

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 22ND OCTOBER 2015

Present: In the Chair, Mayor, Councillor J Ward,
Councillors T Bromwich, G Oubridge, S Exton, M Brooks, M Connors,
L Ellard, P Jenkins, A Crump, D Hunter & K Geddes

Apologies: Cllr J Barratt - Holiday
Cllr R Marlow – Personal

County Cllr Appleton

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bromwich	Pecuniary Reason	Accounts for Payment Watering Contract Southam in Bloom
Cllr J Ward	Non Pecuniary Reason	ENV Planning Application 15/03169ADV Home address Market Hill
Cllr M Brooks	Non Pecuniary Reason	Planning Application 15/03510/FUL Applicant known

65. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

65.1 Mr B Bromwich, 8 Mill Crescent, Southam

Spoke regarding responsibility for the accuracy of the Town Council Minutes

65.2 Mr G Bonser, Napton Rise, Southam

Spoke regarding the inclusion in the Core Strategy of 500 at SOU3 and asked how residents would be kept informed of the next steps.

65.3 Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Asked the reason for Councillor Bromwich not being on the Town Council Bank Mandate.

66. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

i) That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24rd September 2015, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments i) Minute 54.1 Mrs J Soni's address should read 26 Springs Crescent ii) Minute 59 the words 'voted against' should be changed to 'was against'.

67. POLICE

Police were not in attendance

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68. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That the payment of accounts dated October 2015, totalling £18425.45 (details attached) be authorised.

69. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated October 2015 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council. (details attached)

ii) Planning Application decisions dated October 2015

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

70. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

70.1. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mr B Bromwich the Mayor said that the Council was aware of its responsibilities regarding the accuracy of the minutes and for this reason meetings were audio recorded so that anything contentious could be checked.

Mr G Bonser was advised that both SDC Councilors were against this development and that this matter would be examined in public by the Planning Inspector and should be challenged at that stage. Residents should be sure to register to speak at the inspection and express sound logical and well researched objections to the proposal. Information regarding dates and times will be advertised on town notice boards, Southam Town Council's Website, Facebook page, Newsletter and via the email mailing list. Residents who wish to be included on the emailing list should send their email address to the deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

Mrs Smith Councillor Bromwich advised that his personal reasons for not being on the bank mandate had been given to the Town Clerk

70.2 PROPOSED NEW SETTLEMENT – LAND AT GAYDON/LIGHTHORNE HEATH PLANNING APPLICATION 15/00976/OUT

RESOLVED:

To invite Janet Neal Warwickshire County Council to attend the November Env meeting.

70.3 STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING – DEVELOPMENT OFF COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM

A discussion took place and due to the site being in close proximity to the cement works it was decided to use a quarry theme. In accordance with the Town Council Street Naming Policy it was unanimously

RESOLVED: that the streets as numbered on the map should be named

1- Quarry Road

2- Lias Close

3- Little Trace Avenue

4- Solus Gardens

5- Black Shale Drive

6- Flint Close

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70.4 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Noted

71. CORRESPONDENCE

71.1 ANNE SOLOMAN – TOWN WEBSITE

Noted

71.2 GRANT THANK YOU – JOHN TURNER FESTIVAL

Noted

71.3 GRANT THANK YOU – BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Noted

71.4 AGM MINUTES AND CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – SOUTHAM FIRST

Noted

72. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 8TH OCTOBER 2015

72.1.1 HEART OF ENGLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Heart of England Housing Association attended the meeting to discuss ongoing issues with properties managed by them in Southam

Key Points

- All communication with Orbit should be done through their call centre or via web portal as these communications are logged and are subject to key performance indicators.
- All issues will be responded to within 3 working days, with a resolution within 28 days.
- If the above KPI’s are not met, jobs are escalated.
- A small editorial piece including contact details to report issues will be submitted to the Clerk to be included in the newsletter.
- Confidential specific items were also discussed, including empty housing, garages and future developments.

72.1.2 TOWN COUNCIL REFORM

The Town Council considered the following items put forward by Cllr Bromwich:

1) To make it easier for candidates to get nominations and stand, I propose that we scrap the current four wards and reduce to two wards along the same lines as the current District Council wards of Southam North and Southam South.

2) All levels of Government are looking or have reduced their size, Southam Town should embrace this. I propose that we reduce the number of Councillors to nine. With the reforms I propose further on, this would give a comfortable number and increase the prospect of contested elections.

3) Rather than the current Working Party system the Town Council has, I propose that we move to a sub-committee system. The benefits of this change would be as follows, it would allow for minuted meetings, it would allow for public attendance, it would allow for recordings for members of the public to listen to and this part I think is important and we as a Council should bear in mind, it would allow us to co-

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opt additional people who may be experts in an area or have an interest. These people do not wish to sit on full council's but their input and advice can be valuable. In turn, this also allows for a reduced council number and for speedier, more efficient meetings. Current legislation allows for Parish Council's to do this and we should utilise the talents within our community. Ultimately, adopting a committee system would lead to more openness and transparency.

4) What is clear is that in the modern era social media plays a huge part in getting information out to the public. Whether you approve or not, all levels of the public sector, government, businesses and people in general use this valuable asset. We as a Town Council should embrace it as a means of communication and as such should initially set up a six-month trial with guidance to be agreed by council, if a success we should adopt it as an effective means of communication.

5) Location of the Town Council Office. Many people I personally have spoken to would prefer a Town Council Office located in the centre of Town. I feel that we as a Council should resolve to relocate to the Tythe Lodge development as we will be having allocated space there. This would allow for a more accessible Town Council in general. As part of such a relocation, we should also investigate the possibility of including in such a move a public access to District and County Council information by either potentially a one touch or standard pc. We have to be aware we could get grants to install such terminals, again this would be a great benefit to the community. Overall, the practicality of such a move would be an easier, more accessible Town Council.

6) Work with Southam College to set up a Junior Town Council with a representative to attend meetings in the same capacity as District and County Councillors.

RESOLVED

- **Regarding Town Council reform, on points 1 & 2, it was felt that with such a new council, that these items were not important at this time and the issues were not barriers to town engagement with Town Council, these reforms will be shelved.**
- **Point 3 was discussed at length and it was decided to keep the system the same as it currently is.**
- **Point 4 is already being trialled.**
- **Point 5 will be referred to Clerk for her input.**
- **Point 6 will be led by Cllr Bromwich and supported by Cllr Jenkins.**

72.1.3 STREET NAMING POLICY

The Town Council reviewed the policy

RESOLVED

Only one minor change to the Street naming policy, 2.3 should read “It is the responsibility of the Full Southam Town Council to decide on street names, however the decision may be delegated to the Town Clerk in conjunction with a working group or sub group as agreed by the full Council”

As the proposer of this item, Cllr Bromwich was prompted several times if he wished to suggest any changes, he had no changes that he wished to discuss.

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72.4 SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION –S137 GRANT

At the September Town Council meeting the Council awarded the balance of what was left in the S137 Budget to Christmas Lights, at the time it was thought the balance was £2130 however the balance was actually £1930. Members were requested to confirm whether they want to go over budget and award £2130 or instead award the actual balance of £1930.

RESOLVED:

To award Southam Christmas Lights £1930.00

72.5 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN FOR SDC – CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Members were requested to consider the attached consultation and decide how they wish to respond

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk respond to the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan with a neutral response.

72.6 THE PARISH POUND

Members considered whether they wish to continue to lease the Parish Pound or sell it

RESOLVED:

That Southam Town Council seek Planning permission on the land with a view to selling the land at a higher value.

72.7.1 PLANNING

Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule ENV October 2015 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council. (details attached)

72.7.2 PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Members considered the Town Clerk's request to change the contractor who carry out our playground inspections in order to get a better service for less cost

RESOLVED:

To change supplier and use Richard Kibilski (Playground Inspection and Repair Maintenance & Service) initially for a twelve-month period.

72.7.3 NEW COMPUTERS

The Town Clerk advised Council that her computer had stopped working and a new computer was required, that due to the age of the other computers in the office and to ensure that all users had the same software it was requested to upgrade all three computers and software for a total cost of £1177.80

RESOLVED:

To authorise the purchase of 3 new computers and accept the quotation from Inside IT Solutions (Dealer Systems), it was also suggested that we offer the Clerk a Laptop should she feel the need for one and if it would make life easier.

72.7.4 STREET NAMING – INSIGHT BUSINESS PARK

RESOLVED:

To change Marston Crescent to Marston Croft

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72.11 QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Questions for County & District Councillors:

Q. It was asked if timesheets of when the Traffic Warden and the Dog Warden was present in Southam are available as to see how many times they attend and if the times of attendance are when they are most needed.

Q. Is there any update on the Wall on Market Hill?

73. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Crump has spoken to the Dog Warden who is unable to give an exact answer but thought it was about twice a week that she was in Southam. Cllr Crump & Cllr Bromwich said that the SDC voted 16 to 14 against joining the Combined Authority. Cllr Crump voted for and Cllr Bromwich voted against.

74. 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

75. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise the payment of staff salaries dated October 2015

Town Mayor Signature _____

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2015 Issue 2					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
15/03324/FUL	Mr Steve Smith	Southam College, Welsh Road West, Southam CV47 0JW	New Science Building within the grounds of an existing college	21st October 2014	ENV - No representations
15/03321/FUL	Mr Steve Smith	Southam College, Welsh Road West, Southam CV47 0JW	New build, single storey detached Music building located within the grounds of Southam College	21st October 2014	ENV - No representations
15/03169/ADV	Ms Suzannah Moore	12 Market Hill, Southam, CV47 0HF	Application for advertisement consent for 2 No. Fascia signs retro-spective and 1 No. projecting hanging sign to existing building proposed	21st October 2014	ENV - No representations
15/03168/FUL	Ms Suzannah Moore	12 Market Hill, Southam, CV47 0HF	Change of use from A1 to A3 and use of a temporary metal ramp for wheelchair access via the front door	21st October 2014	ENV - No representations
15/03510/FUL	Mr Simon Vials	7 Glebe Road, Southam, Warks, CV47 0LE	Proposed erection of single storey rear extension, porch and car port extension to the front.	3rd November 2015	No representations
15/02047/OUT	Banner Homes Midlands Ltd	Land off Manders Croft Southam	Development of approximately 51 dwellings, access and other associated works. Amendments	11th November 2015	Southam Town Council objects strongly to development in the Southam Area of Restraint and all its previous comments still stand.
15/02499/VARY	Miss Lorraine Day	Love Ballet Dance Company Ltd, Unit 10, Insight Park, Welsh Road East, Southam	Variation of condition 3 (use restriction) and condition 6 (hours of operation restriction) of planning permission 13/01957/vary (variation of condition 5 of planning permission 12/02311/FUL to extend the operating of approved dance studio use (class D) at unit 10	11th November 2015	Southam Town Council objects to any variation of these conditions. Contrary to what the applicant states we are led to believe that all business on this estate are prevented from engaging in any noise generating activities or from working on a Sunday to protect the interests of the residents. Following the granting of permission for a further 6 houses on this estate the enforcement of these conditions is even more important.

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Southam Town Council						
OCTOBER 2015 CHEQUE PAYMENTS						
Item No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Gross/Cheque Amount
1	46	<u>Limebridge Rural Services Ltd</u>	Grasscutting 11 & 12 of 16 visits	1904.38	380.88	£2,285.26
2	48	<u>John Turner Fesitval</u>	Section 137 grant to provide prizes for the competion winners	275.00	0.00	£275.00
3	48	<u>Butterfly Conservation</u>	Section 137 grant to be spent in the Southam area	500.00	0.00	£500.00
4	48 & ER	<u>Southam Church & Community Project</u>	Section 137 grant - Running costs of the Youth Centre 2015/16	3000.00	0.00	£3,000.00
5	48	<u>The Grange Hall</u>	Section 137 grant - Redecoration of the rear room	400.00	0.00	£400.00
6	48	<u>Southam in Bloom</u>	Section 137 grant - relocation of planters and winter planting	705.00	0.00	£705.00
7	30,37,39	<u>Mr R Carro</u>	October Contract £688.46, Holy well strim £25.50, litterpick £2.50, repair & replace information panel £30.00, remove graffiti £5.00, Riverside Walk remove & dispose of wooden barriers that were broken	781.46		£781.46
8	18	<u>Express Press</u>	Printing and distribution of Newsletter £345 & front page splash £50	395.00		£395.00
9	4	<u>Blythe Liggins Solictiors</u>	Legal fees relating to the Community Room Lease, cost to be reimbursed by SDC as per agreement	5000.00	1000.00	£6,000.00
10	6	<u>Inside IT Solutions Ltd</u>	Broadband FTTC Internet Service £135, IT support various occasions £85.05, temporary repair to PC £50	270.05	54.01	£324.06
11	44	<u>E.ON</u>	Street lights new Climate Change Levy rate	192.22	48.05	£240.27
12		<u>The Friendship Group</u>	Grant for over 65s from National Travel Tokens donations	100.00		£100.00
13	47	<u>VASA</u>	Volunteer drivers reimbursment for September	499.40		£499.40
14	46	<u>CDG Contractors Ltd</u>	Church yard mowing £210 x2 Tollgate Rd mowing 9 x £45	825.00	165.00	£990.00
15	48	<u>Southam Christmas Lights Association</u>	S137 Grant - To purchase LED bulbs and cables	1930.00		£1,930.00
						£18,425.45

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