

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 24th JANUARY 2013

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

In attendance: Mrs D Carro, Cllr J Ellard & Cllr D Wise

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Smith – Personal
Cllr C Pratt - Personal
Cllr A Crump – Personal
Cllr J Appleton - Personal
Anne Solomon (SDC)

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr L Smith	Personal Interest	Confidential Item 2
	Reason	Southam in Bloom TC Rep

129. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding the poor state of the footpath in Merestone Park and asked the Council if they can do something about it

Mr J Bradshaw, 2 Nightingale Court, Southam

Spoke regarding the withdrawal of the Dental Service that was provided at the Clinic in Pendicke Street. It was a much needed service for people who for one reason or another could not use a high street dentist and stated that it wasn't right that the service had been withdrawn, especially as there had been no consultation

Mr D Wise, 1 Priors Meadow, Southam

Asked the Council to consider purchasing a hand pushed salt spreader that could be used to grit footpaths

130. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

i) That the Minutes of the Christmas Recess meeting held on 17th December 2012 be noted

ii) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2013, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

iii) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th January 2013 be re-submitted to the February meeting

131. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

i) That the payment of accounts dated December 2012, totaling £5625.87 be noted

ii) That payment of accounts dated January 2013, totalling £10,192.83 be authorised.

132. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the

schedule dated January 2013 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council.

ii) Planning Application decisions dated January 2013

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

133. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

133.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mrs D Smith

Was advised that the Town Council were aware of the poor state of the footpath in Merestone Park and that a meeting had been arranged with the surveyor at WCC in order to seek advice on the best course of action

Mr J Bradshaw

Was advised that the Town Council were aware of the situation and that it had been discussed at the November Council meeting. The Council have been advised that the service had been withdrawn because it was no longer viable

RESOLVED:

To write to the Health Authority expressing the concerns of Mr Bradshaw, stating that the Council are disappointed that residents were not consulted and if the decision cannot be reversed would like reassurance that those affected by the withdrawal of this service are being given assistance to find an alternative

Mr D Wise

RESOLVED:

To re-advertise the Snow Warden Scheme, as the Council cannot consider purchasing a hand pushed grit spreader unless there are volunteers who are willing to go out and grit the paths in the town

133.2 41 WARWICK ROAD - TREES

Members considered the correspondence from 41 Warwick Road.

RESOLVED:

To respond to the resident advising that the Council has no objection to the recommended works being carried out but can accept no liability

133.3 HS2 – PROPERTY CONSULTATION AND SAFEGUARDING CONSULTATION

RESOLVED:

To respond to the consultation as follows:

HS2 – PROPERTY COMPENSATION AND SAFEGUARDING RESIDENTS

- The issue of Property Compensation and Safeguarding Consultations has not yet, by any standards been resolved.
- Compensation offers that have been circulated to Landowners/Homeowners affected by HS2 have been discarded as offensive and in no way meet the true costs.

- There is a substantial risk that if mitigation issues are not adequately addressed there could be widespread opposition to HS2, for perhaps, the next fifteen years.
- Changes that had been made to the design of the route through Warwickshire had not resulted in any change or improved compensation.
- There is an urgent need for a genuine dialogue with local Communities/Landowners/Homeowners regarding the mitigation proposals that have been submitted.
- There is also need for the financial resources necessary to support essential mitigation; these should not be constrained by a fixed budget, as appears to be the case at the moment.

Safeguarding Residents

- HS2 has been very unprofessional in its dealings with local communities in safeguarding its residents from noise, vibration, construction and pollution.
- Residents' quality of life during the construction phase and the running of the Railway will be making a bad situation worse.
- There has been a noted absence of reliable quantitative information on noise levels from HS2 Ltd and the failure to produce contour maps as promised.
- HS2 have admitted that Warwickshire posed particular problems in view of its tranquillity, flood plains and small communities and that these problems should have been solved earlier in the design process.

133.4 TESCO S106 EXPENDITURE

Members considered two pieces of correspondence. The first was from Paul Lankester (SDC) in response to the Town Council asking whether SDC would be reimbursing the Tesco S106 funds in relation to the expenditure on the Seth Bond Memorial and the second from Nancy Singleton (SDC) regarding the Town Council requesting a report that shows to date what Tesco S106 money has been spent, what on and how much is left.

To be discussed under confidential

133.5 LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND (Battle of Southam): 17TH & 18TH AUGUST 2013 – SOUTAHM LIVING HISTORY TEAM (Southam First)

Members considered the correspondence that gave more details about the event and costings. The Town Clerk advised that she would be meeting with Cllr Shepherd to discuss the event in more detail and the concerns regarding the use of the Park Lane Recreation Ground

133.6 NOMINATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT A ROYAL GARDEN PARTY ON THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2013

RESOLVED:

That the Town Mayor Cllr M Gaffney MBE TD be nominated

133.7 MEETINGS/TRAINING/EVENTS

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

133.8 <u>COUNCIL MEETING DATES</u>	<u>ENV MEETING DATES</u>
Thursday 28 th February 2013	Thursday 14 th February 2013
Thursday 28 th March 2013	Thursday 14 th March 2013
Thursday 25 th April 2013	Thursday 11 th April 2013
Thursday 9 th May 2013 (Annual Town Meeting & Mayormaking)	
Thursday 23 rd May 2013	
Thursday 27 th June 2013	Thursday 13 th June 2013
Thursday 25 th July 2013	Thursday 11 th July 2013
August Recess	
Thursday 26 th September 2013	Thursday 12 th September 2013
Thursday 24 th October 2013	Thursday 10 th October 2013
Thursday 28 th November 2013	Thursday 14 th November 2013
December Recess	

Noted

134. CORRESPONDENCE

134.1 SOUTHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH – THE COMMERCIALISATION OF CHRISTMAS IN SOUTHAM

Noted

134.2 THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP – TRAVEL GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

134.3 SOUTHAM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROJECT LTD – SUMMER BUZZ GRANT

Noted

134.4 LOCALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE – WCC

Noted

134.5 PAM THOMAS – THANK YOU FOR THE FLOODING ADVICE

Noted

134.6 DARBY AND JOAN CLUB – TRAVEL GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

134.7 SOUTHAM CIVIC IDEAS FORUM – DECEMBER MINUTES

Noted

135. REPORT (DRAFT) ON A GRANGE HALL STEWARDS MEETING ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2012

135.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

135.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2012, having been previously circulated, be confirmed as a true record of proceedings

135.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES MAINTENANCE SERVICE

TP advised that he will arrange for someone to carry out a condition survey and will liaise with DC to arrange a suitable time.

GRANGE HALL CEILING FANS

DC advised that the ceiling fans will be looked at in January 2013 when the heating company carry out the annual service

CHARITY STATUS

SDC will bring proposals to the next meeting regarding the future management of the Grange Hall

135.4 COLDWATER TANK REMEDIAL QUOTATION

RESOLVED:

The Stewards authorise for the proposed works to be carried out at a cost of £785.00 (capital cost 50/50)

135.5 GRANGE GRASS CUTTING AT THE GRANGE HALL

RESOLVED:

That although the number of cuts will be reduced in the new contract, it was agreed that the cuttings should continue to be picked up and to save money the cuttings will be composted on site

135.6 THE GRANGE PRE SCHOOL – LICENCE

DC advised that the Grange Pre-School have confirmed that they have the funds to pay for the licence and that we are currently awaiting specifications of the works that are to be carried out in order for the licence to be drawn up.

135.7 CASH FLOW REPORT

Stewards considered the report

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Bar Staff salaries are shown separately
- ii) Bar stock check to be carried out on a quarterly basis
- iii) That Cllr Wise is willing to help will the stock check and look at how the bar is being run
- iv) To have two separate spread sheets for actual and forecast, ensuring formulas are correct

135.8. AOB

PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2013

RESOLVED:

The Stewards agree with the proposed charges subject to the following changes:

- The Grange Players to pay £50 for lighting
- That Dancing Club and Bowls Clubs pay a minimum charge to ensure that they are at least covering the cost of using the hall

135.9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 2013

136. MEMBERS ITEMS

136.1 CLLR L TASKER

During the extraordinary meeting of Southam Town Council on 12th January 2013 it seemed there was general consensus that Council is disappointed with the slow progress of the Police Authority in determining the fate of the former police

station and Magistrate's Court. This has prevented an holistic vision for the development of the town centre and discussions on the proposed Phase 2 of the development have not been possible.

The newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner has a number of responsibilities including (from Home Office web site):

Commissioners will need to work with other local leaders to improve outcomes for communities, and ensure that local resources are used effectively and efficiently. This could include channelling collective local efforts to ... drive out waste or streamline partnership arrangements. They could be a catalyst for partnership work ... encouraging joint planning, commissioning and prioritisation.

I propose that STC approach the Commissioner in order to expedite the sale of the current buildings/land which will streamline partnerships to deliver forensic services in collaboration with West Mercia Police and use resources more effectively and efficiently.

RESOLVED:

To approach the Commissioner in order to expedite the sale of the current buildings/land which will streamline partnerships to deliver forensic services in collaboration with West Mercia Police and use resources more effectively and efficiently.

136.2 CLLR M GAFFNEY

Market Authority – To be discussed under confidential

137. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr J Ellard advised the following:

- Provided an update regarding the Orbit/Library development
- Have signed off response to HS2, next response will be the Judicial Review
- Agreed that there was a lack of consistency regarding the lighting of signage and that she will be discussing the matter with the planning department
- The complaint regarding the gritting business on the Flying Fields Estate has been dealt with, serious operating systems have been put in place and if they are not adhered to a Stop Notice would be issued
- SDC have agreed their budget , there is money going into reserves to counteract the impact for future financial restraint
- Investigating whether a Stop Notice has been issued regarding a boundary fence being installed in Priors Meadow
- Cllr Ellard apologised to the Council for authorising expenditure from the Tesco S106 money to refurbish the Seth Bond Memorial. She advised that she hadn't checked the map and had assumed that as it was opposite Victor Hodges House it was in the area. She asked Cllr B Thomas what he wanted her to do to resolve the matter; he advised that he wanted the S106 monies reimbursed. She suggested that the Council discussed the matter with the leader of SDC and the Mayor was asked to consider doing this. It was also stated that the response received from Mr Lankester was extremely rude and Cllr Ellard was asked to advise Mr Lankester accordingly.

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate who authorised the installation of the electric box on Market Hill

138. **BUSINESS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE MAYOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**
None
139. **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
140. **STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES**
RESOLVED:
i)To note the payments of staff salaries dated December 2012
To authorise payments of staff salaries dated January 2013
141. **WCC LICENCE – SOUTHAM IN BLOOM (SIB) PLANTERS**
Members considered the proposed Licence
RESOLVED:
i)That the Council is no longer prepared to enter into a Licence with WCC in order to install permanent planters with in the Town Centre.
ii)To advise SIB that this project is now closed and the costs relating to this project will be taken from the grant SIB was awarded which STC has retained in reserves..
iii)To advise SIB that the Council are prepared to consider temporary planters, but a new grant application would need to be submitted
142. **MEMBERS ITEM – CLLR M GAFFNEY**
MARKET AUTHORITY
I propose that the Town Council considers to resolve to be a Markets Authority. A simple resolution is all that is required for Southam Town Council to take back control of the weekly charter market and be the sole approving authority for any other additional markets proposed for Southam at any time such as Farmers Markets and annual special interest markets i.e. French, German food, cheese etc.
These powers will enable the Town Council to have control over street closures and trading licences in the town centre and bring in some income from fees. In addition membership of the National Association of British Market Authorities for an annual subscription will provide free commercial and legal advice to ensure good management of our markets to benefit the townspeople and local businesses.
RESOLVED:
That Southam Town Council is a Market Authority in Accordance with Section 50 of the Food Act 1984.
143. **ORBIT DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY SPACE LEASE**
RESOLVED:
That SDC should provide the funds to Southam Town Council from the S106 Agreement so that Southam Town Council can enter into a Lease directly with Orbit
144. **TESCO S106 EXPENDITURE**
It was suggested and agreed that the Mayor should meet with the Leader of Stratford District Council and report back

Meeting closed 10.25pm