

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor Jason Ward - In the Chair  
Councillors J Soni, C Worsh, M Gaffney, A Forster, L Smith, M Willoughby, L Tasker, C Pratt, V Shepherd, B Thomas, E Thornley, J Smith,

**Apologies:** District Cllr Andy Crump

**Absent without apology:** Cllr N Gascoigne

**In Attendance:** Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders,

**119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Town Clerk announced that she had granted dispensation to all Councillors present thus permitting them to take part in this meeting.

Cllr J Ward                      Prejudicial Pecuniary Interest – Item 7 lines 43 & 46  
Has tendered for the STC grass cutting contract

Cllr J Ward                      Personal Item 7 lines 48 & 49  
Southam in Bloom & Christmas Lights

Cllr L Tasker                    Personal Item 7 lines 44 & 47  
VASA & Youth Facility

Cllr J Soni                        Personal Item 7 line 47 & 48  
Youth Facility & Christmas Lights

Cllr L Smith                      Personal Item 7 line 49  
Southam in Bloom

Cllr A Forster                    Personal Item 7 line 49  
Southam in Bloom

**120. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs Daphne Smith, 20 Spring Crescent corrected previous information and said that the drainage problem she had reported was on Welsh Road West near Tomwell Close and not in Tomwell Close and also informed the Council that there is a similar problem on the junction of Linley Road and Mayfield Road where the drain inset into the raised kerb is not working.

**121. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor**

**122. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated January 2014 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council

**123. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

**PARISH TAX BASE** The provisional Council Tax Base for Southam 2014/2015 had been calculated at £2125.72 **Noted**

**124. BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The proposed figures for the 2014/2015 budget were based on a 2.2% 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**

**125. ELECTORATE**

Latest statistics showed that the electorate in Southam stands at 5251. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 limited a Council's expenditure on grants to £7.20 per elector. **Noted**

**126. 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**

**127. CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2014/2015**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the figures proposed subject to the following amendments:

**127.1 ITEM 34 REPAIRS INSPECTIONS & REPLACEMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** to set a budget of £10,000 for this item

**127.2 ITEM 42 COLUMNS & REPAIRS**

**RESOLVED:** to set a budget of £25,000 for this item

Councillor J Ward left the room and Councillor M Willoughby took the Chair

**127.3 ITEM 43 GRASSCUTTING**

**RESOLVED:** to move lines 43 & 46 to the confidential part of the meeting

Councillor J Ward re-entered the room and resumed the Chair

**127.4 ITEM 44 VASA TRANSPORT SUPPORT**

**RESOLVED:** to set a budget of £3000 for this item

**128. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES**

**RESOLVED:** i) That any surplus on the following budget lines should be moved to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year ii) balance of Grange Hall Transitional Fund be transferred to Grange Hall Capital Works Programme

Line 11 Computer Replacement

Line 26 Elections

Line 38 War Memorial

Line 39 Grange Hall Capital Works

Line 34 Repairs Inspections & Replacements

Line 47 Southam Youth Facility

Line 35 Town Development

**129. 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.

**130. PROPOSED BUDGET 2014/2015**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the figures proposed for the salary lines 12 to 15 Inclusive

Councillor J Ward left the room and Councillor M Willoughby took the Chair

**131. PROPOSED BUDGET LINES 43 & 46**

**RESOLVED** i) that a working party consisting of the Town Clerk, Cllrs Pratt, Soni, Tasker, J Smith and Cllr Willoughby in the Chair, arrange to meet to discuss the tenders received – tenders to be anonymised before being given to the working party. ii) to confirm the suggested budget for line and 43 and to delete line 46.

Councillor J Ward re-entered the room and resumed the Chair

**132. TOTAL BUDGET**

**RESOLVED:** That the total budget is set at £184881 that this will be offset by £2485 interest and £4510 from General Reserves in order to keep the increase for a Band D property at 1.88%

**133. PRECEPT UPON THE TAX AUTHORITY**

**RESOLVED:** That the precept upon Stratford District Council be declared to be £177, 886 minus Council Tax Support Grant of £18,230 giving a total of £159,656

It was noted that Council Tax payable for a D Band property will be £75.11 which will be a £1.39 or 1.88% annual increase.

**The meeting closed at 10 01pm**

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL JANUARY 2014 PRECEPT issue 2					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
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.	Southam Town Council agrees in principle with the development of this site but has concerns regarding the highways, section 106 agreements and play areas. As agreed with the planning office more detailed comments will be submitted on 10th January following a public meeting on 9th January 2014	Southam Town Council has some concerns regarding the safety of the access to the proposed site and considers that the 30mph speed limit would need to be extended to slow traffic approaching the access from outside Southam The Council supports this application, which is in an area identified in the draft core strategy but wishes to be fully involved in the section 106 discussions for the development. It expects to be consulted on the design and construction of the recreational facilities. It emphasises that Southam is losing facilities including a BMX track and football field and that it had future plans for a skate park on this site and it would want these facilities to be replaced. The problem of lack of burial space is currently of a major concern and development would increase these problems. The developer should be asked to make a contribution towards the provision of new space. In addition, plans for a cycle track from Stockton to Southam College are in progress. Therefore Southam Town Council would like a suitable route for cyclists to be provided through the proposed development from the bypass island.
13/02541/OUT	Redrow Homes South Midlands	Land to the West of Holywell Road Southam	Amendment has been made to this application as follows, Updated Heritage Assessment, Additional photo motage from public footpath,Reptile Survey,Applicants Update Note, Hyrogeological Study Report	Southam Town Council notes the amended reports but strongly objects to this development and stands behind its original comments.	
	Cemex Uk Cement Ltd	Southam Quarry	Southam Quarry ROMP Scoping Report	Southam Town Councils considers that ground water, surface water, air quality, transport and access and noise conditions should all remain within the scoping process.	
13/03312/AGNOT	Mr Nick Funnell	Green Acres, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1BG	Proposed new building for the storage of machinery and housing of livestock and fodder	No representations	