

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

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

**In attendance:** Mrs D Carro

**103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**103.1** Deputy Clerk  
Cllr A Crump  
Cllr J Appleton

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C Pratt	Non Pecuniary Reason	Members Item relating to the Burial Ground Owns a Burial Plot in St James Churchyard
	Non Pecuniary Reason	Tollgate Road Lease Family member attends nursery
Cllr C Worsh	Non Pecuniary Reason	Tollgate Road lease Family member attends the school
Cllr T Bromwich	Non Pecuniary Reason	Tollgate Road Lease Family member attends the school
Cllr B Thomas	Non Pecuniary Reason	Tollgate Road Lease Owns property that is adjacent to the school
Cllr J Ward	Non Pecuniary Reason	Planning Application 14/03059/LBC & 14/03058/FUL Owns property in the vicinity of the application

**105. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no public representations

**106. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendment:**

**Minute 96.1 should read “aforementioned” and “officer has mooted”**

**107. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:**

**That payment of accounts dated November 2014, totalling £19,094.73 (details**

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attached) be authorised.

**108. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated November 2014

**Noted**

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

**Noted**

**RESOLVED:**

**Planning Application 10/02780/FUL – To ask Cllr J Appleton and the WCC Cabinet Member for Highways to pursue the outstanding S278 planning conditions relating to this site.**

**109. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

**109.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Representations

**109.2 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION**

Members were advised that letters of resignation had been received from Mrs Lesley Smith and Mr J Smith. SDC has advised that as we are now within six months of the Southam all-out elections, there is no allowance to advertise the vacancy for an election to be requested. Therefore, the Town Council considered whether to co-opt to fill the vacancies or leave the positions vacant.

**RESOLVED:**

**To leave the positions vacant**

**109.3 SPEEDING ON BANBURY ROAD**

Members considered further correspondence from residents complaining about speeding traffic along Banbury Rd. The Town Council last considered correspondence from the resident in September 2014 and as such the Council resolved the following:

***RESOLVED:***

***i) At this moment in time, Members decided not to fund the installation of such signs  
ii) To ask the Police to provide a report regarding speeding in the town as a whole, in order to consider at the Precept Meeting if a 'speed initiative' project is required and at what cost.***

WCC advised that a feasibility study regarding speeding for the town would cost in the region of £6000, the Police advised that they had met with the resident and discussed a Community Speed Watch initiative, there would need to be 6 volunteers who would be trained to use the equipment and the resident has indicated that they would be happy to volunteer.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) That the Town Council fully supports PC Cramp's Community Speed Watch initiative and is happy to assist in the initiative where possible, once the project is up and running PC Cramp will feedback to the Council.**

**ii) That a Traffic Management Line is added to the 2015/16 budget**

**iii) That the Town Clerk writes to Ron Ball regarding the speeding issues in Southam and ask for additional resources to help tackle the problem.**

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#### **109.4 SOUTHAM BURIAL GROUND**

Members considered correspondence from the Bishop of Coventry, in response to a letter that was sent on behalf of the Council seeking a meeting with the Bishop, in order to ascertain the current position and whether the diocese has land that maybe suitable. The diocese advised that they would prefer to meet after their planning applications have been considered. The diocese also sent the Council a petition they have received from a resident, asking the Church to rectify the problem, the letter states "The Church seems to sell an awful lot of land, why not use some of this land for a new graveyard/cemetery".

**Noted**

#### **109.5 THE HOLY WELL**

The Town Clerk has been discussing the issue of water seepage causing algae to form and thus making the flagstones dangerously slippery with English Heritage, in order to agree a course of action to rectify the problem. Members considered correspondence from English Heritage outlining the proposed work and a quote from an English Heritage approved local contractor. The Town Clerk recommended to the Council to apply to English Heritage to carry out the proposed works using the approved contractor, advising that this contractor is extremely experienced working with ancient monuments and that some of the issues that have arisen with The Holy Well have been due to poor workmanship in the past, therefore it is extremely important that an experienced contractor is used to carry out the necessary work and maintain The Holy Well in the future. The cost of the proposed work is approximately £7k, there is £3400 remaining in The Holy Well grant budget. It is envisaged that the work would not be carried out until next spring; in the meantime Schedule Monument Consent needs to be applied for and that can take up to 2 months to process.

##### **RESOLVED:**

- i) To carry out the recommended work using the approved local contractor at a cost of approximately £7000**
- ii) To utilise the remaining funds in The Holy Well Grant Budget and precept for the balance**
- iii) To ascertain if there is any grant funding available**
- iv) That the approved local contractor maintains The Holy Well in the future**

#### **109.6 TOLLGATE ROAD PLAYING FIELD**

Members were advised that the fence for those residents that back onto the Tollgate Road Playing Field has now been replaced, the residents are extremely pleased and two letters have been sent to the Council, thanking the Council for providing a strong well-built fence and saying how pleased and impressed they were with the contractor. The school fence dividing the field has also been installed and work is currently being carried out on the school part of the field.

**The Town Clerk was thanked for all her hard work**

#### **109.7 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the office opening hours are as follows:**

**Wednesday 24th December 2014 – Closed**

**Thursday 25th December 2014 – Closed**

**Friday 26th December 2014 – Closed**

**Monday 29th December 2014 – Closed**

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Tuesday 30th December 2014 – Closed  
Wednesday 31st December 2014 – Closed  
Thursday 1st January 2015 – Closed

**109.8 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Noted

**110. CORRESPONDENCE**

**110.1 HARBURY LANE/FOSSE WAY JUNCTION – BISHOPS ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

To write to Bishop Itchington Parish Council stating that the Town Council supports their initiative in their efforts to force WCC Highways to carry out improvements to this very busy junction.

**110.2 JOHN TURNER FESTIVAL 2014 – GRANT THANK YOU**

Noted

**110.3 SOUTHAM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROJECT – GRANT THANK YOU**

Noted

**110.4 SOUTHAM FIRST – GRANT FEEDBACK FORM**

Noted

**111. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

**111.1 STREETLIGHTING MAINTENANCE**

Members were advised that WCC carried out a street lighting survey to ascertain which columns need replacing. Members considered the survey showing defective columns in priority order. Although the Council is no longer asking WCC to adopt the streetlights the Town Clerk advises that the 18 columns listed are replaced, the total cost of replacement is £21,354.30.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the 18 columns identified in the report are replaced**

**111.2 SOUTHAM HERITAGE COLLECTION COMMITTEE**

The Southam Heritage Collection Committee is seeking a Councillor to attend the Committee Meetings.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Council representative is Cllr B Thomas who will attend the meeting on the 10th December and subsequent meetings thereafter**

**111.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

See attached sheet

**111.4 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Has the idea/ proposal of turning the 'area of restraint' into a country park by Cllr Bromwich been discussed by SDC. Could Cllr Bromwich provide an update to STC? Have any others District Councillors support the idea or been involved in any discussions?

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### **111.5 SDC CORE STRATEGY MODIFICATIONS**

Members considered correspondence from Paul Harris advising that following the Town Council's representation SDC propose to add an additional bullet point stating the following:

Investigate the scope to designate additional land along the Stowe Valley to the west of the town as public open space

Members were asked to confirm that they were happy with this modification

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The council does not like the start of the bullet point 'investigate the scope' The council would like to either use the wording from within the June full council meeting section 36.10**

**"ii) 6.7.11 that the Area of Restraint should be protected from all development and that the words 'although small parcels may be suitable for development' should be removed and replaced by 'this area should be preserved as a Country Park for the benefit of the residents of Southam'**

**or use some wording within SDC's HS2 response.**

**Could the Clerk please circulated a comment to all council members before the 19th Nov so any comments can be made before final submission on 21st Nov.**

**The representation that was sent is as follows:**

**Southam Town Council is of the opinion that the proposed modification does not address our concerns; therefore we would request that this point is amended to read:**

**That the Area of Restraint should be protected from all development and be preserved as a Country Park for the benefit of the residents of Southam and visitors to the Town.**

### **111.6 RON BALL PCC**

Members considered correspondence from Ron Ball, following the Town Council request for a public meeting, he advised that he has not agreed to a public meeting but if the Council advises him of their concerns he will investigate and decide what actions are required. Members were requested to state what their concerns are?

#### **RESOLVED:**

**STC asks the Clerk to confirm the time and date of the Southam Community Forum and make these details available to the residents of Southam via our website and on all STC notice boards. STC requests that the Clerk highlights that Ron Ball will be attending so members of the public can ask questions regarding policing in or around Southam.**

**STC have no new questions to ask in addition to those currently outstanding.**

### **111.7 ORBIT - TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

Members considered a proposed landscaping plan for the Orbit Development

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The council requests that the Clerk, if possible, obtain large paper copies of all landscape drawings from Orbit before the next full council meeting. No comments at this time**

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**112. BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY**

The Working Party met to decide how to take the matter forward and the following was decided:

- 1) To write to the Bishop of Coventry and request to have a meeting in order to establish whether the diocese has any land or not
- 2) To progress the matter of holding a referendum with SDC
- 3) To identify land that may be suitable and approach landowners

**Cllr M Gaffney and Cllr C Pratt were thanked for all their work relating to this matter**

**113. WALC PARISH LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Cllr V Shepherd advised the Council that he had attended the last meeting and gave a brief report

**114. HS2**

Cllr B Thomas gave an update regarding his preparations for representing the Town Council at the Select Committee Hearing; he advised the Council that he has asked Cllr L Tasker and the Town Clerk to also attend the Select Committee Hearing as Witnesses.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr B Thomas was thanked for all the work he is doing with regards to representing the Council at the Select Committee and is authorised to make any decisions regarding witnesses/assistance that maybe required.**

**116. MEMBERS ITEM - CLLR T BROMWICH**

Cllr Bromwich spoke regarding the following:

Spoke about the Stowe Valley and options regarding the Country Park and other potential options open to the town in relation to securing the long term future of the area for the people of Southam

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr T Bromwich is to join the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party so the matter can be progressed through the Neighbourhood Plan**

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

Cllr Bromwich advised of the following:

- That he had spoken to the SDC Dog Warden regarding dog fouling issues in the town and will continue to do so.
- Orbit empty properties are being progressed

**118. 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**

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

**RESOLVED:**

**To authorise payments of staff salaries dated November 2014**

**120. COUNCILLOR COMPLAINT**

Members considered information provided by the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED:**

**To respond to the resident advising that it is not a Town Council matter**

**Meeting Closed 9.02pm**

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SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - 27TH NOVEMBER 2014					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
14/02225/VARY	Mrs Alison Else	Unit 4, Insight Park, Welsh Road East, Southam CV47 1NE	Variation of condition 6 (plans) of planning permission 10/02780/FUL (Proposed construction of 9 live/work units and 21 industrial units for B1, B2 and B8 use, industrial estate road and combined footpath and cycle) to allow extension to unit 4.	Southam Town Council supports the application subject to all the previously imposed planning conditions being met.	
14/03059/LBC 14/03058/FUL	Oscar Homes Ltd - Mr Neil Crabb	Bull Inn, Bull Street, Southam, CV47 1PQ	Change of use of Public House to residential use and creation of 6 units. Construction of first floor rear extension (11sq.m) and associated car parking.	Southam Town Council objects to this application for the reasons given in the objection from Mr & Mrs S Forgan of Abbey Lane Southam.	
14/02167/FUL	Mr Peter O'Brien	42 Welsh Road West, Southam CV47 0JW	Amendment to the demolition of existing house and outbuildings and construction of six houses and new access road	Southam Town Council repeats its previous objections to this application and would also add that it understands that historical records relating to this site are available at the Warwickshire records office and that these records should be consulted to ascertain if the site is afforded any protection.	
14/032414/TPO	Miss Ruth Wilson	Flat 9, Falcon Court, Bull Street, Southam, CV47 1FD	A: Taxus Baccata: coppice to near ground level - B: Taxus Baccata: remove southernmost limbs to give 1m clearance over existing brick wall - C: Taxus Baccata: remove one major fork	Southam Town Council supports the application subject to the Tree Officer being happy with the proposed works. STC expected to see a report from a qualified tree surgeon included in the application.	

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SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - NOVEMBER ENV					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
14/02731/Tree	Mrs Gloria Fox	Cuttle Beck, 22 Banbury Road, Southam CV47 1HL	G1: Sycamore: fell T1 Poplar: pollard to 8 m T2 Willow pollard to 6m T3 Poplar: fell T4 Willow pollard to 4m T5 Pine fell T6 Poplar fell T7 Hazel remove T8 Poplar fell	14th November 2014	Please refer this application to the Arboricultural Officer
14/02786/FUL	Mr Andrew Rigg	14 Herdwycke Close, Southam, CV47 1GW	Demolition of the existing lean-to conservatory. Construction of a new single storey pitched roof extension to the rear of the dwelling to form new garden room.	17th November 2014	No representations
14/02969/FUL	Mr Chris Sutcliffe	Former Pumping Station, Coventry Road, Southam	Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling or 2 No. semi detached dwellings.	24th November 2014	Southam Town Council has concerns about the watercourse within the proposed development area and how this may affect the feed to the Holywell. STC also has concerns about the access and egress from the property on to Coventry Road. STC cannot make a commitment at this time on the type of dwelling, impact on the streetscene or proposal of 1 or 2 dwellings until a full application is made.

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