

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2011

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), D Wise, J Ward, C Worsh, A Forster, J Soni, L Smith, J Smith, L Tasker, K Romero & D Williams

In attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders & Cllr J Appleton

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Willoughby – Personal

Cllr P Thomas – Personal

Cllr L Hewer – Personal

RESOLVED:

That apologies are accepted

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Ward declared a personal interest in his Members Item

Cllr L Smith declared a personal interest in Cllr Ward's Members Item

Cllr D Wise declared a personal interest in Cllr Ward's Members Item

Cllr A Forster declared a personal interest in Cllr Ward's Members Item

68. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs Sally Hunt, on behalf of 6 Warwick Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the following issues in the Wattons Lane:

- That ancient iron fencing had been stolen in Wattons Lane to the rear of Warwick House
- That the area had been taken off the 'Priorities List' for the Police
- What progress, if any, had been made regarding the caging or fencing off the Severn Trent pipe
- Were the Council aware that there is not a proper kissing gate at the end of the new path on the Banner Homes Development

Mr D Constable, 42 Springfield Grove, Southam

Spoke stating that the hedge around the passageway leading from Coventry Road into Linley Road is very overgrown and an incident happened when a gentleman was grabbed by four lads hiding in the bushes. Requested that the hedge is cut back and the lighting improved.

Mr G King, Grange Close, Southam

Spoke regarding Victor Hodges House, stating that this has now been empty for a long time and wanted to know what was happening

69. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2011, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor

70. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated October 2011, totalling £13,018.16 be

authorized.

71. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated October 2011

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

72. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

72.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mrs Hunt

Was advised that a kissing gate had now been installed at the end of the path

RESOLVED:

i)To write to the Police and ascertain why the Wattons Lane area has been removed from the priority list when there still appears to be a problem

ii)To chase Severn Trent regarding the pipe

Mr Constable

RESOLVED:

To ascertain who owns the hedge and lighting and report back to ENV

Mr King

Was advised that it was envisaged that the public would be made aware of the proposals for Victor Hodges House by the end of the year

72.2 SHARING OF BESPOKE PLANNING TRAINING TO ASSIST WITH COMPLICATED APPLICATIONS

Members' were advised that the cost of the planning training that Napton Parish Council is trying to organise will be approximately £50 - £80 per person

RESOLVED:

That those members wanting to attend planning training should attend the free planning training organised by WALC and CPRE

72.3 LOOSE DOGS AND DOG FOULING – RECREATION GROUND

Members considered correspondence from a resident complaining about loose dogs and dog fouling in the Park Lane Recreation Ground

RESOLVED:

To respond to the resident advising that, due to there being only one Dog Warden for the district it is very difficult to enforce. To encourage the resident to report any instances to the Dog Warden and inform him that the Council will be looking into distributing leaflets through dog related retailers to see if they will help combat the problem

72.4 PINDERS ALL HUMAN PRODUCTION CIRCUS 2012 TOUR

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council authorize Pinders All Human Production Circus to use the Park Lane Recreation Ground in October 2012, subject to the normal letting conditions and advise that October may not be the best time to come due to the MOP taking place during the same month

72.5 MEETINGS/TRAINING/EVENTS

- Friday 4th November 2011 at Norton Lindsey Village Hall – Briefing Event for all Chairmen and Aspiring Chairmen = Cost £35.00
- Saturday 3rd December 2011 at Wolston Community Centre - Briefing Event for all Chairmen and Aspiring Chairmen = Cost £35.00
- Saturday 14th January 2012 at Merestone Park, Southam , 10am – Midday the ‘Woodland Trust Tree Planting’ as a result of monies raised during Cllr Jane Soni’s Mayoral Year
- **Free Event** – WALC & CPRE are inviting both members of the public and Town and Parish Councils to the following event to be held on three separate occasions, details are as follows:

Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning

Saturday 28th January 2012 - Fillongley Village Hall

Saturday 11th February 2012 – Dunchurch Village hall

Saturday 24th March 2012 – Ettington Community Centre

Agenda Items

Communities and Their Role in Planning

Workshop – Complexities of A Large Scale Development

Neighbourhood Development Plans and Community Led Planning Tools

Neighbourhood Development Plans

Please inform the Clerk should you wish to attend any of these events

- Saturday 31st March 2012 – Dunchurch Silver Band - Mayor’s Charity Event in aid of Afghan Heroes – Tickets Cost £10.00

RESOLVED:

Noted

72.6 **COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Thursday 24th November 2011

December – Christmas Recess

Thursday 12th January 2012 – Precept

Thursday 26th January 2012

Thursday 23rd February 2012

Thursday 22nd March 2012

Thursday 26th April 2012

Thursday 10th May 2012 (Annual Town Meeting & Mayormaking)

Thursday 24th May 2012

Noted

ENV MEETING DATES

Thursday 10th November 2011

Thursday 9th February 2012

Thursday 8th March 2012

Thursday 12th April 2012

73. **CORRESPONDENCE**

73.1 **SOUTHAM FIRST - THANK YOU**

Noted

73.2 **SOUTHAM COMMUNITY MINIBUS – GRANT THANK YOU**

Noted

73.3 THE 2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCES IN ENGLAND

RESOLVED:

To put the information onto the Town Council website making reference to the consultation day taking place at Shire Hall on 11th November 2011

73.4 PROPOSED BASE STATION SITE-SHARE AT CS 24720 SCHOLASTIC LTD, WESTFIELD RD, SOUTHAM

Noted

74. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2011

74.1 ANNUAL RETURN 2010/2011 AND ACCOUNT AND AUDIT REGULATIONS

Members were advised that an unqualified audit opinion had been given in relation to the Annual Return 2010/2011 and that the Council needs to review the effectiveness of the system of internal control on an annual basis

RESOLVED:

- i) That Cllr J Ward and Cllr M Willoughby be the additional members appointed to the Finance Working Party
- ii) That the Finance Working Party reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal control
- iii) That the Town Clerk arranges a Finance Working Party meeting to take place in December (in the evening)

74.2 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED:

Council to adopt revised Standing Orders and that 'Item 14 page 12' remains 5 members plus the member proposing (6 members in total)

74.3 PROPOSAL TO CLOSE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Members considered correspondence from WCC

RESOLVED:

- i) To respond with the following questions:

How are they to deal with the schools that do not have the space to teach individuals separately?

How are they going to integrate learners back into schools if this is not successful?

How are they going to allocate funds to individual schools?

74.4 MEETING REQUEST FROM A MR PETER BROOKS RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND EAST OF BYPASS

RESOLVED:

- i) That Browns Bridge Ward members meet with Mr Brooks
- ii) That the meeting lasts for a maximum time of 1 hour
- iii) That Mr Brooks only brings with him one other representative
- iv) That the Town Clerk arranges the meeting

74.5 SOUTHAM COLLEGE FOOTBALL PITCH – REQUEST TO RELEASE FUNDING

Members considered correspondence from Southam College asking the council to release the £10,000 funding that was promised for the football pitch development subject to the Council approving a Primary School usage policy.

RESOLVED:

i)Town Clerk to contact Primary Schools in Southam to ascertain if they are happy with the following hours:

First Year – 6 hours of free primary school usage over the two week timetable

Second Year – 8 hours

Third Year – 10 hours

ii)If the schools confirm they are happy then the Council will resolve to release the funds

iii)To establish if the Primary Schools usage time is for Southam Primary Schools or Primary Schools in general

74.6 SOUTHAM ROUNDABOUT PROPOSALS

Members considered correspondence from WCC seeking views on the landscaping proposal for the roundabout nearest to Tesco which is being funded as part of the S106 agreement.

RESOLVED:

i)To respond stating the Town Council support the design using the ‘Autumn Gold’ colour but question the block paving over run and request that this remains

74.7 ORBIT HEART OF ENGLAND TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

RESOLVED:

i) That each member submits their comments individually, via email to the Town Clerk by 17th October 2011 (see Appendix A)

ii) That the Town Clerk obtains a ‘Statement of Need’ from Orbit

74.8 DEVELOPMENT OF VICTOR HODGES HOUSE – DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH SM20

Members considered correspondence from Orbit advising that a footpath which currently passes behind Victor Hodges would need to be diverted

RESOLVED:

i)To respond stating that Southam Town Council supports the diversion of the footpath

ii) Although the Council are not opposing the footpath being diverted, the Town Clerk is requested to contact any parties which she feels would be interested in the decision

74.9 COMMUNITY LINKS TRANSPORT SERVICE

Members considered correspondence from WALC advising that funding for this service is being withdrawn in the next financial year and as a result Parish and Town Councils are being asked to financially contribute to the service, via their precept.

RESOLVED:

i) To respond stating that the Town Council agree in principle to support the service, but at this time defer the decision regarding financial commitment (see Appendix B)

ii) To request a breakdown of the £232,000 from WCC to establish how much of that money has been spent already and the annual costs for each individual service

79.10 CHRISTMAS OFFICE OPENING HOURS

RESOLVED:

The Town Council Office will close at 1pm on Friday 23rd December 2011 and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 9am

79.11 ISSUES FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

RECOMMENDATION

To ask for an update on the future of The Grange

79.12 PLANNING APPLICATION

See attached

80. REPORT ON A YOUTH MEETING AT SOUTHAM COLLEGE ON 11TH OCTOBER 2011

In Attendance

Cllr Ann Forster, Cllr Jane Soni, Caroline Johnson, Brian Howard (Southam First), 2 student reps of each year group, Head girl and Head boy, Miss Donavon (staff), Business Manager (Andy Mason), Deputy Head (Roger Eadon)

The students had prepared questions for the Councillors. We were able to tell them about the structure of the Town Council and its responsibilities and also how we spent money in the town, highlighting the contribution to the Rec. Feedback was in favour of the MUGA. A student, Callum, from Year 10, gave a presentation for a skate park in the town. He had gained 150 signatures in favour plus costings for equipment and a possible layout. He was able to outline benefits and willingness to be involved in raising money. On behalf of the TC we advised that the TC would discuss the possibility of allocating money from the next budget towards the scheme. We would certainly recommend that the TC maintains contact with Callum and encourage his enthusiasm and commitment. Caroline gave information about the possible future of the Youth Centre Room at the Graham Adams Centre. Brian outlined the role of Southam 1st and how its schemes could involve the College.

It was a very positive meeting; the students were keen, enthusiastic and engaged. They had ideas to promote the College in the Community eg for distributing their newsletter to the Voluntary Groups in the Town, and asking businesses to display student art work in their windows during their 'Art Week' as well as having an exhibition at the College. They did not know about the Cardall Collection so we were able to give them relevant information about that. Both Ann & Jane expressed their willingness to attend future meetings with the students; this will probably be 1 meeting per half term.

RESOLVED:

That the report is adopted

81. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ST JAMES CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

The Town Clerk updated members advising the following:

- That St James Church had written to the Town Council in 2008 advising that they only had 4 to 5 years of space left for burials.
- That the Town Council is not a Burial Authority and neither is Stratford District Council (SDC)
- That Southam Town Council has written to SDC requesting that they become a Burial Authority
- That SDC has advised that the matter was discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 23rd May 2011; it was decided to defer the issue while a detailed report was prepared by officers and that it would go to a cabinet meeting as soon as such a report can be finalised
- That the Coventry Diocese has confirmed they have no available land
- Southam United Charities has confirmed that they have no available land

RESOLVED:

- i)To chase SDC re: report to cabinet about becoming a Burial Authority**
- ii)To ascertain whether the existing churchyard could be extended along towards the river**

82. MEMBER'S ITEM – CLLR J WARD

Southam-in-Bloom are looking to place a Stone Trough Planter on the pathway on Market Hill, directly outside the old Craven Arms Hotel.

We are seeking permission to place the planter from Southam Town Council; we will also seek permission from Warwickshire County Council and the house holder.

The details of the planter are as follows, a photo is also attached of the proposed planter and of the area in question.

Trough measuring 27 inches depth x 17 inches tall x 60 inches long.

RESOLVED:

- i)That Southam Town Council support the proposal subject to liaison with the owners of the property and WCC**
- ii)That Southam Town Council will be responsible with regards to Public Liability**
- iii)That Southam Town Council will take on the future maintenance of the planter if Southam in Bloom cease to exist**

83. ISSUES FOR DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr J Ellard

Advised the following:

- That she had nothing to report regarding 'The Grange' but would find out and update members at the November meeting
- That she understood that SDC would not be willing to become a Burial Authority on the grounds of cost but would obtain confirmation in writing to this effect
- That the 'New Housing' number for the district would be 8000 (up to 2025), there will be no large estates and the next stage in the process is land allocation consultation
- Stated that the Wood Street Public Toilets will not be closing; there will be no charges for using them and SDC are looking at ways of how revenue can be raised i.e. having an umbrella machine in them

Cllr J Appleton

Advised the following:

- That the Telefonica UK Ltd correspondence related to O2
- That the WCC Children and Adult Director has merged to create a 'People Director'
- That following the recent accidents on the A426 , it has been established that the speed limit should be reduced to 50 mph and that funding needs to be found to implement it
- That he will find out what it happening with regards to the Bus Stop on Coventry Road and whether it has been moved back to its original position

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

84.1 CLLR P THOMAS – LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The Mayor read out a resignation letter from Cllr P Thomas

RESOLVED:

- i) That with regret Southam Town Council accepts Cllr P Thomas's resignation**
- ii) That a Casual Vacancy is advertised**
- iii) That a letter of thanks is sent to Mr P Thomas**

85. 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

86. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated October 2011

87. MOP

Members considered correspondence regarding the MOP

RESOLVED:

- i) To respond to the resident accordingly**
- ii) That the Mayor and Town Clerk meet with Thomas Jones Fun Fairs and the Showman's Guild to discuss the issues raised**
- iii) That the correspondence is put to ENV for further discussion**

88. LIAM NEVIN – MONITORING OFFICER

Members' considered correspondence relating to a complaint that was made regarding the conduct of some Councillors on the previous Council
Noted

Meeting closed 9.11pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL 24th OCTOBER 2011					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
11/02269/TREE	Mrs Gloria Fox	Cuttle Beck, 22 Banbury Road, Southam CV47 1HL	Fell 4 Apple trees and prune remaining trees	No representations	
11/02314/FUL	Dudley Taylor Pharmacies Ltd	St Wulfstan Surgery, Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate, Southam CV47 0FG	Single storey side extension to form pharmacy and widening of existing footpath	Southam Town Council objects to this proposal for the following reasons: It would add a retail outlet to an out of town location. It would be detrimental to efforts to improve the Southam town centre and increase footfall.	Application withdrawn
11/02047/FUL	Mr Ken Hiron	22 St James Crescent, Southam CV47 0LX	Extension to side of existing dwelling at first floor level built over existing ground floor extension	No representations	
11/02282/FUL	Morrells Farming Ltd	Ladbroke Hill Farm, Windmill Lane, Ladbroke, Southam CV47 2BW	Replacement of a 20kw Westwind wind turbine, approved by application 08/00263/FUL, with one 11kw Gaia wind turbine with hub height of 18.3 metres and overall height of 25 metres to top of blades	No representations	