

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 12th JANUARY 2012

Present: The Mayor, Councillor M Gaffney - In the Chair
Councillors J Soni, C Worsh, J Ward, A Forster, L Smith, J Smith. M Willoughby, D Wise, D Williams

Apologies:

Cllr K Romero	Personal
Cllr L Tasker	Personal
Cllr L Hewer	Personal

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders,

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Soni	Personal	Item 6 Concessionary Travel
Cllr M Gaffney	Personal	Item 6 Concessionary Travel
Cllr J Ward	Personal	Item 6 Christmas Lights, Southam in Bloom
Cllr L Smith	Personal	Item 6 Southam in Bloom, HS2
Cllr A Forster	Personal	Item 6 Southam in Bloom, HS2
Cllr D Wise	Personal	Item 6 Southam in Bloom, Concessionary Travel, District Councillor

104. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs D Smith 20 Springs Crescent, Southam spoke asking who was responsible for the footpath which runs past the scout hut as rubbish is collecting in the bottom of the fences. She also reported that the cover on street light no 3 in Springs Crescent has still not been replaced despite being reported last year.

Mr D Mitchell, Bascote Heath spoke regarding the cost of and the disruption that would be caused by the construction and operation of HS2 if it were to go ahead. He said the residents of Southam would be affected by the dust from construction, spoil removal by road and noise and light pollution when the line was up and running.

Mr Chris Purser, Long Itchington spoke regarding SAAGs success in getting press coverage to oppose HS2 since the decision had been made to go ahead. Articles have appeared in nearly all of the major newspapers and there had been over 300,000 hits on social networking websites. He told the Council that the cost of building HS2 would be £1750 for each Southam tax payer and that the Council should consider asking each resident to pay 10p per week to oppose HS2.

Graham Long, Ladbroke pointed out to the Council that it had powers to spend money to oppose HS2 under Section 137 and also spoke about the major disruption there would be to Southam over several years, when the approach roads were closed for the construction of HS2

105. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24th November 2011, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor subject to the following amendments

Minute 97.14 delete the words ‘Town Council’ from the end of bullet point 3

Minute 90 add ‘Cllr L Smith declared a personal interest in item 3.

106. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT

PARISH TAX BASE

The provisional Council Tax Base for Southam 2012/2013 had been calculated at £2372.97 **Noted**

107. BUDGET PROPOSALS

The proposed figures for the 2012/2013 budget were based on a 5% inflation allowance. Where there was a clear need to revise the figure in light of current levels of expenditure, or known changes likely to occur, a new proposed figure was shown. **Noted**

108. ELECTORATE

Statistics verified to 1st December 2011 showed that the electorate in Southam stands at 5197. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 limited a Council's expenditure on grants to £6.80 per elector. **Noted**

109. COUNCIL'S AIMS

The Council had agreed to the following aims that were taken into consideration in all policy matters:

1. To improve the service it provides whilst ensuring best value
2. To work with others to improve safety, the environment and quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of our community
3. To regularly and effectively consult the community
4. To promote the local economy

Noted

110. CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2012/2013

RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed.

111. Additional Proposals

RESOLVED: Not to include a line in the budget for SAAG but advise them to apply for a grant as previously

112. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

RESOLVED: That any surplus on the following budget lines should be moved to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year

Line 4 Legal Fees and Services

Line 35 War Memorial

Line 36 Capital Expenditure

Line 37 Street Light Maintenance

Line 40 Grass Cutting

Line 43 Churchyard Maintenance

113. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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 about to be transacted.

- 114 **TREE SURGEONS REPORT MERESTONE PARK**
RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk seek advice from Zurich, our insurers, regarding the advisability of commencing the recommended works immediately
- 115 **PROPOSED BUDGET 2012/2013**
RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed for the salary lines 11 to 15 inclusive
- 116 **TOTAL BUDGET**
RESOLVED: That the total budget is set at £177595
117. **PRECEPT UPON THE TAX AUTHORITY**
RESOLVED: That the precept upon Stratford District Council be declared to be £174945

It was noted that Council Tax payable for a D Band property will be £73.72 which equates to the last four years and will not result in an increase in council tax.

The meeting closed at 8.49

PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013

The budget agreed at the Council meeting 12th January 2012 is attached. The total expenditure for 2012/13 was estimated to be £177595. The precept upon Stratford District Council for 2012/2013 was declared to be £174945. This would be payable in two equal instalments of £87472.50 in April and September.

The Town Council's element of Council Tax payable for D band property will be £73.72

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2012/2013			
		Budget 2011/2012	Budget 20012/2013
	GENERAL		
	Management		
1	Contribution to Grange Hall	1263	1326
2	Audit Fee	930	1225
3	Insurance	3787	4719
4	Legal Fees & Services	1000	1000
5	Telephone/fax/email	1343	1410
6	Postage	974	974
7	Office	1653	1736
8	Bank Charges	122	250
9	Intruder Alarm	279	293
10	Web Site Maintenance	620	651
10a	Computer Replacement	0	1150
	Total Management	11971	14734
	Salaries		
	Total Salaries	41613	42069
15	Travelling Expenses	300	300
	Total Salaries & Expenses	41913	42369
	Information		
16	Newsletter	1127	1183
17	Stationery	680	714
18	Membership Associations	1601	1537
19	Conference/Training Fees	200	300
20	Advertising	100	400
	Total Information	3708	4134
	Mayoral		
21	Allowance	2033	2135
22	Regalia	155	194
	Total Mayoral	2188	2329
	Miscellaneous		
23	Sundry items	50	500
24	Emergency Planning	100	500
25	Elections	3841	500
	Total Miscellaneous	3991	1500
	TOTAL GENERAL	63771	65066
	Recreation & Amenities		
26	Rent - The Mayfield	715	650
27	Trees	1579	2000
28	Holywell	50	75
29	Salt/Litter/Dog Bins	882	1500
29a	Dog Fouling Enforcement		1000
30	Mop Fair	0	0
	Total Recreation & Amenities	3226	5225
	Maintenance & Repairs:		
31	Repairs/inspections/replacemts	5000	15000
32	Park Lane Redevelopment Maintner	47230	5000
33	Grounds Maintenance Services	8820	9320
34	Hire of portable toilets	331	336
35	War Memorial	200	800
	Total Maintenance & Repairs	61581	30456
	TOTAL RECREATION & AMENITIES	64807	35681
	The Grange Hall		
36	Capital Expenditure	3000	3000
	Total Grange Hall	3000	3000
	Street Lighting		
37	Maintenance	5002	0
38	Supply of Electricity	7003	7353
39	Columns & Repairs		25000
	Total Street Lighting	12005	32353
	Grasscutting & Weed Clearance		

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2012/2013			
		Budget 2011/2012	Budget 20012/2013
40	Grasscutting	12797	10208
	Total Grass Cutting	12797	10208
	Community Grants		
41	Concessionary Travel	7500	10000
42	Section 137 grants	8584	14538
43	Churchyard Maintenance	4626	749
44	Youth Initiative	100.00	1000
45	Southam Christmas Lights		2500
46	Southam in Bloom		2500
	Total Community Grants	20810	31287
	TOTAL OTHER	48612	76848
	GRAND TOTAL	177190	177595
	Income		
47	Parish Pound	-850	-850
48	Interest	-2000	-1800
	Total Income	-2850	-2650
	GRAND TOTAL	174340	174945