

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 28th JUNE 2012

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), D Wise, C Pratt, J Soni, L Smith, M Willoughby, J Smith, A Forster, C Worsh, V Shepherd & L Hewer

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

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Ward – Work

Cllr L Tasker – Personal

Cllr R Barrington – Holiday

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr L Smith Personal Interest Matters relating to SCIF and Southam in Bloom

Cllr A Forster Personal Interest Matters relating to SCIF and Southam in Bloom

25. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding the grass cutting at the churchyard stating that it was a disgrace and wanted an update on her request for play area signage at the Mayfield Road Play Area and Park Lane Rec.

Mrs P Shearsby – 72 Banbury Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the problems that she was having with her neighbour who keeps coming on to her land to gain access to his property

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th May 2012, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor

27. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated June 2012, totalling £35,173.53 be authorized.

28. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated June 2012 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council.

ii) Planning Application decisions dated June 2012

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

29. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

29.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mrs D Smith

Town Clerk advised that the Town Council was not happy with the grass cutting at the Churchyard, that it would be cut again next week and inspected and if the Council wasn't happy then further action would be taken

Mrs Shearsby

Cllr Wise advised that the Stratford District Council Ward members had written to Orbit about the situation

29.2 WELSH ROAD WEST – SOUTHAM CIVIC IDEAS FORUM (SCIF)

Members considered correspondence from SCIF informing the Council that it is of the opinion that if the Welsh Road West junction was marked out as 'turn left/turn right' lanes, then cars would position themselves better and this would reduce congestion and requested that the Town Council make this request to Warwickshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

To respond to SCIF advising that the Town Council is not in favour of the suggestion and will not be pursuing it further

29.3 GRASS CUTTING - SCIF

Members considered correspondence from SCIF concerned about the standard of grass cutting carried out in the Town by Stratford District Council (SDC). As such, SCIF requested that the Town Council consider taking over the responsibility for all grass cutting of public areas within the town that is currently carried out by SDC. In light of this request, the Town Clerk advised that the Town Council cannot take on the responsibility, as SDC is unable to pass it onto the Town Council, as it would affect their contract, however, the Town Council could ask Veolia directly to carry out additional cuts at a cost of £915.00 a cut or (as advised by Cllr Ellard) the Council can ask SDC to add additional cuts for Southam in their global contract at a cost of £690.00 and the Town Council would then pay SDC for the additional cuts. Cllr Ellard informed Members that there would be an additional cut this season bringing the total to 6

RESOLVED:

To discuss the matter at the October ENV in preparation for the 2013/2014 budget

29.4 COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Members considered the following items that were raised at the last Councillor Surgery:

- a) The bus stop outside Martins used to have a lay-by that the buses pulled into so that the bus didn't block the road, but it was changed and there is no longer a lay-by and therefore the buses cannot pull in and this causes congestion. The resident has requested that the Council writes to WCC asking for the lay-by to be re-instated
- b) Can anything be done about speeding in Pendicke Street
- c) Request for a camera to monitor the footpath from Coventry Street to Merestone Park, especially with the footpath from Heather Close. The area is a gathering point for youths who have smashed pots, removed

- hanging baskets, damaged fences and broken into gardens etc... The resident was instructed by the Police to speak to the Town Council
- d) General complaint from a resident complaining about the look of the town, roads not swept, lots of litter, weeds in School Street etc...

RESOLVED:

i)To respond to resident advising that the bus layby was changed in order to improve disabled access

ii)To respond to resident advising there request has been noted

iii)To respond to resident advising that the Town Council will not consider installing a camera and they should continue to report incidents to the Police

iv)To respond to the resident advising that the Town Council are not of the same opinion and that recently there was a Deep Clean Day

29.5 PETITION FOR SKATEPARK

Members considered correspondence from a Southam College student wanting to meet with the Council to discuss what can be done about getting a new Skate park in Southam. The Town Clerk has advised the student that the Town Council are in favour of having a new Skate park in Southam, but as it stands at the moment the Town Council do not own any suitable sites where one could go and until a site can be found the project cannot be taken forward.

Noted

29.6 SOUTHAM GAMES YOUTH DAY – 14TH JULY 2012

The Town Clerk advised that as part of the Multi Agency Youth group she has been working with Southam College, Southam First, The Graham Adams Centre/Youth Club and Youth Workers in organising a Southam Games Youth Day to take place in Southam on Saturday 14th July 2012.

The aims of the day are:

- To stimulate interest and celebrate the forthcoming London Olympics through fun sporting activities for all ages
- To harness the Olympic legacy philosophy by providing an opportunity to promote local youth organisations
- To promote Southam as a dynamic town and increase the footfall in the Town Centre

Many organisations have signed up to be part of the event, such as Southam Leisure Centre, the Army, Southam United Football club , Dance organisations, Air Training Corp and the list goes on. There will be demonstrations and activities taking place at Market Hill, The Park Lane Recreation Ground, The Graham Adams Centre/Youth Club and Southam College. As part of the event the group wanted to bring the Mobile Skatepark to Southam, which would be situated at either Southam College or the Graham Adams Centre and the Police were due to be trained in the setting up and managing the facility, which would have meant little or no cost in having it, but unfortunately the planned training session had to be cancelled due to bad weather and another Training Session could not be arranged until after this event therefore, the Mobile Skatepark can only be provided if it is paid for.

In light of the correspondence above and previous correspondence from young people in Southam, the Town Council was asked to consider paying for it, out of

the Youth Initiative budget under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19. The cost of the Mobile Skatepark is £425.00, this is for a 3 hour session, that will include staffing, setting up and taking down time.

RESOLVED:

To fund the Mobile Skate Park at a cost of £425.00 from the Youth Initiative budget under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

29.7 DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT

Members considered correspondence from SDC, asking the Council whether they would be interested in financially supporting an additional Enforcement Officer that would target specific areas in the funding Parishes/Towns.

RESOLVED:

To respond to SDC stating that they would consider financially contributing to an additional Enforcement Officer and look forward to discussing the matter further

29.8 RESULTS OF SPEEDAWARE CAMPAIGN

Noted

29.9 MEETINGS/TRAINING/EVENTS

Saturday 21st July 2012 – Briefing event for all Chairmen and aspiring Chairmen

Noted

29.10 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

ENV MEETING DATES

Thursday 26th July 2012

Thursday 12th July 2012

August Recess

Thursday 27th September 2012

Thursday 13th September 2012

Thursday 25th October 2012

Thursday 11th October 2012

Thursday 22nd November 2012

Thursday 8th November 2012

December Recess

Thursday 10th January 2013 (Precept)

Thursday 24th January 2013

Thursday 28th February 2013

Thursday 14th February 2013

Thursday 28th March 2013

Thursday 14th March 2013

Thursday 25th April 2013

Thursday 11th April 2013

Thursday 9th May 2013 (Annual Town Meeting & Mayormaking)

Thursday 23rd May 2013

Thursday 27th June 2013

Thursday 13th June 2013

Thursday 25th July 2013

Thursday 11th July 2013

August Recess

Thursday 26th September 2013

Thursday 12th September 2013

Thursday 24th October 2013

Thursday 10th October 2013

Thursday 28th November 2013

Thursday 14th November 2013

December Recess

Noted

30. CORRESPONDENCE

30.1 CONSULTATION ON APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2012/2013 AND FUTURE YEARS – AUDIT COMMISSION

Noted

- 30.2 **JUNE MINUTES – SOUTHAM CIVIC IDEAS FORUM**
Noted
- 30.3 **SOUTHAM TOWN CENTRE RE-DEVELOPMENT – SOUTHAM CIVIC IDEAS FORUM**
Noted
- 30.4 **SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION**
Noted
- 30.5 **SOUTHAM CRICKET CLUB – GRANT FEEDBACK**
Noted
- 30.6 **GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – THANK YOU**
Noted
- 30.7 **2012 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL QUESTIONNAIRE - WCC**
RESOLVED:
i)To respond stating that Southam Town Council considers the current scheme to be of great benefit to the residents of Southam and therefore it should continue based on the same criteria
ii)To put the consultation document on the Website and in the Library
31. **REPORT ON A ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY MEETING ON 14TH JUNE 2012**
- 31.1 **WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS ON CLOSER WORKING WITH PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**
Nick Narwen (WCC) and Amanda Wilson-Patterson (WCC) discussed with members future partnership working
RESOLVED:
That members will consider the documents received (see attached) and respond accordingly
- 31.2 **SUMMER BUZZ 2012 - FUNDING CONTRIBUTION**
At the May Town Council meeting it was resolved to contribute £2500 towards this initiative, but there was only £1000 in the Youth Initiative budget, therefore Members were requested to resolve where the funds should be taken from under LGA (Misc Prov) Act 1976 s 19 power
The Town Clerk proposed that £2500 should be taken from Line 32 Park Lane and moved to Line 44 Youth Initiatives this would pay for Summer Buzz and it would still leave some money in the pot to support future initiatives
RESOLVED:
That £2500 should be taken from Line 32 Park Lane and moved to Line 44 Youth Initiatives, in order to pay for Summer Buzz and still leave funds available to support future initiatives
- 31.3 **SOUTHAM IN BLOOM PLANTERS**
At the May Town Council meeting it was resolved that the Town Council would enter into a licence with WCC in order for brick built planters to be installed in the Town Centre because WCC would not give Southam in Bloom (SIB) authority and that SIB would pay all associated costs. In February 2012 SIB applied for a grant of £3500 for the following:

Placing a Planting of horse trough outside Craven Arms - £900
Building and Planting a brick built planter outside Market Tavern - £1300
Replacing the 2 ring planters on Market Hill with a planted Brick Planter - £1300
Total Cost £3500

The Town Council awarded SIB £3000 but the money has not been released because of the licence problem

Now that the Town Council is entering into the licence, they are now responsible for this project and Members were advised that the Clerk was of the opinion that the grant money should not be released to SIB, but that Southam Town Council are invoiced directly for the costs relating to this project which would come out of the £3000 grant award and that SIB are invoiced for the balance

From an insurance point of view this needs to happen in order for the Council Liability Insurance to be valid , also, there may be some savings as the council can claim back VAT

RESOLVED:

That the S137 Grant awarded to Southam in Bloom (SIB) is not released, as Southam Town Council (STC) would be invoiced directed for the costs involved

- ii)SIB to provide STC with a detailed project plan, including proposed contractors in order for the works to be approved**
- iii)Southam Town Council to obtain indemnity from SIB for overspend of planter build**
- iv)Members to discuss again financial risk and installation when the requested information has been received**
- v)To respond to the residents and WCC regarding the proposed planter outside Market Tavern, that their observations (work vehicles not being able to park and the planter being used as seating area) have been noted**

31.4 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

- i)Southam First – Cllr J Smith reserve Cllr L Hewer
Grange Hall Management Committee – Cllr R Barrington
Community & Hospital Information Exchange Forum (CHIEF) – Cllr C Pratt
Future Provision of Burial Ground in Southam and surrounding area – Cllr C Pratt (remove Cllr D Wise)
HS2 Ltd Ladbroke and Southam Community Forum – Cllr D Wise and Cllr V Shepherd**

ii)Members are requested to advise the Town Clerk if they have not been invited to any meetings etc ..

31.5 SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That Members will sit in WARDS as per the attached plan

31.6 MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

Members considered a request from a member that on top of the 45p Mileage Allowance Councillors can also claim 5p per passenger Mileage Allowance as

well. WALC have advised that in order for Councillors to make a claim on these terms the Council would need to pass a resolution. WALC have also advised that anything above 45p is subject to Tax and NI and that any councillor making this claim would have a duty to declare it on their Tax Return

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council will pay a mileage allowance to Members of 45p per mile, plus an additional 5p per mile per passenger and that it is the responsibility of the Member making the claim to declare it of their tax return

31.7 AGE UK WARWICKSHIRE

Members were advised that Cllr J Soni, Cllr J Ward, Cllr L Tasker and the Town Clerk met with Nick Workman from Age UK Warwickshire to discuss financially supporting an Age UK Mini Bus

Age UK Warwickshire have identified that there is a need for a minibus in Southam that is currently in Bidford. Age UK have had discussions with Orbit who are happy for the Mini Bus to be kept free of charge at Wattons Lodge. Age UK are currently interviewing 2 Volunteers who they will train to drive the minibus. It is a 15 seater minibus, users will be charged £1.50 per mile which is a per bus cost and not per passenger cost, for any journey there is a minimum charge of £22.00.

Age UK have been asked to provide the Council with proposals of how the Town Council could contribute, probably along the line of reducing the mileage cost.

VASA was also discussed and Cllr Tasker is going to investigate a reduced mileage scheme for the Volunteer Driver Scheme and report back to Council
Noted

31.8 PLAY AREA SIGNAGE

As discussed at the Town Council meeting, members resolved to consider Play Area signage for the new Mayfield Road Play Area and Park Lane Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED:

i) That a sign is placed at the bottom of the hill on Wattons Lane close to the footpath across the river and a second sign at the bottom of St James Road (South end) prior to the junction with Wattons Lane and Park Lane before the blind left hand turn

ii) To ask Southam @ Play if they would consider paying for play area signage in the vicinity of the new Mayfield Road Play Area

31.9 SOUTHAM CO-OP SIGNAGE

Members considered correspondence from the Co-op regarding their proposals for warning pedestrians of cars coming in and out of the car park

RESOLVED:

To respond stating that the Town Council consider painting on the pavement as not effective and that they are of the opinion that a physical object should be installed in front of the CO-OP by the blind corner access to the car park, to force foot traffic away from the corner, as this should improve visibility and distance between pedestrians and cars leaving the car park

31.10. HS2 LTD LADBROKE AND SOUTHAM COMMUNITY FORUM

RESOLVED:

That Cllr V Shepherd will represent the Council at the next meeting on 20th June 2012

31.11. CHANGES TO STREET LIGHTING IN WARWICKSHIRE

Members considered correspondence advising that 80% of WCC owned street lights will operate on a part time basis and will be switched-off between the hours of midnight and 0530

RESOLVED:

i)To respond stating that for the reason of public safety the following roads should remain lit through the night:

Banbury Road

Warwick Road

Top End of Coventry Road

Pound Way down to the underpass

ii)Town Clerk to investigate how selective switching off can be achieved

iii)That the information is put on the Town Council Website

31.12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

See attached

31.13. QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

None tabled

32. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr J Appleton advised the following:

- That a HS2 meeting has taken place and that the Safe Guarding Consultation regarding land to safeguard will not take place until after the Hybrid Bill
- Spoke about Broadband
- Advised that the Warwickshire Fire Service will collaborate with Northamptonshire to have a joint Fire Control Centre
- Chief Fire Officer achieved 2 first ratings for Fires in the Home and Responding to automatic alarms
- Spoke about new governance Code of Conduct

Cllr J Ellard advised the following:

- Advised that the Monitoring Officer Liam Nevin is leaving SDC and they are going to trial sharing a Monitoring Officer
- Judicial Review HS2 to take place in November
- SDC are exploring options which may include only 90% of Council Tax Benefit being able to be claimed back leaving a shortfall of 10% (the elderly cannot be affected)
- If you own a second property a discount of Council Tax will no longer apply
- 6 Months Council Tax grace on unoccupied property will be reduced to 3 months
- Negotiations regarding the Town Centre Development are on going

Cllr A Crump advised the following:

- That the £45k Mayfield Road Play Area has now been completed and signed off and that an Open Day needs to take place
- The Speedaware has been well received and speeding was set as a priority at the Community Forum
- Asked why the Southam in Bloom planters had not been planted

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

None

34. **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

35. **STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES**

RESOLVED:

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated June 2012

Meeting closed 9.00pm