

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 24th JULY 2014

Present: Councillors: J Ward (Chair), V Shepherd, B Thomas, J Soni, D Smith, L Tasker, C Pratt & T Bromwich

In attendance: Mrs D Sanders

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

50.1 Cllr L Smith Personal
Cllr M Gaffney Holiday
Cllr M Willoughby Holiday
Cllr C Worsh Holiday
Cllr J Smith Work Commitment
Cllr E Thornley Work Commitment

50.2 TC Mrs D Carro Holiday
WCC Cllr Appleton
Dist. Cllr Crump

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Ward	Personal Interest Reason	ENV item 3 Group member
Cllr J Soni	Personal Interest Reason	ENV item 3 Group member
Cllr C Pratt	Personal Interest Reason Personal Interest Reason	ENV item 2 Family member owns adjacent land ENV item 7 Owns a plot in St James Churchyard
Cllr D Smith	Personal Interest Reason	ENV item 3 Group member

52. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Len Gale, 64 Stowe Drive, Southam on behalf of SCIF

said it was necessary to reapply for the planning permission for St James Church gates to be replaced. The cost of this to SCIF would be £195 but if the Town Council made the application the cost would be approximately half that. He said that if the Council would consider making the application SCIF would do the work, prepare the papers and reimburse the Council for the fee.

Mr Gareth Oubridge, 42 Hillyard Road, Southam

Spoke on behalf of the Save Holy Well Fields group regarding the Banner Homes planning application for land at Manders Croft. He said that there was overwhelming opposition in Southam to the development, that the land was part of the Stowe valley

Town Mayor signature _____

Area of Restraint and should not be built on. He said additional housing was not needed to meet the 440 homes required in the Southam area under the SDC core strategy and that this total would be met by developments already in the pipeline; neither was it necessary to meet the required 5 year land supply as this was already at 4.8 years and would be easily reached inside 6 months. Southam people support the SDC core strategy and believe the unspoilt Holy Well fields should be preserved for future generations.

Mr Brian Bromwich, 8 Mill Crescent, Southam

i) complained about the conduct of Councillors Thomas and Pratt at the June Council meeting in that he thought they were too political, that politics should not come into Town Council matters and he said 'it was a disgrace' ii) that the minutes of the June meeting were inaccurate and that he had not asked a question about the recreation ground iii) that he was handing six freedom of information request to the Deputy Town Clerk

Mr Gary White, 15 Holywell Road, Southam

Objected to the Banner Homes planning application for the Area of Restraint and supported the comments of Mr Oubridge. He also said that the timing of the application was cynical being in the summer months when people were on holiday.

Mr Martin Smith, 6 Manders Croft, Southam

Supported the previous objections to the proposed development on the Area of Restraint and said transport studies would show that the access to this site was unsuitable.

53. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on Thursday 15th May 2014 and Thursday 22nd May 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the words 'nursery at the' being inserted before the word 'school' on Cllr Pratt's declaration of interest

54. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That payment of accounts dated July 2014, totalling £7536.15 (detail attached) be authorised.

55. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated July 2014

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

56. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

56.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mr Gale

RESOLVED:

That Southam Town Council would submit the church gates planning application on behalf of SCIF

Town Mayor signature _____

Mr Oubridge, Mr White & Mr Smith

This matter was dealt with under Agenda item 6

Mr Bromwich

i) Councillors Thomas and Pratt advised Mr Bromwich that they could not recall any political comments being made at the previous meeting but both offered their apologies if they had inadvertently caused any offence ii) See minute 53 iii) Six Freedom of Information requests were received.

56.2 SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Noted

56.3 SOUTHAM TOWN REDEVELOPMENT (STAKEHOLDER MEETING) MINUTES

Noted

56.4 SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - GRANT FEEDBACK

Noted

56.5 SAFETY AND SPEED ON WELSH ROAD WEST RESOLVED:

i) to write to Councillor Appleton asking if some of WCC's 20million pound underspend could be used for Welsh Road West ii) to advise Andy Mason of the lack of funds for traffic calming and signs

56.6 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Noted

57. CORRESPONDENCE

SLCC Clerk Magazine

Noted

58. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY 10TH JULY

58.1 TOURISM STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Anne Solomon (SDC) along with business representatives T Brown, A Davie, A Gidney and P Catterall attended the meeting to talk about the Tourism Stakeholder Group that was formed in November and currently has 75 members'. Ms Solomon outlined the report from Hidden Britain, stating that it's the groups desire to improve promotion of the Town and surrounding area, the action plan was considered and various suggestions discussed and they were informed about the Town Council map

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council is informed of what stock the Council currently holds of the Town Map.

Town Mayor signature _____

58.2 WCC – EMERGENCY STOPPING PLACE

Rob Leahy (WCC) attended the meeting and advised members that on Monday 14th July 2014 the proposed stopping place will be turned once again into highway by removing the gates and a licence will be applied for to remove badgers and place an encampment there. WCC will provide toilet and waste and it will be an unauthorised stopping place and travellers will be moved on through the courts. A site in the north of the county will be made available shortly and a press release will be issued soon

58.3 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Members' were advised that historically the Town Council applies for the Christmas Lights Road Closure but the group should be applying themselves.

RESOLVED

That the Southam Christmas Lights Association is advised that they will need to apply for their own Road Closure in future

58.4 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members' were advised that Cllr Thomas, Cllr Pratt, Cllr Tasker, Cllr Soni & the Town Clerk met with Matthew Neal (Neighbourhood Planning Officer – SDC) to discuss creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The first step is to apply for the Area Designation which is normally the Parish Boundary; however a discussion did take place as to whether other areas should be included such as the Polo Grounds. You can only include an area outside your boundary with the agreement of the Council that area falls under. Although funding is available there is currently only funding for 2014 and this funding would need to be applied for and spent in 2014.

RESOLVED:

i)that Matthew Neal be thanked for his advice, as he was extremely helpful.

ii)that a Steering Group (Working Party), be formed consisting of Cllr B Thomas, Cllr L Tasker, Cllr J Soni and Cllr C Pratt.

iii)that the Working Party is authorised to progress the Neighbourhood Plan during the Summer Recess and approach other parishes where developments would affect Southam.

iv)that the Working Party bring forward a report in September 2014

58.5 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

A discussion took place regarding the current Media Policy

RESOLVED:

That the existing Town Council Policy be kept

58.6 RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

RESOLVED:

That the questionnaire is completed

58.7 BURIAL GROUND

A discussion took place regarding the Burial Ground

RESOLVED:

That the Burial Ground Working Party meets with Marion Childs and then the Diocesan Secretary separately, and then the working party will bring forward a report in September

Town Mayor signature _____

58.8 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

Grange Hall Stewards – Cllr Ward to replace Cllr Soni

Play Area Development to collaborate with Southam @ Play – Cllr D Smith to be added

Southam Town Centre Development – Cllr Ward to replace Cllr J Smith

CAB - Cllr C Pratt

Southam First – Cllr Ward to replace Cllr J Smith

Age UK Warwickshire – Establish if a rep is required

Southam Liaison Group (CEMEX) - Cllr Gaffney to replace Cllr Ward

CHIEF – Establish if a rep is required

HS2 Action Group – Cllr Thomas to be added

Southam Children's Centre – To ask if new provider requires a rep

Editor of Newsletter – Cllr L Smith

Stockton – Southam Cycle Route – Cllr Thornley to replace Cllr J Smith

Finance Working Party – Cllr Gaffney to be added

Community Forum – Cllr Thomas to deputise for Cllr Tasker

Civic Ideas Forum – Cllr T Bromwich

Senior Citizen Action Network – Cllr T Bromwich

New Groups to be added

Environment Agency Catchment Plan – Cllr J Soni and Cllr L Tasker

Tourism Working Group – Cllr Shepherd

58.9 PLANNING APPLICATION

14/01611/FUL

12 Warwick Road, Southam, CV47 0JD

Installation of two dormer windows to front of property

RESOLVED:

No representations

58.10 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Grasscutting

Which District Councillor signed off the road closure for the Stretcher Race?

Clarification and definition on sticker signs for bins and residents seem to have different ones

Can there be a supply of compost caddies in Southam so residents don't have to travel to Stratford.

58.11 WCC OPEN DIALOGUE EVENING – 14TH JULY 2014

Members were advised that WCC will need to make severe budget cuts and this meeting is about working together and whether Town & Parish Councils will be part of the problem or part of the solution

RESOLVED:

That Cllr B Thomas represents the Town Council

58.12 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT – PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED:

Town Mayor signature _____

That the Town Clerk drafts a quote and the Town Mayor signs it off

58.13 PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council would not issue 'Warning Letters'

58.14 INVITATION TO DALLAS BURSTON POLO GROUNDS - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Noted

58.15 MR RON BALL – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

RESOLVED:

To write to Mr Ball to ascertain why Southam Town Council does not get a response when they write to him

59. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Bromwich advised that he was unable to answer the ENV questions as he had not yet attended a District Council Meeting.

60. AUGUST & CHRISTMAS RECESS MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk be authorised in consultation with the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Gaffney, or as a minimum any two of these Councillors, to deal with any business arising which is deemed to be urgent during the period of the summer and Christmas recesses including authorisation of payment.

61. 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

62. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise payments of staff salaries dated July 2014

Meeting Closed 8.20pm

Town Mayor signature _____

Southam Town Council				
JULY 2014 Issue 2				
Item No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Gross amount
1	23	<u>Eastgate Engravers</u>	Engraving of Mayoral Chain - three links	£54.00
2	43	<u>CGD Contractors Ltd</u>	Churchyard mowing x 5 visits	£1,260.00
3	8	<u>WALC</u>	Governance and Accountability in Local Councils 2014	£18.00
4	18	<u>Viking</u>	Stationery	£195.38
5	8	<u>Konica Minolta</u>	Photocopying 23/03/2014 to 22/06/2014	£226.45
6	ER	<u>Stratford District Council</u>	Provision and Installation of litter bin at Kineton Road	£320.00
7	43	<u>Limebridge Rural Services</u>	Ammenity Maintenance (Grasscutting July)	£1,455.00
8	6 & 8	<u>Dealer Systems Ltd</u>	FTTC Internet Line Rental & June Support	£175.20
9	41	<u>E-on</u>	Street Lights	£1,700.51
10	45	<u>Shaw Loos Ltd</u>	Hire of 4 single portable toilet units for Southam Carnival - Section 137 grant	£384.00
11	42	<u>Warwickshire County Council</u>	Emergency callout to attend to leaning column at Sycamore Grove	£77.25
12	1	<u>The Grange Hall</u>	10% contribution to Utilities Gas, Electricity, Rates, Water & Biffa	£580.73
13	36,34,ER	<u>Mr Richard Carro</u>	July groundsman contract £693.34, Holywell £25.00 Park Lane steps £75.00 Tollgate £10.00	£803.34
14	2	<u>Mr Paul Jones</u>	Production and review of Financial Accounts <i>replacement of cheque lost in post</i>	£250.00
15	16	<u>Mrs Debbie Carro</u>	Travel Expenses various	£36.29
			TOTAL	£7,536.15

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - JULY 2014					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
14/01633/OUT	Banner Homes Midlands Ltd	Land to the North and West of Manders Croft Southam	Residential development of approximately 77 dwellings, access and other associated works	11th August 2014	Objection

PLANNING OBJECTIONS REF 14/01633/OUT

Town Mayor signature _____

Southam Town Council objects to the proposed development. It supports the District Council's Core Strategy and believes this development is not necessary to meet the 440 homes proposed for Southam under the emerging local plan. In excess of this number are already approved and pending in areas identified for development in that plan. Nor is the proposed development necessary to meet the 5 year land supply which is already at 4.8 years and will be easily met inside 6 months. SDC's own Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment PPG17 2011 states that 'Southam has relatively low amounts of unrestricted green space due to the comparative lack of natural accessible green space' Other more suitable areas for development have been identified by SDC in the Core Strategy; these have been supported by STC. To allow this application would undermine that Core Strategy, STC's progression of its Neighbourhood Plan and increase the deficit of green space in the Town.

The proposal would be a significant incursion into the Area of Restraint. Saved Local Plan Policy EF.3 clearly states that in A of R development will only be permitted if, it would be ancillary to agriculture or existing authorised uses, it would not harm or threaten the generally open nature of the area, taking into account any possible cumulative effects, or exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. The proposal fails to comply with any of these requirements. There are no "specific circumstances" which warrant development on a significant part of the A of R and there are alternative sites outside the area that can accommodate proposed housing. Southam Town Council believes that this area should be preserved as a 'Country Park' for the benefit of the people of Southam.

Policy PR.1 within the Local Plan requires development proposals to respect, and where possible enhance the quality and character of the area. Proposals that would damage or destroy features which contribute to the distinctiveness of the local area will not be permitted unless significant public benefit would arise from the scheme. This proposal fails to respect, and enhance the significant contribution that this part of the Stowe River Valley contributes to the quality and character of this area of open space to the west of Southam. The rural context of the Scheduled Ancient Monument the Holy Well would be damaged by the proximity of the development, spoiling the tranquillity of the ancient site and the approaches.

Access to this site would be along Park Lane, which is already too narrow for two vehicles to pass side by side and which has little or no potential for widening or improvement, or along St James Road, which already has significant traffic problems caused by a Primary School, a Childrens Centre and a College all in the immediate vicinity.

The development would undermine the 15 year River Leam Catchment Area Plan. This DEFRA funded project aims to improve the environment. The River Stowe, on the boundary of the development, is a tributary of the Leam and has poor ecological status due to pollution from domestic sources e.g. detergents and sediment transfer through overland runoff from gardens. Development would pollute and hamper efforts to improve the water quality across the whole catchment.

One of the National Planning Policy Frameworks core planning principals is that local people should be empowered to shape their surroundings. In Southam there is general support for the principal of new housing in the town, but it is clear this site is not considered suitable by a large majority of Southam people and developer consultation with residents has been poor.

The development is not environmentally sustainable and would begin the destruction of the historic Stowe Valley to the detriment of future generations. Southam Town Council strongly objects to the proposal; this development must not be allowed to happen.

Town Mayor signature _____