

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), J Ward, C Pratt, J Soni, J Smith, L Tasker, V Shepherd, E Thornley, L Smith & C Worsh

In attendance: Mrs D Carro & Cllr A Crump,

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr L Hewer – Personal
Cllr A Forster – Personal
Cllr M Willoughby - Personal
Cllr D Wise – Holiday
Cllr J Ellard – Personal
Cllr J Appleton - Personal
Anne Solomon (SDC)

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Pratt	Personal Interest Reason	Accounts for Payment item 12 Reimbursement of travel expenses
	Personal Interest Reason	ENV Item 6 Owns Plot
Cllr J Smith	Personal Interest Reason	Town Clerk’s Report – Item 2 Chairmen of RAFT

88. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr A Sutton – 5 Stowe Drive, Southam

Spoke regarding St James Churchyard, stating that it is running out of space with only 6 burial plots left and wanted to know what the Town Council were going to do about it.

Mrs D Smith – 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding Tesco S106 money being spent on the Seth Bond Memorial and wanted to know if SDC had reimbursed the S106. Wanted to know when the developers were going to install the new footway along Welsh Road East as her daughter had a near miss.

Mrs J Chapman – 4 Roman Way, Southam

Spoke regarding the increased problem of dog fouling in Southam, stated that there was one person who never picks up after their dog and when approached is very aggressive. As stated in the Town Council Newsletter wanted to know if Southam was going to get increased enforcement

Mr Ciampa, Mayflower Stables, Southam

Spoke about the on-going issues he has with noise disturbance from Newstead Lodge Nursing Home, stating that the problem is so bad in the summer that he is unable to use his garden because the disturbance is so great.

89. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25th October 2012, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

90. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated November 2012, totalling £4599.04 be authorised.

91. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated November 2012

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

92. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

92.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mr A Sutton

Was advised that the Town Council were having on-going discussions with various people regarding the situation, that the Council is not a Burial Authority and had asked SDC to create a Municipal Cemetery which they have declined to do and have offered the Town Council no assistance in resolving the matter. The Town Council plan to hold a Public Meeting in the New Year in order to gain public opinion because it is going to be very costly to create a new cemetery.

Mrs D Smith

Was advised that SDC would be asked about the S106 reimbursement once the recommendation had been resolved. That the Council were of the opinion that the Planning Application included the creation of a footway and it would be investigated as to when this footway will be installed

Mrs J Chapman

Was advised that the Council does recognise that Southam has a Dog Fouling problem. They have been waiting for SDC to advise whether the Town Council will be able to pay for additional enforcement visits. SDC Ward Members will investigate the situation on behalf of the Council. The Council will obtain a Dog Warden visit schedule for Southam

Mr Ciampa

The Town Clerk advised the Council that Mr Ciampa had been given advice and details regarding neighbour mediation, that it was an Environmental Health issue and that the Town Council do not have any powers to assist. Cllr Crump advised that he would investigate what SDC were doing about the problem.

92.2 SOUTHAM INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION SCHEME

Members were advised that the Southam Individual Property Protection Scheme is now complete and were given details of the properties that have had the flood barriers installed.

92.3 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – MILL HILL WARD

Members considered Councillor Applications from a Mr B Thomas and a Mr A Crump.

RESOLVED:

That Mr B Thomas is co-opted onto the Council

92.4 SOUTHAM YOUTH CLUB – HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Members considered correspondence from Glesni Thomas advising that unfortunately they had to cancel the half term Activity week due to no bookings and therefore would be returning the remaining grant funding (less advertising costs) to the Town Council.

Noted

92.5 LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND: 17TH & 18TH AUGUST 2013

Members considered a grant application from Southam First seeking a grant of £4000.00 towards the proposed Living History Event that is due to take place in August 2013. Due to the timing of the event, it would be too late for the grant application to be considered in February 2013; therefore Southam First would appreciate the Town Council considering the application now. However, Southam First would not need to receive any money until the next financial year, but need a commitment now as to how much the Council is prepared to financially contribute; this money could then be budgeted for at the Precept meeting.

RESOLVED:

i) That the Town Council will contribute a maximum of £2500, the amount will depend on what other funding is secured

ii) The Town Council would like more specific information on the costs of the project

iii) To clarify what group is leading the event is it Southam First or Southam Living History Event Committee

92.6 DISPENSATIONS PROCEDURE – GUIDE FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Members considered correspondence from WALC advising that it is the opinion of the National Association of Local Councils that a dispensation is required for precept setting. In order for a Councillor to take part in the Precept Meeting each Councillor would need to apply for a dispensation and complete a Dispensation Request form. Due to the timescale the Town Council would need to delegate to the clerk the authority to grant dispensations for precept only. The power rest with the relevant authority under section 33 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33 (2). The Council also needs to agree a procedure with the Town Clerk as to how they are going to deal with other dispensation requests in the future.

RESOLVED:

i) That under power s33 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 the Town Clerk is given the authority to grant dispensations for precept only

ii) That each Councillor is to complete and submit a Dispensation Request Form to the Town Clerk at least 7 working days prior to the Precept Meeting in order to participate in the Precept Meeting. Failure to do so will mean

that, the Councillor cannot participate in the Precept Meeting without dispensation being granted, as it is deemed a Criminal Offence
iii) That the procedure regarding other dispensations is considered at the February ENV

92.7 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

RESOLVED:

Monday 24th December 2012 – Closed
Tuesday 25th December 2012 – Closed
Wednesday 26th December 2012 – Closed
Thursday 27th December 2012 – Closed
Friday 28th December 2012 – Closed
Monday 31st December 2012 – Closed
Tuesday 1st January 2013 – Closed

The office would re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2013 and the Town Clerk's and Town Mayor's telephone number will be on the answering message if someone needs to contact the Town Council, as a matter of urgency.

92.8 WITHDRAWAL OF THE COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICE AT SOUTHAM CLINIC

Members were advised that the Community Dental Service has been withdrawn from Southam Clinic. The Town Clerk has been advised that the clinic has been withdrawn due to lack of clients and therefore not viable to have it open even one day a week. The facilities remain at the clinic and if the situation changes in the future then the service could be reinstated.

Noted

92.9 FARMER MARKET – MEETING REQUEST

Members were advised that a representative of the Farmers Market would like to meet with some members of Southam Town Council to discuss some issues they have with the Market and Southam First. The Town Clerk suggests that a meeting is arranged with the Town Council, Farmers Market and Southam First.

RESOLVED:

That a meeting is arranged and Cllr Gaffney and Cllr J Smith represent the Council

92.10 MEETINGS/TRAINING/EVENTS

- Saturday 16th February 2013 – Mayor's Charity Concert, 7.30pm at The Grange Hall, Southam, Tickets £10.00

92.11 COUNCIL MEETING DATES ENV MEETING DATES

December Recess

Thursday 10th January 2013 (Precept)

Thursday 24th January 2013

Thursday 28th February 2013

Thursday 28th March 2013

Thursday 25th April 2013

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

Thursday 23rd May 2013

Thursday 27th June 2013

Thursday 25th July 2013

Thursday 14th February 2013

Thursday 14th March 2013

Thursday 11th April 2013

Thursday 13th June 2013

Thursday 11th July 2013

August Recess
Thursday 26th September 2013
Thursday 24th October 2013
Thursday 28th November 2013
December Recess

Thursday 12th September 2013
Thursday 10th October 2013
Thursday 14th November 2013

Noted

- 93. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 93.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG SOUTHAM TOWN CENTRE – ORBIT PRESS RELEASE**
Noted
- 93.2 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION – COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
Noted
- 94. REPORT ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY MEETING ON 11TH OCTOBER 2012**
- 94.1 LOCALISM PROGRAMME – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**
Tejay de Kester, Localities and Community Safety WCC attended the meeting and a twenty minute discussion took place.
RESOLVED:
STC will take this further and decide the best way of pursuing and developing good relationships with WCC officers and departments and our council. Time scale until March 2013
- 94.2 SOUTHAM FIRST**
Sue Hinsley and Ashley Keenes attended the meeting. Listened to the concerns re: bus stops, chemist access and frequency of road closures. It was suggested that there is greater communication with the Town Council and Southam First promised to keep the TC informed of their future activities well in advance of the planned event. TC requested that Southam First consider other sites for some markets alongside High Street, Police Station and the Library Grounds.
RESOLVED:
That Cllr Forster report back to the next council meeting on arrangements for temporary bus stops for 1st December 2012
- 94.3 GRASS CUTTING**
Members considered whether they want to pay SDC for additional grass cutting in the next financial year. Members were informed that the new grounds contract for SDC is due to be finalised in the next 10 days.
RESOLVED:
To discuss issue of paying for extra cuts when the new costs are confirmed
- 94.4 RIGHTS OF WAY VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2012**
Members considered the correspondence and discussed whether to resurrect the Pathway Community group
RESOLVED:
i)To approach Nigel Chapman to see if he is willing to chair a new P3 Scheme
ii)Need to appoint a TC Rep

iii) Look for volunteers from VASA database and ask Southam companies such as Alumet, Tesco etc for employee volunteers for specific projects

94.5 SETH BONDS106

RESOLVED:

To ask SDC if they are going to refund the Seth Bond monies to the Tesco S106 fund. Regardless of the response the matter is closed

94.6 CABINET MEETING RE: BURIAL AUTHORITY AND CHURCHARD RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

Cllr Pratt reported that SDC will not take on the role of a Burial Authority

RESOLVED:

i) To publicise the fact that the number of burial plots is reducing and at present there are only seven remaining

ii) Explore possibility of buying land from the Diocese/Southam United Charity, friendly local farmers etc...

iii) That a public meeting is arranged to gauge public support for a new Southam Burial Ground and for Southam Town Council to become a Burial Authority. If this is supported then a referendum will follow to establish public support for increased precepts for some years to fund

94.7 TOWN PLAN

Members were advised that a Town Plan for Southam was last carried out in 2006 and were requested to decide if they wanted to update it.

RESOLVED:

To defer for one year once the on-going developments in the town centre are more clear and further advanced in their completion

94.8 VASA VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT SCHEME – UPDATE

RESOLVED:

i) That Cllr Tasker go back to VASA and say that a person is eligible if they have a bus pass

ii) Agree to a unified mileage for those on benefits and Town Council will meet the difference in rates

iii) Pay small admin costs to VASA for postage and stationery in addition to admin fee

94.9 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

That Members will have the opportunity to give reports from the 'Outside Bodies' they represent at each Council Meeting under Agenda Item 9 Working Party Reports

CLERK IS REQUESTED TO ACTION THE FOLLOWING ITEMS PRIOR TO THEM BEING RESOLVED

94.10 DEPUTY PLANNING MEMBER

RESOLVED:

Cllr Willoughby volunteered to be Deputy Planning Member and will attend the meeting in November if required

94.11 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED:

- i) **To request information re: spending of Section 106 monies specifically allocated to Southam Town Centre and the improvement of Market Hill. Urgent discussions are required soon due to expiry of funding**
- ii) **When is the Town Council likely to have sight of the plans for the Orbit and Library redevelopment**

94.12 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – ROAD CLOSURE

Members were advised that the Police have insisted that barriers and road closed signs need to be used for the road closure. This has a financial implication for STC as our contractor will be required to transport barriers and signs to physically close the road.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the procedure is accepted as there is no choice**
- ii) **That a sum of £50 be authorised to cover the cost**

Members are requested to note that the Town Council Contractor will charge a nominal fee for this service

94.13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

See attached

94.14 SOUTHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2012

Members considered correspondence from Pauline Brailsford inviting the Town Council to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That Cllr J Ward and Cllr M Willoughby take forward the project**
- ii) **That under the LGA 1972 s144 Power to attract tourists and visitors, the total cost of £30.00 for the tree and decorations will be financed from the Sundries Budget**

95. HS2 LTD COMMUNITY FORUM – CLLR V SHEPHERD

Brief Report on HS2 and its future effect on Southam and STC.

* It is ever increasingly clear that HS2 in some form will go ahead based on our current information.

However, what is not yet clear is to what extent Southam and Warwickshire will be affected because of all the problems still arising throughout the whole of the HS2 route.

* One of the major concerns affecting Community Forums [CF] on the route is that HS2 are failing to fulfil their own terms of reference and are in the opinion of all CFs moving away from their own original terms of reference..

The minutes and terms of reference have become increasingly late for all CFs and have been dismissed as inadequate and self-serving.

* HS2 are spending increasing amounts of time at Forums on speaking and presentations on what they want to say, so limiting any chance of creating a dialogue on local and mitigation issues. In addition some of their speakers are totally inappropriate and lack the level of knowledge that is required.

It is clear that members of all CFs have a greater level of knowledge [over 500 years of experience] and what is more important, local knowledge and history.

* HS2 wanted to introduce a standard agenda, this was wholly inappropriate for differing local issues that would be raised throughout the country. Giving the impression that they were just going through the motions.

* Our representatives here in Southam, Dr Dan Mitchel and Andrew Jamieson have been very demanding of HS2 to `come clean` about what is going to happen in our area and as a result we now know that

1 We will have a major `building site` problem stretching from beyond Ladbroke in the South to Cubbington in the North.

2 The main roads to Banbury, Leamington, Deppers Bridge, and the Welsh road will be subject to closures and major diversions. HS2 are still considering a cut and cover tunnel as an alternative for the cutting outside Southam near the Industrial estate. Manufacturers are concerned about vibration to delicate equipment.

3 Earth moving machinery, lorries, equipment, materials, men and facilities will dominate our environment for the total build time of 5 to 8 years.

4 We will have an additional problem in our area that no other part of the country will suffer, that will be the build of a `loop line` going North and South just south of Ladbroke to be the `repair area` for fixing train breakdowns. This means that for a total of approx 1 to 1 and half miles, we will have to suffer four lines of track instead of just two. These `loop lines` were not required for HS1 into Europe, why now and why in our area.

5 This will increase by as yet an unknown length of time for further disruption in our local area.

6 Additional farmland will have to be bought, new roads created, area roads closed for an unknown length of time, with additional noise, pollution, disruption and total inconvenience for the Town of Southam, with no opportunity for landowners or Councils to refuse or receive any agreed compensation with HS2.

7 The town of Southam will not benefit at all from this HS2 plan. We may have some additional shop trade during its construction, but this will no way lessen the negative impact on our community.

8 The only one interesting bit of information to come out of all these talks, meetings, protests and debates is that two of the most interested parties in our area, namely, Codemasters and Dallas Burston are not involved in the protest movement at all. I wonder, do they know something the CFs does not.

96. SOUTHAM FIRST TOWN IMPROVEMENT SUBGROUP – CLLR J SONI OWNERSHIP OF PROPOSED BUSINESS BOARDS and THEIR DESIGN

1.SDC would not be able to take on the ownership once any boards are installed even for a short period.

2. From the input of business owners, and feedback from STC, it has been decided that the complex numbered map with individual business cards is not practical or useful.

3. An alternative/revised and cheaper design is now being considered on which shopping streets are identified, and key sites e.g. PO, Churches, Toilets, Library, Parking, Pharmacy and eating places are marked.

4.Pads of `tear off` maps are being costed, these would be the same format as the main board and available in shops etc.

5.The next meeting is on January 15th

97. BIFFA LIAISON MEETING – CLLR J SONI

1.The green waste composting unit at the Ufton site has now received accreditation which allows it to sell the compost. At present the compost is being used in the restoration of the landfill site. There is no proposal to sell in small bags to the public. However, Biffa are proposing a scheme where they will deliver to allotments in large 1 ton bags if requested.

2.The green waste fed into the composting unit must be free of plastic bags and newspaper (the print ink is toxic). They are mounting a campaign to alert the public to this as they often find plastic in with the green waste. If you put food waste in the green bin (as allowed on alternate weeks) you should use compostable bags which you can apparently buy from Sainsbury's.

98. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr A Crump advised the following:

- Advised that Dog Fouling was a problem across the district and members of the public can help by obtaining evidence and being prepared to provide witness statements
- That he was aware of the situation affecting Mr Ciampa and will speak to Mr Reid at SDC
- Cllr Ellard was due to give an update on the S106 monies, but due to an unforeseen situation has been unable to attend tonight's meeting
- Orbit Development – Another meeting is due to take place in January
- Empty Homes Grants currently being promoted
- Core Strategy still being completed
- Shottery Planning Appeal could have implications
- Stating that being a Burial Authority has a significant drain on resources
- PCC Elections
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review

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

In light of the recent weather conditions, Members were requested to authorise paying for sand to be used to fill up the sandbags at a cost of £78.00

RESOLVED:

That the Council will pay for sand at a cost of £78.00

100. 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

101. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated November 2012

Meeting closed 9.17pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE 2					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
12/02437/FUL	Warwick Steel Structures Mr Tony Langford	Harp Farm, Banbury Road, Southam, CV47 2BL	Demolition of central section of existing building and the construction of a new building for use as a steel fabrication shop and offices at ground and first floor	29th November 2012	No Representations
12/02283/FUL	Mr Andrew Macintosh	Bramley Cottage, 1 Masters Orchard, Wattons Lane, Southam CV47 0JD	Change of use of land to domestic curtilage and erection of detached double garage and associated landscaping.	3rd December 2012	No Representations
12/01173/ADV	Wandfluh Ltd	Wandfluh Uk Ltd, Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate, Southam CV47 0FG	Proposed installation of an illuminated box sign on side of building	30th November 2012	Southam Town Council withdraws its previous objection and supports this application subject to conditions being placed regarding the illumination being allowed during working hours only

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2012 ENV					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
12/02436/FUL	Mr Gary Wright	1 Springs Crescent, Southam CV47 0JT	Proposed demolition of garage and single storey rear extension and proposed erection of two storey side and rear extension	14th November 2012	No Representations
12/02468/FUL	Mr & Mrs Andrew Compton	46 Orchard Way, Southam CV47 1EX	Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension and a two storey side extension	19th November 2012	No Representations
12/02502/ADV	Shell Uk Oil Products Ltd Mr Alex Shattock	Southam Service Station, Banbury Road, Southam CV47 2BJ	Proposed replacement fascia signs and other signage in accordance with Shell corporate branding	20th November 2012	No Representations