

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Councillors: J Ward (Chair), M Gaffney, V Shepherd, M Willoughby, B Thomas, J Soni, C Worsh, N Gascoigne, E Thornley, L Smith & C Pratt

In attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr A Crump & Cllr D Wise (left meeting early)

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Smith	Holiday
Cllr A Forster	Holiday
Cllr L Tasker	Personal

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Pratt	Personal Interest Reason	Planning - Travellers site Adjacent land owned by relatives
	Personal Interest Reason	ENV Item 2 Owns a burial plot
Cllr C Worsh	Personal Interest Reason	Town Clerk Report – Item 3 Children attend this school
Cllr B Thomas	Personal Interest Reason	Town Clerk Report – Item 3 Neighbour – Proximity to school

101. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr S Batchelder – 16 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the proposed fence at the Tollgate Road Open Space, stating that it is essentially a 75% / 25% split in favour of the school, leaving a lack of public open space. The school hasn't been able to justify why they want that size of space. That although the safeguarding reasons are legitimate, the size of fenced area should be comparable to that of other similar sized schools, such as Napton. There is no provision in the curriculum for a football pitch or running track and that when residents met with Steve Smith a smaller area was discussed.

Mr K Currell, Orchard Way, Southam

Spoke endorsing what Mr Batchelder said and is of the opinion that the school should share the field, the residents need the playing field and the playing field should be for the residents.

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Mr M Houston, 24 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Playing Field, stating that the area for the school could be reduced further, that the school need to make use of every inch of space and that included the borders where the land sloped away. Work could be done to improve the borders.

Mr D Woods, 28 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Playing field, agreed with the other representations, and stated that because the portacabin was going to be removed the space generated could be incorporated into the field area.

Mr T Cribbit, 26 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Playing Field, agreed with the other representations, and stated that the residents had always lived in harmony with the school, the situation was breaking up the community, and the public needed as much space as possible in order to reduce the problem of balls being kicked into residents' gardens.

Mrs D Smith 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Wanted to know if someone had been out to look at the drainage problem in Tomwell Close, that a resident had asked her to thank the Council for getting the hedge cut along the Daventry Road footpath, a lot of rubbish had been dumped on land adjacent to the allotments along Daventry Road and the signage opposite Warwick Road needed to be replaced.

102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 81. Should read relatives

103. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated November 2013, totalling £5,901.77 be authorised.

104. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated November 2013 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council.

ii) Planning Application decisions dated November 2013

RESOLVED:

To write to Head of Planning, stating that the Town Council are extremely disappointed with the outcome of the Love Ballet Planning Application, that the conditions relating to the hours of use was originally put in place for a reason and should not have been removed and that they expect a rapid solution to the enforcement issues relating to the site.

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

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TAYLOR WIMPEY DEVELOPMENT OFF COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM

The Town Clerk advised members that the planning application has been received and the observation due date is the 20th December 2013.

RESOLVED:

To try and get an extension in order for the Council to respond in January 2014

105. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

105.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

i) Representations relating to the Tollgate Road Playing Field will be considered under agenda item 3

ii) Mrs D Smith was advised that WCC is aware of the drainage problem in Tomwell Close and the Town Council will write to the owners regarding the state of land opposite the Welsh Road east junction

105.2 ORBIT DEVELOPMENT

Members were made aware of some issues affecting residents in relation to the Orbit Development. The Town Council is satisfied with the response from the contractors and so are the residents. The Town Council will continue to monitor the situation.

105.3 TOLLGATE ROAD PLAYING FIELD PROPOSAL

Members considered the latest proposal from WCC and took in to account representations made by the public and written correspondence.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed fenced area could be reduced further, which would still allow adequate space for the school. As such the Town Council would like to see the width that is currently stated as 32m increased to a width of 40m. The Town Council will not accept a width less than 40m and wish to proceed with the finalisation of the lease based on this requirement; they do not wish to have any further discussion with the school on this matter, as the lease negotiations are between the Town Council and WCC only.

The Town Council looks forward to receiving a proposed lease based on the above.

105.4 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (lgbce) – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF STRATFORD ON AVON – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Members considered correspondence from LGBCE regarding electoral arrangements for Stratford District and Southam Town Council. For Southam it is proposed to have a Southam North Ward and Southam South Ward, it proposed that these wards would have 9% fewer and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. As a result of the proposed ward boundaries, it is also proposed to revise the parish electoral arrangements for Southam Town Council as follows:

Southam Town Council should comprise of 14 councillors, representing four wards: Browns Bridge (four members) Merestone (two members) Mill Hill (five members) and Southam Fields (three members)

Noted

105.5 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 24th December 2013 – Closed

Wednesday 25th December 2013 – Closed

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Thursday 26th December 2013 – Closed
Friday 27th December 2013 – Closed
Monday 30th December 2013 – Closed
Tuesday 31st December 2013 – Closed
Wednesday 1st January 2014 – Closed

The office would re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2014

Noted

105.6 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Noted

106. CORRESPONDENCE

106.1 HS2 – 51m MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED:

To become a member of 51m

106.2 SOUTHAM & BI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

106.3 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION – GRANT THANK YOU & MINUTES

Noted

106.4 ST JAMES PARISH CHURCH – GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

106.5 SOUTHAM FIRST – BATTLE OF SOUTHAM LIVING HISTORY EVENT – GRANT THANK YOU

Noted

106.6 WCC – WARWICKSHIRE MINERALS PLAN UPDATE

Noted

107. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

107.1 REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2013

107.2 SOUTHAM TOWN CENTRE - REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Councillors were informed of the Town Centre Redevelopment meeting held with representatives from Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council by Cllr Ward and Cllr Thomas.

Public consultation will take place from 30th November to 14th December 2013, with a public exhibition being at the Grange Hall between these dates.

Noted

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107.3 BURIAL GROUND

Councillors were given an update by Cllr Pratt regarding a visit to Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground.

RESOLVED:

That the Council will approach potential landowners and charities for an “in principle” decision of support before seeking public opinion on the scheme.

107.4 NEW HOMES BONUS GRANT SCHEME

RESOLVED:

i) That Southam Town Council will apply for funding for the Grange Hall, depending on the criteria of the scheme. This grant could be used for insulation, decoration, access improvement etc.

ii) That the STC Grange Hall Committee representative will liaise with the Clerk to decide what to apply for.

107.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

See attached

107.6 DRAFT CIL LEVY COMMENTS

Clarification is sought on a number of points prior to official comment (see questions for District Councillors)

107.7 LIONS STORAGE FACILITY AT REAR OF GRANGE HALL

RESOLVED:

Councillors have no objection in principle, subject to Grange Hall Committee approval

107.8 INITIATIVE FOR ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – GALANOS HOUSE

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor will attend on the council’s behalf and take any Christmas presents the Councillors wish to donate to Galanos House at 10am on the day in question.(Councillors are reminded to bring wrapped presents to the meeting on the 28th November.)

107.9 HOLYWELL SIGNAGE

RESOLVED:

The signage example was not accepted; the sign itself should fit in with its surroundings (possible an Oak Framed sign). It was felt that the example was too “municipal” and consideration should be to minimise wording i.e. remove full postal address and a consistent font be used. Councillors will consider an alternative layout/text.

107.10 TOWN CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Members considered the plan as proposed by WCC. The next step is for Cllr Ward, Cllr Gaffney, Cllr Thomas & Town Clerk to meet with WCC, Cllr Ellard & Dave Webb (SDC) in order to get confirmation that all parties are happy for it to go out to public consultation

RESOLVED:

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That the Town Council is happy with the initial plan, would like to see landscaping from point 10 on the design and if there are to be 3 additional car parking spaces outside Lovetts , could one disabled car parking space be considered.

107.11 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- Clarification on why Hotels & transport Projects (HS2) do not apply to the CIL.
- Is there an option for a sliding scale of percentage awarded based on Parish/Town Council being “in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan ie 15% for No Plan, 20% whilst Plan is developed (as this can take 3 Years) 25% when Plan is adopted?
- What is the Stratford District Council **Official** position on the Proposed Stonythorpe and Cemex villages as these are believed to still be under consideration.
- What, if anything, is being considered for Stockton Crossroads by Warwickshire County Council to make it safer?

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL NOVEMBER ENV 2014					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
13/02203/VARY	Mr Tony Langford	Warwick Steel Structures. Unit 3 The Hanger, Harp Farm, Banbury Road, Southam	Variation of condition 1 of 13/0 044 1/FUL (construction of a steel framed office building (temporary) to replace 2 x portacabins to extend the temporary permission from 2 years to a minimum of 5 years	12th November 20 13	No representations
13/02599/FUL	Miss Melissa Haspary	2 Orchard Way, Southam, CV47 1EG	Proposed erection of a porch	13th November 20 13	No representations
13/02922/FUL	Mr Gary Smith	12 Newstead Drive, Southam, CV47 0LT	Proposed two storey side extension, including construction of balcony and balustrade to existing balcony. New wall to front of dwelling also.	27th November 20 13	No representations
13/02966/FUL	Mr Peter Phillips	6 St Marys Close, Southam CV47 1EW	Single storey lean-to extension on principle elevation including conversion of garage to family room.	26th November 20 13	No representations

108. DEFRA PILOT PROJECT REPORT – CLLR L TASKER

Meeting of Engagement Group 8th October 2013-10-16

The 15 year River Leam Catchment Plan is one of 25 DEFRA pilot projects to encourage partnership working based on a river catchment area. M

The aim of this approach is:

To improve the environment for everyone living, working and visiting in the catchment;
To co-ordinate the activities of the various organisations and individuals working to improve the catchment; and

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To promote and encourage community involvement in the decision making, delivery and long term maintenance of environmental improvement

This objective of this initial meeting was to bring together a small number of key stakeholders specifically focusing the upper reaches of the catchment area and centered around Southam.

Current members of the Engagement Group are:

2 Environment Agency staff
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Community Engagement)
Severn Trent Water
NFU/CLA
WCC (apologies)
Southam Town Council

It was agreed that any community/stakeholder engagement in the project should build on current activities and groups in the locality. An STC presence was seen as vital for the group to understand the locality and community.

During the meeting I was able to inform the group about

- past and current activities of Residents Against Flood Threats (RAFT)
- existing groups and businesses who are active in community engagement or may have a relevant in the project
- the current development pressures particularly in the Area of Restraint
- STC's possible future development of a Neighbourhood Plan and the opportunities for it to complement the Catchment Plan

Actions from the meeting:

- Environment Agency to develop flyer to advertise the project and gauge community interest
- Environment Agency to begin development of a "campaign" strategy

Next meeting – probably early 2013

Thanks was given to Cllr Tasker for attending

109. TOURISM WORKSHOP – CLLR V SHEPHERD

Nancy Singleton held a meeting on Tuesday 19th Nov at the Market Tavern to further discuss Tourism in Southam.

I attended on behalf of STC and below are a few points of interest that were on the agenda and discussed during the session.

- * Visitor accommodation within the Town.
- * Business rates with SDC and WCC and the possible [incentives] for B@B owners within the Town.
- * Audit survey around the Town for more and improved signage. [SDC action]
- * Any new signage to follow same pattern as STC Highways Improvement Project.
- * New Southam Town Map, similar to what was produced for the Southam Battle Re-enactment.

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* New and bigger Southam Town map on display at Tesco, to encourage people to come into Town on daily visits.

There was then a general discussion on how these ideas could be carried forward and who would take on the responsibility. It was agreed that Southam First would set-up a small working party to move things forward and keep in touch with Nancy on progress.

110. WARWICK HOSPITAL – CHIEF MEETING – CLLR C PRATT

It was reported that Cllr Pratt regularly attends these meeting, the relevance of the meetings is questionable, but she will persevere with them and continue to attend.

111. MEMBERS ITEM – CLLR J SONI

Through consultation with Southam Youth Club Members it became apparent to Southam Youth Club that music was high on the agenda. As such funding of £926.00 was being sought to purchase CD turntables, speakers and necessary IT lead.

RESOLVED:

i) To invite John Gately to the ENV meeting in February to discuss the Youth Club proposal

ii) To advise John Gately that more than one quotation is required

112. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Appleton informed the Council that CIL might apply depending on the size of the hotel, that a sliding scale of CIL might apply for those Council's working towards a Neighbourhood Plan, but CIL will not be implemented until 2015 and the terms could well change many times between now and 2015, the speed cameras have now been installed along the A426, there are currently no planned changes for the Stockton Crossroads.

Cllr A Crump informed the Council that the Stoneythorpe and Cemex housing proposals are not the preferred option of SDC, but they cannot be disregarded out of hand and will need to be assessed for sustainability in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework, the land supply currently stands at 4.4 years, the proposed development off Holywell Road will require an Environmental Impact Assessment, a shop front grant at the old RSPCA shop is still being considered and when he used to do the accounts for Southam Youth Club, money for capital items was a problem.

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

113.1 CRAVEN LANE HALL

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council sends a letter of support for the Heritage Lottery Fund Application

114. 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

115. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

Town Mayor signature _____

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated November 2013

Meeting closed 9.35pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2014					
13/02849/FUL	Mr Robert Angove	11 Mill Crescent, Southam, CV47 0LL	Proposed two storey rear extension	29th November	No representations
13/02864/FUL	Mr Mark Height	21 Manders Croft, Southam CV47 0HZ	Retention of an existing 8ft fence to the rear of the property	4th December 2013	No representations
13/01099/FUL	Mrs T Brocklebank	Brock Farm Stud, Deppers Bridge, Southam CV47 2SU	Change of use of land from joint agricultural/private equine use to joint agricultural/commercial equine use(stud facility) Installation of horse walker. Erection of hay, sheep and agricultural building. Restrospective change of use of land for siting of a temporary dwelling for 3 years for an essential rural worker	<i>please be aware that as an adjoining Council your comments will not trigger determination at a Planning Committee</i>	No representations
13/02962/FUL	Mr D & Mrs R Trotman	6 Watergall Close, Southam, CV47 1GG	Proposed first floor side extension	10th December 2013	No representations
13/02970/TPO	Mr Geoffrey Worley	3 Hartley Gardens, Southam CV47 0HY	T1 : Sycamore : fell	10th December 2013	No representations -please refer to the arboricultural officer
13/02886/FUL	Mrs Nicola Payne	15 Napton Rise, Southam CV47 1GN	Proposed retention of boundary fence	17th December 2013	
13/02947/OUT	Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd	Site to the West of Coventry Road, Southam	Residential development(up to 165 dwellings)(Use Class C3) highway infrastructure, footpaths and cycleways, public open space, landscaping, balancing pond and associated earthworks to facilitate surface water drainage and other ancillary infrastructure.	20th December 2013	

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