogan, Flt Lieutenant Daryle Moreton, Catherine Smith, Southam Stroke Club, St James Church PCC, 4 Southam Brownies, Ann Vickers, Southam College, St James Primary School, Southam Volunteer Centre , Southam Civic Ideas Forum, Southam & District Lions Club & Southam United Football Club, Jacky Graham, Pauline Brailsford, Rev John Armstrong, Sandra Meacham The Friendship Group, Jim Steele Craven Lane Hall.

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 27 May 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.**

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Report of the Town Mayor for the year 2010/2011 was presented to the meeting and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

**5. REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS Appendix B**

The meeting received reports from the following:

Southam Civic Ideas Forum  
The Friendship Group  
St James Church PCC  
Southam & District Lions Club  
St James C E Primary School  
Southam Volunteer Bureau  
The Grange Hall  
Darby & Joan Club  
Southam Christmas Lights Association

Verbal Reports

Southam WI – Mrs Hazel Preston  
Neighbourhood Watch – Sarah Threlfall  
Southam Twinning Association – Mr Michael Hill  
Town Centre Partnership – Katherine Geddes  
Rotary Club of Southam – Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE, TD  
WAB (Southam Branch) – Maggie Rowlatt & Fiona Perry  
Southam Childrens Centre – Manjit Kaur  
PCSO – Claire Murray  
Cardall Collection – Linda Doyle

The Town Mayor thanked all those attending and submitting reports to the meeting. Those reports submitted in writing are attached to these minutes as Appendix B

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY ELECTORS**  
There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:15pm

**Report for Mayor Making May 2011**  
**For Town Meeting**

**I can hardly believe that a year has passed since I stood in this Hall accepting the position of Town Mayor.**

It has been a year in which I have been privileged to represent the Town at events in Southam and in the surrounding towns of the County. Here in Southam my year started with the Whitsun Carnival and then other 'whole town' events, the Mop Fair, Switching on the Christmas Lights, for which my Deputy Andy Crump kindly took over, and most recently the Lions May Day Fete. Also in Southam I have attended events at St, James School, The College, Gymnastics Club, Blind Club and the Tuesday Group. Presenting the darts trophies at The Sports and Social Club has been a definite highlight, so many people involved in 'pub' teams in this area. At all these events the organising group has made me feel very welcome

One off events have included the Public Meeting to discuss the HS2 proposals. As a result of this meeting the TC resolved to oppose the scheme and the TC has supported the local action group with a grant. Grants were awarded among others to Southam in Bloom and the Christmas Lights, both of whom are struggling to maintain their displays. The opening of Tesco, which for many in the town remains a controversial addition, is another '1 off'. We are however seeing some benefit to businesses in the town that have been able to apply for start-up and shop front improvement grants, from the Tesco S106 money. Soon Town Groups will be able to apply for some of this money for events and festivals and it is my sincere hope that Southam in Bloom, and Southam Christmas Lights will benefit from this funding. Another notable addition to the Town has been the Wedding/Hotel/Events venue at Warwick House which I opened in November. A big achievement for the retiring Town Council has been improvements to play areas in the Town. Tollgate road received a new trim-trail of the Park Lane 'rec' has been refurbished and is now apart from the MUGA area. This was achieved with S106 money from Banner Homes Grants and money released from TC reserves. Currently work is progress to have a play area for under 8's on the Mayfield estate. Town Centre Development is still uncertain, due to unknowns re the Police Stn. and Victor Hodges House owned by Orbit. The Library has received refurbishments and has reopened, changes will come there re access to SDC.

One of the abiding memories of this year for me will be the commitment and dedication of those in civic positions, who, like myself have raised money for their chosen charities, through a variety of events, like the Mayor of Nuneaton dressed as a tribal chief dancing on the stage at his Charity Concert, and the Mayoress of Whitnash herself cooking a 3 course lunch for 50 or so ladies with the male Whitnash Cllr serving and doing the washing up. Also, I have been in awe of organisations serving the community, giving support to groups of all ages. Their dedication and cheerfulness as they give their time, for example to supporting carers of all ages with advice and encouragement, and for young carers, organising outings and special treats. Also the many groups providing recreation and group activities for young people from the Rainbows who sit so perkily during the Remembrance Day Church Service upward through the Guides and Boy Scouts and Air Cadets to name a few, all giving young people valuable practical and social skills. Here in Southam there are many people giving their time to organise events to give others pleasure, some of which we have heard reported in the Town Meeting earlier this evening. I was made aware of just how many organisations there are here in Southam when I wrote Christmas cards to them all. It seems to me that it is very difficult to escape the vast 'volunteer net' during your lifetime, whether as a 'giver' or 'receiver'.

Monies raised for my 2 Charities, the Leamington based CORD, and The Woodland Trust will mean that each will receive approximately £1292. The Woodland Trust money will be used to plant an area in the Merestone Park with shrubs and trees at a community planting event sometime in the autumn in conjunction with the Trust.

Of course, I have not achieved this year as Mayor alone. I have received personal support from my husband who performed his role as Consort with flair, and has taken many photos and become adept at pinning on the chain. He enjoyed the social functions and was able to give an airing to his suits that had lain dormant for years.

I am also immensely grateful to my Chaplin Glesni Thomas who can always be relied on for snappy, pertinent and thoughtful prayers as well as friendly support as in the organisation of the Civic Service held here in this Hall. It was lovely also to have my family taking part in the Service. Debbie, our Town Clerk, has also been a great help especially guiding me through the Town Council meetings.

I could not have done this job without the faultless organisation carried out by Denise, our Deputy Town Clerk, who managed the Diary and was key to the running of the Civic Dinner last November.

Finally I would like to thank fellow Cllr. especially my Deputy Andy Crump and the Labour Group, for their unfailing support, and wish our new Mayor and Mayoress, Mike and Gwenda a joyful year ahead.

I would like Debbie and Denise to accept these gifts as a small token of my appreciation.

Jane Soni, Retiring Mayor May 2011

SCIF

Chairman's Report  
AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Currently there are 9 members <sup>with</sup> Katherine Geddes of SDC, plus Patch Byrne 3 or 4 times a year. to the Streetscene meetings

Since our last AGM we have had 10 meetings with an earlier average attendance of 5 per meeting. Since we had 3 new members early in 2011 this has put attendance up to a later average of 7.

We have two main interests – Projects of which more anon and Streetscene – which is keeping an eye on the town generally and reporting any anomalies which we find, to the relevant authority. This has included having litter bins replaced, requesting removal of restrictions on Sunday parking times on Market Hill, reporting to police re poor parking near schools such as on pavements and verges and too close to road junctions. All this on top of regular reports on the state of roads, footways and condition of street furniture etc., etc.

Our interest in the state of the roads and reporting to the WCC Highways Dept have resulted in better than average road conditions..

We have had many successful projects this year including arranging funding for repainting the churchyard railings on Park Lane, updating and republishing the Holy Well Walk and Town Trail leaflets and tidying up at the top of Wattons Lane by the Lilley Smith Memorial. This we did ourselves as there was no available funding from the councils. Ongoing projects include the Holy Well and an unpleasant seepage of dirty water out of the hillside behind the well – we met with a Severn Trent official very recently and hope to get this rectified soon. We also monitor the general state of affairs at the Holy Well and would like to congratulate the Southam Town Council on the new palisade fence they have now completed.

All the electric sub-stations in the town have been located and listed and their state of repair reported to the electricity company.

We hope to keep monitoring Wattons Lane on the Warwick Road side of the bridge and to urge the town council to improve its appearance and pedestrian safety.

The 1994 Conservation Area report came to our notice and two members of SCIF are currently re-recording all the photographs in the report to ascertain any changes for the better or worse..

Finally, we have accessed some funding towards a new ironwork archway where the old gates were at the top of the steps to the churchyard, opposite the Black Dog. Planning permission is being sought and we hope for a successful conclusion to a project which will make our town very attractive in the eyes of residents and visitors alike.



## THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

### REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011

The Friendship Group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings, from 8.00-9.30pm in the Lounge of the Congregational Church, for the past 37 years. The Group is open to all ladies and at present we have an attendance of between 35 and 45 ladies. Our meetings are varied and, we believe, offer something to suit all tastes. We hear from speakers on their work and hobbies while others entertain us with slide shows. Evenings visiting the theatre, going out for a meal or to visit places of interest are organised about five times each year. We also have great fun organising our own entertainment evenings with items such as an Annual Guy Fawkes Supper, Carols and Faith Supper at Christmas, Beetle Drives, Games and Quizzes etc. We hold one fund raising event each year, namely a Coffee Morning. During the past year we have continued to support Oxfam by knitting blankets and Teddies for Tragedies with knitted teddies and blankets. We have also made donations to charities chosen by our speakers. We are always pleased to make new friends and a warm welcome will be extended to all ladies.

## Reports for Annual Town meeting from St James Church

There are two items that will be covered in this report.

First, St James Parochial Church Council would wish to pass on their thanks to STC and individuals within it and those attached to it for their encouragement and support during the last year. It has been much appreciated.

### **Churchyard**

For some years now STC has been granting the church a sum of money to cover the cost of mowing and strimming of the churchyard to maintain a tidy external appearance. This has been of great help to people either visiting family graves or following historical family links.

In the past this work has been carried out by a contractor appointed by the PCC, namely MFM Services (with agreement from STC) and he has been consistent in the work that he has undertaken. The huge benefit is that, as a church, over the last few years it would have been difficult for us to have found the funds to have covered the cost of this service and so we are deeply indebted to STC for covering the costs. It has had other spin-offs in that members of the PCC have got to know the STC employees and some Councillors more.

Under the “tightening of the belt” regime, which is commonplace at the moment, it has been decided to consolidate the mowing of St James churchyard in with the contract that the Council currently has. This came as no surprise. This by no means reduces the vote of thanks that we, as a PCC, wish to give STC.

### **Youth**

Earlier in the STC financial year, St James were given the opportunity to use “The Coffee Cup” in an evening by Cllr. Dave Wise. The purpose of this was and is to give young people a place to meet, hopefully keeping them off the streets where they have caused some difficulties.

The Parochial Church Council of St James jumped at this offer and a steering group was set up under the chairmanship of Barry Parker with a view to opening this venture in November. The name it operates under is “He\*Brews.” All volunteers have fulfilled obligations under Health & Safety (Food Hygiene) regulations, first aid and have been cleared with the CRB.

At first the take-up was NIL but with perseverance and keeping a presence on a Thursday night it could only get better and now there are some “regulars.” However, it is appreciated that the haul may be long.

The PCC have been thrilled by grant support that it has received (in this case by Stratford District Council) that was arranged in great part by the good offices of STC.

Thank you

Bryan Pratt – Member St James Parochial Church Council



## **Southam & District Lions Club** **Activities Report 2010/11**

2010/11 has been another very successful year for Southam & District Lions. At the start of the year we had 26 members and although we have lost 2 members we have managed to increase the membership to 27. Sadly earlier this year Lion Ken Graham died suddenly and unexpectedly. Lion Ken was one of the founder members of the club and he was looking forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year.

The cinema has now been running for two years and although it has yet to show any real profit we believe that it's a vital service to the community and we will continue to run this service. Thankfully during the two years we have received financial support from O2, Vision for Southam and others, which have helped us to continue this service. We are currently seeking financial support to purchase our own equipment in order to reduce our costs, thereby ensuring the future of this service.

Every Month, except for December, we hold a furniture sale at the back of the Co-op and raise around £4000 a year. We also help families in need by donating and delivering furniture to them free of charge.

In September we held our annual Senior Citizens party where we entertained 150 Senior Citizens from around the District.

The annual Hog Roast was held in October and raised £1000 for Help the Hero's and £250 for Southam Christmas Lights.

November saw The John Turner Festival take place. This event raises money to support Southam College's end of year prize giving.

In December we were out and about with Santa visiting all the children of the district and raised £3300, which was split equally

between Acorns Hospice for Children and Tiny Tim's of Coventry.

The annual Barn Dance was held in March and was followed in April with our Spring Dance.

The May Day Fete was held on a very sunny 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and included a visit from our local MP, Jeremy Wright. This year we have donated £9500 to good causes.

St James CE Primary School  
Report for Annual Town Meeting, May 2011

The last year has been very busy for the school in all respects. The work done to re-site the admin office and improve the entrance and storage facilities has been successfully completed. We also have better library facilities and all pupils and staff are benefitting from a much more pleasant working environment.

A major project for the year has been to work with a local artist on a mosaic for the main entrance and this will be displayed just outside school in the very near future. The children were all enthusiastic about this and have enjoyed the experience of designing and making pieces for the mosaic which represent our school and the town of Southam in general.

Our children, supported by their teachers and parents, continue to work hard and make good progress. We were pleased to congratulate the 2010 Year 6 cohort who did particularly well in their statutory tests.

We are pleased to be building strong links with other local schools and the wider community. Through fundraising we have been able to donate over £2,000 to national and local charities during the past year.

Other notable events in the year have been our celebrations around Chinese New Year when all pupils had the opportunity to try out some Chinese Dragon dancing, supporting World Book Day and participating in events to mark the bicentenary of the

National Society when we welcomed Linda Wainscot, the Diocesan Director of Education to our school.

We are now looking forward to developing the curriculum to make further use of the outdoor environment.

Reported by Hilary Wankling  
Headteacher

Southam Volunteer Services Transport has been even busier this year with some 800 extra passenger trips making 3396 passenger trips altogether covering the Southam and surrounding villages. Overall a total of 31,187 passenger trips across the District. The volunteer drivers have done a wonderful job as many of our appointments have been in Coventry, Birmingham, Rugby, Warwick as well as the Doctors, Dentists, Foot Clinics and Opticians.

Day Centres have also been covered.

Please find attached statistics from the last financial report.

This vital scheme would not be in operation without the dedicated volunteer staff at the Southam office who cover mornings every working day of the year. We have not been without our problems of sickness or holidays but the volunteer staff has managed to cover for each other on a regular basis.

We have arranged a Mince Pie and Coffee morning for volunteer drivers and volunteer staff to say Thank you for their continued support and to give volunteers an opportunity to meet their colleagues.

#### **Warwickshire Volunteer Transport**

We have been working in partnership with the Warwickshire Volunteer Community Transport group that covers Nuneaton, Rugby, Atherstone and Warwick which has resulted in a new Handbook for drivers covering policy guidelines plus a new Logo which gives us a stronger voice when various issues arise at Hospitals with regard to parking, wheelchairs etc.,

At present we are arranging for all volunteers drivers to have new ID Cards and many volunteers are calling in the Stratford Office for their photos to be taken.

#### **The Focus and Southam Advertise**

Both magazines have been helpful to us and given us a free advert and article in which has helped produce more volunteer drivers and inform new people who were not aware of our service.

#### **Wheel Chair Short Term Loan Service**

This scheme is free of charge for short term loan up to one month. It is very well received and we have helped many families in the Southam and surrounding villages. We do appreciate a donation if possible from families to help maintain this service.

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 12 May 2011**

### **REPORT FROM GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**John Gwillam – Chairman**

Overall, this last year has been an average one for the Grange Hall, in spite of it continuing to be very well used, with bookings already into 2013.

We have continued to run a wide variety of concerts, although the quantity has been reduced, primarily due to poor attendances, which are still disappointing. A lot of money, time and effort go into putting on these live entertainment events and we are a little disillusioned on how to improve attendances – good quality professional entertainment, on the door step, at a reasonable price – what could be better? In general, attendance at all events has been poor. For example, the Coventry Savoy Opera Company's performances over the last few years have generated an audience of over 100 on both nights; unfortunately, their concert in April this year was down by half - maybe it was the change of style or the change of date. However, next year will see a return to the original format with a full performance of a Gilbert & Sullivan Operetta, so we shall wait to see what happens. The Katch 22's Pantomime continues to be well attended with over 500 children enjoying their Christmas outing, as well as a well-attended public matinee (in spite of the weather). The other successful new event was John Kirkpatrick of Victorian Farm fame, whose performance was particularly well received, so we are hoping that his Christmas concert this year, "Carolling and Crumpets", will also go down well. After many requests for a "Tribute Band", we will be trying a Beatles Tribute later this year.

The hall finances continue to give us some concern as a building of this age is high maintenance. Current income at present just covers our day-to-day running costs, leaving no surplus for investment in the hall on decoration, replacement furniture, etc. Although generally bookings have been up this year, bar takings have been down, probably reflecting the current economic climate, although we do have several potentially large bookings coming up. Although the Management Committee decided, two years ago, to try to apply for charitable status (as this will have a number of financial advantages, none the least opening some doors to various grants), progress has been very slow; although Southam Town Council have been supportive, after initial support, Stratford-on-Avon District Council are now less enthusiastic.

We are grateful to Southam Town Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council for their continued capital investment in the hall. We were lucky enough to obtain a grant from "20:20 Vision" which enabled us to purchase an automatic electric shutter for the bar to replace the heavy wrought iron grilles, and we are very grateful for this assistance. We were disappointed to be turned down in our application for a grant to have the floor re-varnished, so this will become a priority in the coming year, together with re-decoration of the Hall, and we are hoping that funds may become available in the next year to achieve this.

Finally, I should like to thank Mrs Louise Neil (our Caretaker), Mrs Carole Gwillam (our Administrator) and the Management Committee members for their continued support. New Members are always welcome, so please feel free to have an informal chat if you think you may be interested!

## **SOUTHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB**

The Southam Darby and Joan Club meet on the first Friday of the month at Wattons Lodge from 2 to 4.30pm. Our membership remains at approximately 40. Due to the age of the group we lose a few each year but gain some too.

Unfortunately we seem unable to attract any Darbys, at present we have only one. I think he's very brave but he does bring along his wife for protection.

Our committee arranges a variety of events such as speakers, entertainers, trips to the theatre and garden centres and this month we organised a street party to celebrate the Royal Wedding. We had a pianist to sing along to so a good time was had by all.

We help to raise money for our trips and other overheads by charging £1 each month and we also hold raffles and bingo helps to contribute. Our charities are Myton Hospice and RNLA.

We are always looking for new members, so if you know anyone who is interested, please let us know. They would be very welcome.

## Report for Southam Christmas Lights Association 2010/11

Thee 'Best of Times and the Worst of Times, its been that sort of year, we had an excellent 'Switch On' even though it was the coldest one ever, people came out making sure they were going to enjoy themselves and it was a record turnout, to spend their hard earned money on the many voluntary charity stalls, various food stalls and the fun fair, also listen to local new ladies choir- Melody Makers, our MC encouraged the crowds to join in the carol singing.

Deputy Mayor Andy Crump, Father Christmas and his assistant performed the 'Switch on', a 'gnome' from Zoë's Place Children's Hospice.

The new contractors were excellent, their worse nightmare arose with the worse November weather for years, very cold with snow and ice, but they managed without any mishaps to themselves or the public.

Donations received of £2,820, due to the generous donations from businesses on the trading estates, Southam Town centre businesses, and local voluntary organisations, plus a grant Southam T.C. - no grant available from SDC, overall this was £1,860 less than the previous year.

20/20 Vision for Southam gave us a grant of £2,000 with the proviso we purchased new LED lights/cables, we were fortunate that our new contractors gave us a favourable deal by way of their contribution. We as volunteers raised £10,385 our contractor's bill, electricity payment and other expenses has left us with only £244.38.

Re lack of funds I will apply to Southam T.C. and S.D.C. for grants and also STC for money from the 'Credit Crunch money', we will be having two street collections again Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October to coincide with the Street Markets and Lions Furniture Sale. We are also trying again for a collection at the Tesco store, in November and committee members will visit each of the businesses in hope of donations during October. We have to be positive that we will have some money to erect some Christmas decorations.

My thanks to all the voluntary organisations stall holders, fun fair people, Southam Lions members and Father Christmas, lastly a big thank you to all members of this years 'lights' committee, without you it wouldn't happen.

Val Steele (Mrs)- Secretary Southam Christmas Lights Association

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL,  
COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

**Present:** The Mayor (Cllr Jane Soni) - In the Chair  
Councillors L Tasker, L Hewer, C Worsh, A Forster, L Smith, J Smith, M Gaffney, M Willoughby & D Wise

Prayers

**1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Standing Orders are suspended to allow the election of Mayor, not to appoint representatives to outside bodies and consider planning applications**

**2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

It was moved by Cllr J Soni, seconded by Cllr A Forster and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE TD be elected Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2011/2012**

**3. TOWN MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Town Mayor made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office And took the Chair. He was invested with the Chain of Office by the former Mayor and he thanked his fellow councillors. Cllr Gaffney MBE TD announced that his charities for the forthcoming year would be South Warwickshire Young Carers and World Waterworks Ltd – Water- Survival Boxes

The past Mayor, Cllr J Soni thanked her Chaplain, the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk for all their hard work during her mayoral year and announced that funds raised during her year would be divided between her charities Leamington based – CORD and The Woodland Trust

**4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr M Gaffney MBE TD proposed Cllr L Hewer but the proposal did not achieve a seconder, therefore it was moved by Cllr J Smith seconded by Cllr A Forster and approved by majority

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Dave Wise be appointed Deputy Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2011/2012**

The Mayor invested the new Deputy Mayor with the Jewel of Office. The new Deputy Mayor expressed his thanks.

**5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr J Ward

Cllr P Thomas

**6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011, having previously been circulated be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor.**

**7. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

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

There being no further business, the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.53 p.m. and invited Councillors, members of the public and guests to join him for light refreshments.



**SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B**

Southam Town Council – May 2011

APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT
11/00531/FUL	Mr Brian Moore	Starbold Farm, Banbury Road, Southam, CV47 2BL	Installation of 180no. 33.3kw photovoltaic panels to an existing farm building	No representations