

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2015

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

Apologies: Cllr A Crump – District Councillor Commitments

Absent: Cllr D Hunter
Cllr R Marlow

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr J Appleton, PCSO K Taylor & PCSO T Bagg

Prior to the Town Council meeting at 7pm, Paul Harris, Policy Planner - SDC attended the meeting to discuss the Core Strategy Modifications, the current situation, the next step and the involvement of the Town Council.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bromwich	Pecuniary Reason	Town Clerk report item 8 Watering Contract Southam in Bloom
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77. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 77.1** Mr M Hill, 48 St Mary's Close, Southam
Spoke regarding the Southam Twinning Association, seeking support from the Council to help advertise the group and attract more members. Also looking for a new home to display a painting of the town that had been displayed in the Library.
- 77.2** Mr G Foster, 31 Welsh Road West, Southam
Introduced himself to the Council as the Council were considering his Councillor Application later in the meeting.
- 77.3** Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam
Thanked the Town Clerk for previously advising her of the current situation relating to the Library wall. Also stated that she was disgusted that Cllr Bromwich did not remove his baseball cap during the Remembrance Parade, reminding the Council that they will be voting for a new Mayor next year.
- 77.4** Mr B Bromwich, 8 Mill Crescent, Southam
Spoke stating that Mrs Smith had a vendetta against his family

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78. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

i) That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd October 2015, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

79. POLICE

The Police advised the following:

- There has been a big hit on rural crime
- Asked for Community Forum priorities
- Low crime rates in the Town
- Issue with forged notes
- That their entrance was blocked by the MOP
- Need to review the business watch system
- The Police were advised that there needs to be some sort of retail relay system
- The Police were advised that there were anti-social behaviour issues at Mill Crescent

80. INFORMATION FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Appleton advised the following:

- Updated on the situation regarding the Market Hill wall
- No further information regarding Combined Authority
- Amalgamating Pension Schemes
- Budget
- Warwickshire County Council Transformation Fund

81. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

That the payment of accounts dated November 2015, totalling £6,137.34 (details attached) be authorised.

82. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

ii) Planning Application decisions dated November 2015

Noted

iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

82.2 The Town Clerk advised that the Manders Croft Planning Application will be going to Planning Committee and SDC will be recommending to Grant

82.3 Cllr Bromwich advised that The Bull Planning Application was granted and stated that WCC Highway did not carried out a site assessment they used a computer model

RESOLVED:

To invite a WCC Highway Officer to the February 2016 ENV to discuss why they rely on computer models for traffic assessment rather than physically visiting the site.

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83. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

83.1. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mr M Hill was advised that Southam Twinning Association will be considered later in the meeting.

Mr Foster was advised that his Councillor Application will be considered later in the meeting

Mrs Smith was advised that was what they fought for in 1945 and quoted Article 10 of the Human Rights Act

Mr Bromwich was advised that the Council couldn't comment as it was a personal matter

83.2 PAUL HARRIS – CORE STRATEGY

Discussed as part of the next item

83.3 SDC CORE STRATEGY 2011-2031 – PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE INSPECTOR'S INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

Members considered correspondence relating to the above. The Examination Hearing Sessions commence on 12th January 2016, the proposal SOU 3 – 500 dwellings Daventry Road will be considered on Thursday 14 January 2016 – 1400 - 1730. Southam Town Council has been stated as a participant. The main issue that the Inspector will be considering is 'Is the additional allocation, Proposal SOU3, sound? And in order for the proposal to be removed from the Core Strategy Modifications, it will need to be proven that it isn't sound. Southam Town Council will need to submit a Hearing Statement in accordance with the criteria, the deadline for receipt is Friday 11th December 2015, Members needs to decide how this hearing statement is to be achieved.

RESOLVED:

i)That Councillors email the Town Clerk by Wednesday 2nd December 2015 with their suggested responses

ii)That Cllr Oubridge, Cllr Brooks and Cllr Jenkins are authorised to write the Hearing Statement and submit it in accordance with the criteria on behalf of the Council

83.4 TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY – MILL HILL WARD

The Town Council considered Councillor applications from Mr G Foster and Mrs S Stone.

RESOLVED:

i)That Mr Foster is unanimously co-opted to fill the vacancy

ii)To write to Mrs Stone and thank her for her application and the interest she has shown in Southam Town Council, that her details will be kept on file should a vacancy occur in the future

83.5 WCC – TRANSFORMATION FUND

Members considered correspondence from WCC regarding their Transformation Fund. The fund will offer, one-off grants, of between £5,000 and £70,000. The Fund will help eligible organisations to take on board the significant transformation which is necessary to ensure that communities have the capacity to meet the challenges associated with the delivery of WCC, the closing date for applications is

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either 7th December 2015 or 1st February 2016

RESOLVED:

To keep this matter under consideration should a suggestion come forward.

83.6 KINETON ROAD ROUNABOUT

Members considered correspondence from WCC (for Councillors only) seeking the Council's view of the proposed replacement planting for the roundabout.

RESOLVED:

To respond stating that the Town Council agree in principle to the proposed re-planting scheme, subject to funding be secured for the future maintenance.

83.7 CHRISTMAS RECESS

RESOLVED:

That Cllr M Connors is the appointed third member and Cllr M Brooks is the reserve member

83.8 SOUTHAM IN BLOOM (SIB) PLANTERS

Correspondence was considered regarding sponsorship of the Market Hill planters.
Noted

83.9 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Noted

84. CORRESPONDENCE

84.1 GRANT THANK YOU – SOUTHAM FIRST (SOUTHAM SHOW)

Noted

84.2 GRANT THANK YOU – SOUTHAM IN BLOOM

Noted

84.3 GRANT THANK YOU – JOHN TURNER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Noted

84.4 SDC – RESOURCE IN SOUTHAM – NANCY SINGLETON

Noted

**84.5 NEW INITIATIVES TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES & ORGANISATIONS
– ANNE SOLOMON**

Noted

84.6 GRANT THANK YOU – GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Noted

**85. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING
PARTY ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2015**

85.1 Warwickshire County Council

Janet Neale, Infrastructure Delivery Manager at WCC spoke on the subject of Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath and the impact that may have on Southam. Janet is happy to help bring closer ties with the County Council and District Council when it come to the long term strategic planning of infrastructure in and surrounding Southam. It was suggested that perhaps a burial ground may form part of a negotiation with any new developer. She was also happy to help facilitate a working group with other local parish councils so that the wider area can be planned better, rather than from an office in WCC. This working party could incorporate representatives from Highways and planning officers. She will be in contact with the Clerk very soon.

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85.2 Item 2 - Proposed Housing Development off Leamington Road

Jason Tait and Chris Dodds from Gladman Developments talked through their plan to submit an outline planning application for Leamington road, Southam. An application is likely to be submitted in December 2015.

85.3 Item 3 - Southam Town Benchmarking

Pam McConnell and Brian Howard attended the meeting and explained the annual benchmarking process and the importance of it for groups in Southam when applying for grants and funding and also how the information gathered can help the Town Council with its Neighbourhood plan. Funding has now run out for this project and a request was made for Southam Town Council to help with funding either through the budget or through section 137 grants. The annual cost is approximately £450.

85.4 Item 4 - Working Parties

RESOLVED:

That the following representatives are appointed:

Cllr Ellard added to Christmas Lights Committee

Cllr Connors added to Personnel Working Party and Civic Ideas Forum

Cllr Jenkins to be added to Southam United Charities

Cllr Oubridge to be added to Ufton Compost & Landfill Liaison Group

85.5 Item 5 - STC Website

RESOLVED:

Now that Southam has its own website southam.co.uk it has been decided to simply link STC website to this new website and vice versa.

85.6 Planning applications

RESOLVED:

15/03667/FUL No Representations

15/03653/FUL No Representations

15/03537/FUL No Representations

15/03886/FUL No Representations

14/03058/FUL Object with the same reasons as previously stated, STC would not like to see the loss of a commercial premises in the town.

85.7 Questions for District and County Councillors

Can the District Council force the owners of the Bull Inn to tidy it up and make it safe as the owners have neglected the property whilst they wait for planning decisions, however the general maintenance of the property should not be left in ruin.

85.8 Bank Mandate

It was explained to the council how important it is that every councillor is on the bank mandate. Cllr Ellard and Cllr Bromwich have both agreed to sign the mandate when instructed to do so by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Town Mayor Signature _____

85.9 Members Items

The Mayor explained to all councillors the process of raising a Member's item and asked all councillors to think about their own visions for the town and that of their outside bodies that they represent. The Mayor encouraged Member's Items that are positive and that will help the town become a better place to live.

86. REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE FINANCE WORKING PARTY 5TH NOVEMBER 2015

86.1 FREQUENCY OF WORKING FINANCE GROUP MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

- That the Finance Group should meet bi annually on a formal basis and if necessary on an ad hoc basis in addition
- Councillors should take the opportunity to inspect payment files and check bank reconciliations, as advised by WALC at least bi annually

86.2 REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCIL CONTRACTS

RESOLVED:

- Parish Pound Lease Extend with a maximum 3-month notice period
- Play Areas Litter Picking Contract this rolling contract should continue in its present form as it provides excellent value for money and that it should be reviewed again in November 2016
- Play Areas Quarterly Inspection to be reviewed in November 2016
- Grass Cutting Contracts currently both 3 year fixed terms due to expire March 2017. Review in Summer 2016 with a view to advertising and appointing a contractor before precept is decided

86.3 PROPOSED BUDGET Councillors reviewed the existing budget.

RESOLVED:

- That in addition to the current budget lines provision should be made for the possibility of taking part in the Lengthsman Scheme and for work on footpaths.
- To review the proposed 2016/17 budget prior to January Precept Meeting
- That Councillor Brooks should advise on the essentials for a simple Disaster Recovery Plan

86.4 COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

The Finance Group were advised of the interest rates currently being obtained on two accounts. 1.65% and 0.025%

RESOLVED:

- That the signatories on these accounts be changed to Cllrs M Connors, J Ward, M Brooks & A Crump
- On maturity of the fixed rate bond, consideration is given to amalgamation the poorly paying account with the new bond (details yet to be published)

86.5 HSBC MANDATE

The group was advised that the new HSBC mandate had not yet been ratified as two Councillors had not yet proved identity. The email from Cllr Bromwich was discussed in which he gave his reasons for not signing the bank mandate.

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RESOLVED:

- To write to Councillor Bromwich pointing out that his concerns have now been addressed.
- For Councillor Ward to raise the matter at November ENV in an effort to ensure that all Councillors would sign up to the mandate as per the previous Council Resolution

87. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY

Members considered the minutes of the meeting and correspondence from SDC

RESOLVED:

- i) That the consultation booklet is amended as suggested by SDC
- ii) To instruct SDC to arrange printing and distribution of the questionnaire at a cost of £1695.53 plus VAT
- iii) To seek a quote from SDC for designing the questionnaire to be completed on line and input the completed questionnaire.
- iv) That the Town Clerk is authorised to accept the quote if it doesn't exceed the Council budget
- v) To ascertain if schools in Southam would be happy to put an article about the Neighbourhood Plan in their school newsletters

88. SOUTHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members considered correspondence from the Southam Twinning Association who are seeking help to attract new members

RESOLVED:

- i) If Southam Twinning Association provides an article the Council will be more than happy to advertise it on their website, Facebook, mailing list and noticeboards
- ii) It is envisaged that a new home can be found for the Southam Twinning Association painting in the new Orbit Development

89. SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Noted

90. SOUTHAM FIRST

Members were advised that Southam First plan to hold a French Market on Sunday 10th April 2016.

91. GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members were informed that finances could do with being more healthy

92. GRANGE HALL STEWARDS

Members were advised that a Stewards Meeting had not taken place as SDC had not yet appointed a second steward.

94. QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A discussion took place regarding disused buildings not being maintained

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95. **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

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

RESOLVED:

To authorise the payment of staff salaries dated November 2015

97. **ORBIT DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

Members were updated on Planning Enforcement issues relating to the Orbit Development.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 2015					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
15/04129/TREE	Mr Gavin Callard	88 Coventry Street, Southam CV47 0EA	T1:Swedish Whitebeam:Fell	10th December 2015	No representations
15/04045/FUL	Mr Bee Tan	26 Merestone Close, Southam CV47 1GU	Replacement of existing conservatory with orangery on enlarged footprint	15th December 2015	No representations
15/04073/ADV	Tomkins Construction Ltd	Insight Park, Welsh Road East, Southam CV47 1NE	Construction and display of two non-illuminated signs on either side of the estate road entrance of Welsh Road East, Southam,	16th December 2015	No representations

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Southam Town Council						
NOVEMBER 2015 CHEQUE PAYMENTS Issue 2						
Item No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Gross/Cheque Amount
1	33 & GR	<u>CJ's Events Warwickshire Limited</u>	Road Closure and traffic management of Southam Mop Fair (reclaimed from Thomas Jones) and road closure and traffic management for Remembrance Sunday Local Government Act 1972 S111 amended in 2015	224.00	16.00	£240.00
2	37	<u>Harris Sign Group Ltd</u>	To supply and fit signs in Park Lane Recreation Ground and Tollgate Road Play Area	530.00	106.00	£636.00
3	8	<u>Inside IT Solutions Ltd</u>	Monthly Support £45.15, 3 computers £897, software, build time and onsite installation and migration of data £895.05 VATE367.44	1837.20	367.44	£2,204.64
4	39	<u>Mr Jason Goode</u>	Bus Shelter Cleaning x 3	45.00	0.00	£45.00
5	19	<u>Viking</u>	Stationery	116.45	23.29	£139.74
6	GR	<u>The Royal British Legion</u>	Purchase of wreath for Remembrance Sunday	18.50	0.00	£18.50
7	8	<u>Konica Minolta</u>	Photocopier rental 14.11.2015 to 13.02.16	225.27	45.06	£270.33
8	6	<u>BT Payment Services</u>	Three numbers + featureline service	347.94	69.58	£417.52
9	37	<u>Pirms</u>	Quarterly Play area inspection 31st October 2015	277.00	0.00	£277.00
10	46	<u>CGD Contractors Ltd</u>	Grasscutting Southam Churchyard 2 cuts & Tollgate road play area 2 cuts	510.00	102.00	£612.00
11	30,37 & 39	<u>Mr Richard Carro</u>	November contract £688.46, Holy Well strimming £25.50, collection of mop barriers £5, Park Lane call out to clean vandalised play equipment £20	738.96	0.00	£738.96
12	47	<u>VASA</u>	Re imbursement of Volunteer Drivers	537.65	0.00	£537.65
						£6,137.34

Town Mayor Signature _____