

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Councillor Appleton, Councillor Crump & Councillor Ellard

**134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr A Forster	Personal
Cllr J Smith	Work Commitments
Cllr D Wise	Personal

**135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C Pratt	Personal Interest Reason	Southam First – Grant Application Director - Graham Adams Centre
	Personal Interest Reason	Tollgate Road Lease Family member attends the school
Cllr J Ward	Personal Interest Reason	Christmas Lights Grant Application Southam in Bloom – Grant Application Southam First – Grant Application Committee Member
Cllr L Tasker	Personal Interest Reason	VASA – Grant Application VASA Director
Cllr L Smith	Personal Interest Reason	Southam in Bloom – Grant Application Southam First – Grant Application Southam in Bloom Committee Member
Cllr J Soni	Personal Interest Reason	Christmas Lights Grant Application Committee Member

**136. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr K Currell – 4 Orchard Way, Southam

Spoke regarding the proposed fence at the Tollgate Road Open Space, stated that the whole situation has been badly handled, the public had been kept out of the decision making when they should have been involved, the Town Council has dismissed and ignored the MP, the vote to accept the proposal was appalling, scandalous and not democratic, there was still room for negotiation and the residents have been treated in utter contempt, a solution regarding shared space could have been found, the Town council have been bullied by WCC and did not listen to residents.

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Mr A Denham, Broadwell

Spoke regarding car parking on the pavement and wanted the Town Council to use their powers to do something about it.

Mr Batchelder, 16 Tollgate Road, Southam

Spoke regarding the Tollgate Road Playing Field, agreed with what Mr Currell said, stated that he was disappointed in the vote last month, the Town Council seemed to have given in when they were being asked to negotiate one more time for the benefit of both sides, that he has lodged a complaint with WCC for mal administration and what were the Town Council going to do about the fence that is in poor repair and since the hedge has been cut branches have been left and the space is unusable.

Sarah Davies, Southam

Spoke regarding The Shakespeare Hospice advising that the service is being extended to Southam, so residents who are terminally ill can stay at home and wanted the Town Council to help advertise their service.

Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Stated that there is a tree in the Southam Primary School grounds near to Tomwell Close which overhangs the footway and needs trimming back, the recent resurfacing of Welsh Road East is breaking away at the edges because it has not been edged and the drain is blocked along Daventry Road near to where the hedge has recently been cut. An Ash Tree by 1 Tomwell Close is over hanging the footpath.

**137. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.**

**138. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:**

**That payment of accounts dated February 2014, totalling £12, 081.89 be authorised.**

**139. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated February 2014

**Noted**

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

**Noted**

**140. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**141.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

i) Mr Currell was advised that the Town Council is currently awaiting a lease from WCC based on the proposal that has been accepted by Council

ii) Mr Denham was advised that Southam Town Council do not have any powers to deal with parking on pavements, this is dealt with by either SDC or the Police

iii) Mr Batchelder was advised that the fence would be looked at as part of the playground survey and investigation would take place about the hedge

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- iv) Mrs Smith was advised that Southam Primary School would be contacted about the tree; WCC will be made aware of comments relating to Welsh Road East and the drain issue reported to WCC
- v) Sarah Davies was advised that the Town Council would be happy to promote the services of The Shakespeare Hospice.

#### **141.2 STREET LIGHTING – ADOPTION PROGRAMME REVIEW**

Members were advised that the history of this project is that on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Cllr Thomas (who was not a Councillor at the time) made a public representation asking for the opinion of the Town Council of what tax payers should do when they are being asked to pay for street lighting twice, once through the STC element and again through the WCC element. As a result of this representation the Council resolved to write to WCC to seek their opinion, the outcome of which was to discuss upgrading the street lights, so that WCC would adopt them, thus, eventually STC not being a lighting authority any longer (see attached minutes dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007).

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 Southam Town Council resolved the following:

- That the Town Council ask WCC to adopt all the street lighting in the pink areas
- That the Town Council ask WCC to adopt the street lighting in the green areas on a street by street basis once up to standard
- That the Town Council ask WCC to automatically adopt the street lighting in any new developments in the town

WCC agreed to these requests and therefore since March 2007, the Town Council has, each year spent money on street lights to bring them up to standard for WCC to adopt on a street by street basis.

When the project first started the Town Council had 433 lights, by the end of this financial year there will be 233 lights remaining.

Members considered a financial report showing the cost of bringing the remaining columns up to an adoptable standard and column cost relating to electricity and maintenance.

At some point the remaining 233 street lighting columns will need to be replaced because they are concrete columns, therefore from a tax payer point of view, it is more beneficial to the resident that when the street light columns needs replacing, they are replaced and adopted by WCC, thus relieving the Town Council from future responsibility and cost. However, the situation was changed fundamentally with WCC switching off lights which it is responsible for and STC leaving them on.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- i) That until WCC change their policy regarding lights being switched off, no further adoption will take place and therefore Southam Town Council will be the Street lighting Authority for the remaining lights.**
- ii) That the street lighting columns are replaced as and when necessary**

#### **141.3 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012**

Members were advised that the reason for not including the land around the Holy Well on

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the Assets of Community Value is that its primary use is agricultural. Because the land is not primarily used or identified as having a main use which fulfils the requirements of the Localism Act and because the community aspects of its use only amount to an ancillary use and not a primary use (which the Act requires) it cannot be included on the List.

**Noted**

**141.4 BROWNS BRIDGE WARD – COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Mrs D Smith is co-opted to fill the vacancy**

**141.5 INSIGHT BUSINESS PARK**

**Noted**

**141.6 SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Ward, Cllr Willoughby and Cllr Tasker (Cllr Thomas in reserve) is the appointed Working Party to review each amenity space and draw up an action plan.**

**141.7 TOWN MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR**

**RESOLVED:**

**To refer to ENV**

**141.8 GYPSY & TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN FOR STRATFORD UPON AVON DISTRICT – INTENTION TO PREPARE A LOCAL PLAN, REGULATION 18 CONSULTATION**

Members considered the SDC consultation document relating to the ‘Intention to prepare a Gypsy & Traveller Local Plan’ and considered the following three questions:

1. Do you have any comments on what the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan should contain?
2. Do you think that new Gypsy and Traveller sites should normally be small (e.g. 3-4 pitches) or larger (e.g. up to 15 pitches in size)?
3. Do you have any comments on the suggested criteria for assessing potential Gypsy and Traveller sites?

**RESOLVED:**

**To respond as follows:**

**Q1 – That this document needs to be linked to the Core Strategy**

**Q2 – Larger sites 10-12**

**Q3 – Agree with the criteria**

**141.9 REVIEW OF WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WCC) ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - MEETING 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Soni attends to represent the Council**

**141.10 SDC FOCUSED CONSULTATION:**

**2011 – 2031 HOUSING REQUIREMENT AND STRATEGIC SITE OPTIONS**

Members considered the consultation document relating to the 2011-2031 Housing Requirement and Strategic Site Options and considered the following three questions:

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1. Should the Core Strategy cover the 20 year period 2011 to 2031
2. Should Stratford-on-Avon District accommodate 10,800 additional homes between 2011 and 2031?
3. Please indicate your preference for the five strategic options A to E. Please rank options 1 to 5, with 1 being most preferable and 5 being least preferable

**RESOLVED:**

**Q1 – Yes**

**Q2 – Yes, if it has been tested prior to submission that it is a reasonable figure to Accept.**

**Q3 - Option A – 4**

**Option B – 1**

**Option C – 3**

**Option D – 2**

**Option E - 5**

**141.11 S 137 – GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Members considered S137 Grant Applications from the following organisations:

Southam Lions Club

Southam in Bloom

Southam First

VASA

Warwickshire Northamptonshire Air Ambulance

The Shakespeare Hospice

Southam Carnival Committee

Southam Christmas Lights Association

Citizens Advice Bureau (not S137)

**RESOLVED:**

**Southam Lions Club - £1000**

**Southam in Bloom - £2250**

**Southam First - £2000**

**VASA - £850**

**Warwickshire Northamptonshire Air Ambulance - £500**

**The Shakespeare Hospice - £ 500**

**Southam Carnival Committee - £840**

**Southam Christmas Lights Association - £2250**

**Citizens Advice Bureau (not S137) – Under LGA 1972 2a Power to provide info and advice - £750**

**141.12 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Noted

**142. CORRESPONDENCE**

**142.1 MR DAVIES – COMPLAINT REGARDING PARKING IN MILL ROAD**

**RESOLVED:**

**i) To write to Mr Davies advising that the Mayor and Town Clerk will be meeting with Orbit to try and resolve the parking issues**

**ii) To write to Orbit asking them to ensure that their contractors abide by parking rules in relation to parking on the footway**

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**142.2 MS CEFAL – COMPLAINT REGARDING ROAD SAFETY AND ILLEGAL PARKING**

- i) To write to Ms Cefai advising that the Mayor and Town Clerk will be meeting with Orbit to try and resolve the parking issues in Mill Crescent
- ii) That the Town Council do not have the powers to deal with parking on pavements so the issues raised will be forwarded to the Police and SDC
- iii) That Cllr Crump , who is a Southam College Governor will raise the issues of parking around Southam College at the next Governors Meeting

**142.3 MR MUNDAY – DANGEROUS PARKING WELSH ROAD WEST**  
Noted

**142.4 MRL GULLIVER - PARKING WELSH ROAD WEST**  
**RESOLVED:**

To write to Mr Gulliver advising that Orbit is aware of his complaint and that the Mayor and Town Clerk will be meeting with Orbit to try and resolve the parking issues

**143. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES**  
**ENV WORKING PARTY REPORT – 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**143.1 PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION REGARDING HS2**

SAAG attended the meeting as planned. The money granted to them from STC has been spent on the following; £6500 to print/ deliver 20,000 flyers or leaflets; 8 adverts (unsure what type); TV and media advertising and a donation to the main action group linking the action groups as a whole

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the Town Council responds to the HS2 Phase One Environmental Statement
- ii) To use the SAAG response as a basis for the Town Council response
- iii) That the Town Clerk finds out (as a matter of urgency) what the closing date is for the consultation, it is believed to be the 27th February 2014 , if this is correct this will need to be dealt with before the next Town Council Meeting
- iv) To ascertain whether SDC has responded to the Environmental statement from HS2? if so what was their response, if not, do they intend to respond

**143.2 ORBIT DEVELOPMENT – PHASE 2**

Warwickshire Police have accepted an offer from Orbit housing which will enable the demolition of the existing station and construction of Phase 2. Councillors would like to know how the change of location of the police facility within the development and the use of the proposed office will benefit the people of Southam. Councillors would also like clarification of the type of facility and how it will be operated

**RESOLVED:**

That a representative from Warwickshire Police be invited to ENV to explain the police's future within the town. (Orbit have been asked to provide contact details)

**143.3 YOUTH CLUB FUNDING REQUEST**

Cllr Tasker updated members on the situation; no funding will be requested at this time

**143.4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

See below

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**143.5 WCC – UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBATE MEETING – 25th February 2014**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Thomas attends the meeting to represent STC.**

**143.6 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

None

**144. CEMEX – SOUTHAM LIAISON GROUP MINUTES 13 JULY 2013 & 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 – CLLR SHEPHERD**

Noted

**145. HS2 MEETING REPORT – CLLR THOMAS**

Noted

**146. MEMBERS ITEM – CLLR J WARD**

**PARKING ISSUES MILL CRESCENT ESTATE**

I would like to raise a member's item to ask the councils permission to engage with Stratford DC and Orbit to look for a solution to the parking issues around the Mill Crescent estate. A lot of land and redundant garage blocks belong to Orbit and are not in use, these could be demolished to create a car parking area for residents.

Many residents have approached me about the issues in the area, and have come up with this potential solution as well as some "grasscrete" solutions on some verges.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Mayor and Town Clerk meet with Orbit in order to try and resolve the issues**

**TOLLGATE ROAD PLAY AREA**

I would like to raise a member's item regarding the repainting of the play equipment on the Tollgate Road play area. Having visited the site this week to look at the proposed fence line, I noticed it looking very scruffy.

**RESOLVED:**

**That play equipment re-painting will be reviewed as part of the Play Area Survey**

**147. MEMBERS ITEM – CLLR B THOMAS**

**DATA THAT REQUIRES AN EXPLANATION FROM PCC FOR WARWICKSHIRE**

Data recently published by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism on percentage change in referrals for rape between 2011/12 and 2012/13 shows that Warwickshire has very clearly the most significant negative change (approximately 75%) in the whole of England and Wales

**RESOLVED:**

**To write to PCC for Warwickshire to explain this change. If it means that fewer rape cases are going to trial then we would like to know why.**

**148. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr J Appleton advised:

- The Public Interest Debate re: Unitary Authorities was very well attended , it was overwhelmingly supported that it is in the public's interest that WCC should investigate the matter further

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- It was unanimously voted that WCC should give all Primary School Children a Library Card
- HS2 – That the impact on Southam was substantial

Cllr A Crump advised:

- That Unitary Authorities was a good idea and needs to be investigated further
- That the LED lights in Tudor Lane were fantastic
- Has seen the PSCO on Banbury Road with a speed gun
- That it was good that the Holywell Planning Application was turned down

Cllr J Ellard advised –

- That the SDC Council Tax is staying the same, that they are not cutting services and that a new position for a Neighbourhood Plan Officer will be created
- That it was her decision that SDC would not be responding to the HS2 Environmental Statement in their own right and that WCC would be responding on their behalf, but she will now submit an SDC response which will be the same as WCC

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

None

**150. 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

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

**RESOLVED:**

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated February 2014

Meeting closed 9.47pm

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2014					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
14/00419/TREE	Mrs Elizabeth Muddeman, Willow Gardens Southam Ltd	3 Willow Gardens Southam	G1 Mixed Willow, Sycamore and Elder: pollard trees on river bank to previous points	7th March 2014	Please refer this application to the Arboricultural Officer

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