

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 28TH JULY 2016

Present: In the Chair, Mayor, Councillor M Brooks,
Councillors M Connors, P Jenkins, G Foster, G Barratt, M Panton, G Oubridge, A Crump, K Geddes, S Exton, K Toner & M Gaffney

Apologies: Cllr J Ward – Work
Cllr L Ellard – Holiday

Dist.Cllr T Bromwich - Work

Absent: None

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders & Cllr J Appleton

**43. APOLOGIES
RESOLVED:**

That the apologies are accepted

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Crump	Non Pecuniary Reason	All planning applications Will not take part in any discussion or resolution regarding any planning application in order that it doesn't compromise his position on the SDC Planning Committee
Cllr G Oubridge	Non Pecuniary Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 8 Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee
Cllr M Connors	Pecuniary Reason	Planning Application 16/02009/FUL Landlord
Cllr K Toner	Non Pecuniary Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 8 Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee
Cllr G Foster	Non Pecuniary Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 8 Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee
Cllr M Brooks	Non Pecuniary Reason	Town Clerk Report Item 8 Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee

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45. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

45.1 Mr B Thomas, 9 St Mary's Close, Southam

Spoke confirming that he attending the House of Lords on behalf of the Town Council and that the join petition was received.

46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd June 2016, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor

47. POLICE

Not in attendance

48. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Invoices were available at the meeting for inspection

RESOLVED:

That the payment of accounts dated July 2016, totalling £15,516.01 (details attached) be authorised.

49. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

49.1 i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated July 2016 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council. (details attached)

49.2 ii) Planning Application decisions dated July 2016

Noted

49.3 iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

50. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

50.1. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Mr B Thomas was thanked for representing the Town Council at the House of Lords

50.2 THE HOLY WELL

Members consider the maintenance report from Hewers Builders

Noted

50.3 SOUTHAM FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW – COMPLAINT REGARDING GRANT APPLICATION

Members considered the letter of complaint from Pam McConnell (Southam Show Co-ordinator / Southam First Treasurer). Southam First applied for a grant of £750 and the Town Council awarded a grant of £750 to assist with the staging of the Southam Flower and Produce Show 2016; venue cost of £600 and £150 towards stationery and incidentals. The Council then received further correspondence advising that the venue hire cost was £450 and permission was sought from the Council for the remaining funds to be spent on other items, mainly advertising, however the Council was advised that a local authority may incur expenditure on publicity only by way of assistance to a public body or voluntary organisation where the publicity is incidental

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to the main purpose for which the assistance is given, as such, the Council refused the request.

All matters relating to this grant application were discussed in the public forum and contrary to what is stated in the letter, had no bearing on what the hire charge at The Grange Hall is. It must also be pointed out that this is tax payer's money and the Town Council has a responsibility to ensure that any grant money is spent for the purpose for which it was awarded.

RESOLVED;

To respond stating that the Town Council's position remains the same

50.4. RIGHT OF WAY SM180 – REQUEST FOR DOG BIN

Members considered correspondence from a resident requesting a dog bin to be installed along this footpath at the access point to Glebe Road. Stratford District Council (SDC) have advised that a bin can be installed in this location at a cost to the Council of £300 with an annual emptying charge of £102.57. Recently there was a complaint of a dog bin not being emptied on SM29 at the rear of Merestone Park, it would appear that this bin does get emptied but it is a well-used bin and therefore quite often overflowing, the Town Clerk has suggested to SDC whether this bin should be changed to a litter bin to resolve the overflow problem, SDC has advised this can be done and would probably be a good idea, the cost of the litter bin is £320 and the cost to relocate the dog bin is £150 plus the annual emptying charge.

RESOLVED:

i) To relocate the Dog Bin at SM29 to the access point at Glebe Road at a cost of £150 plus an annual emptying charge of £102.57

ii) To install a new litter bin at SM29 at a cost of £320

50.5 MARKET HILL STEPS – RETAINING WALL

Members were informed that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has advised that the works are in hand. A contractor has been appointed and work is due to start in approximately 4 weeks. WCC will forward the Town Council a programme of works when it has been received and agreed.

Noted

50.6 VASA – THE BIG BENCH CHALLENGE

Members considered correspondence from Dave Morgan (Fundraising and Development Officer - VASA) advising that over the next 6-12 months VASA will devoting much of its efforts to supporting projects which look at Rural Isolation for (all ages) and to develop new local day care and support for older people. The first initiative being 'The Big Bench Challenge'. Members were requested to consider if they want Southam Town Council to be involved in this project and if there is a Councillor who wants to be the appointed representative.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Barratt is the appointed representative

50.7 CHARITY OUTDOOR BOOTCAMP

Members considered correspondence from Glen Cooper seeking permission from the Council to hold a bi weekly boot camp in the Park Lane Recreation Ground for a Southam Charity.

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RESOLVED:

To invite Mr Cooper to the next ENV Meeting in order to discuss his request in more detail

50.8 SOUTHAM TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE – GRANT APPLICATION

Members were requested to consider the grant application for £5072 from the Southam Town Neighbourhood Planning Steering Committee. Normally, grants are only considered in February and September, but as the purpose of this group is to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, Members were requested to resolve to consider grant applications at any time for this group only. The Town Council has the power to financially support this group under the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED:

i) To accept Grant Applications from this organisation on an ad hoc basis

ii) To award a grant of £1500

50.9 COUNCIL MEETING DATES ENV DATES

Noted

51. CORRESPONDENCE

51.1 R HOLROYD -PARKING COMPLAINT

Noted

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

52. ENV WORKING PARTY REPORT – 9TH JUNE 2016

52.1 Item 1 – Kineton Road Roundabout

Members considered the correspondence concerning the ongoing issues received. It was noted Councillor Appleton was of the opinion some progress was being made within the relevant County council departments. WCC has suggested the Town Council could make a one-off payment to tidy the roundabout up but the consensus was this may lead to further future requests and would be against our original stated sponsors, particularly B-Line do not appear to have used for the intended purpose.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council made it very clear to WCC from the start that we would not be responsible for maintenance of the roundabout in the future. This position to be restated; we will not be making a one-off payment. In addition, the Town Clerk to write to County Council to find out where the sponsorship money already received has been spent.

52.2 Item 2- Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

Correspondence was received from NALC with regard to flying a flag for Commonwealth Day 2017 with order details and costs for the flag sizes. It was pointed out the town does not have a flagpole which would come at some considerable cost and there is no suitable high visibility site to position it.

RESOLVED:

Southam Town Council will not be taking part in the Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth 2017.

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52.3 Item 3 – Planning Applications

Members considered two planning applications. Councillor Ward disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in 16/01922/FUL.

RESOLVED:

16/01765/FUL – 2 Flying Fields Road. No representation

16/01930/VARY – Land West of Banbury Rd. No representation, providing that the suspension of condition 3 of 13/00809/FUL only applies to the re plan of plots 147 to 169 inclusive and the removal of plots 170 and 171.

16/01922/FUL – Holt Farm, Welsh Road East. No representation

52.4 Item 4 – Questions for County & District Councillor

A report from Councillor Crump was relayed as follows:

Banbury Road East application – 210 houses. The recommendation report to the planning committee is that the application be refused.

Given the sensitive nature of the Pendike Street Application Councillor Crump has requested it be referred to planning committee for complete transparency.

At the County Regulatory meeting the Gypsy / Traveller site application has been deferred due to issues of access and lack of a turning circle. Traffic Collision data covering that stretch of the Daventry Road has been sought though a FOI request.

53. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP COMMITTEE MINUTES

Noted

54. SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS MINUTES

Noted

55. GRANGE HALL STEWARDS

RESOLVED:

That Cllr M Connors is the appointed steward to replace Cllr Ellard

56. MEMBERS ITEM – CLLR S EXTON

Wildflower trial areas

From my experience of working with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, and seeing the effect of wildflower planting that the Butterfly Conservation Society have achieved on the Southam bypass, I believe it would be a good idea to investigate integrating the same methods into some of Southam's green spaces.

Wildflower areas can be a very effective and low-cost way of improving the biodiversity and aesthetics of our green spaces by adding variability to a landscape.

Flowering species add a changing palate of colour to the urban environment throughout the seasons, and attract in more pollinating insects. As Southam has a thriving gardening population these pollinators could benefit a large part of our community.

I have had preliminary discussions with Michael Slater from the Butterfly Conservation Society who has advised that it could cost in the region of £1000-£1500.

With this in mind I would like to propose the following resolutions:

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1. **For the council to appoint myself and another councillor (if any are interested) to open a dialogue with our parks contractor, to discuss the practicalities and potential costs of integrating wildflower areas into our parks**
2. **To report back to the council on discussion with contractor, and for the council to then consider an order of works for up to 2 trial wildflower areas, at Merestone Park, The Rec or Tollgate Park (Dependent on the result of discussion with the contractor (see item 1))**

Note: The Trial areas will most likely not be in an “open” area but along a border/edge of the park (The Town Clerk has suggested alongside Riverside Walk and I agree this would be a good location)

3. **Allocation of up to £1000 from Maintenance & Repairs or General Reserves Budget (whichever is most appropriate) to fund the trial areas**
4. **Permission to apply on the council’s behalf for *external* grants/sponsorship, that can be spent to expand further next year if the trial areas are deemed a success (for example Butterfly Banks, wildflower areas, natural orchard)**

The Town Clerk has mentioned that this has been attempted before but complaints were made as:

“One, residents thought it looked a mess and the contractor wasn’t cutting the grass properly, two, dog fouling because of the long grass people were having trouble to see it if when they were trying to pick it up and three, someone tried to make a claim against the Council because their dog hurt themselves on one of the stakes”.

To make use of these learning experiences I suggest we improve community engagement and understanding of the project by taking the following measures:

- Signage at trial sites so that the local community are aware about the project by the council
- Communicating the project through the council newsletter/district advertiser/Facebook etc.
- Look into appropriateness of fencing/barriers and make sure they are safe
- Instead of just letting the grass just grow long like previously, actually plant wildflower seed
- Keep wildflower areas restricted to borders/edges of parks
- Consult with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Rugby Borough Council and the Butterfly Conservation Society to ensure the work is carried out to a high standard

RESOLVED:

i) That members of the Wildflower Working Party are Cllr Exton, Cllr Gaffney and Cllr Toner.

ii) That the Wildflower Working Party is to open a dialogue with the parks contractor, to discuss the practicalities and potential costs of integrating wildflower areas into our parks and report back to Council

57. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Appleton advised the following:

- That a HS2 Community Engagement Manager had been appointed and WCC would be meeting with her in due course

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- That responsibility for the Kineton Road Roundabout had been resolved and the officer responsible is Bryn Wakefield, that Sue Harrison has been asked to draw up a new low maintenance scheme

Cllr Crump advised the following:

- Enforcement action has been taking place regarding fences on the Flying Fields Estate
- That Cllr Bromwich and himself have put forward a motion calling for the establishment of a committee to deal with issues that will arise from the level of approved housing developments in Southam in particular infrastructure and distribution of funds. As part of the motion they have also called for SDC to become a HS2 Qualifying Authority.
- Continuing to work on the Gypsy and Traveller Application and has recently received a report regarding the number accidents on the Southam to Napton road that he will be reviewing

Cllr Bromwich submitted a report and in addition to what is stated above is seeking Mill Hill Ward members to inspect the Mill Hill area in order to put pressure on Orbit to maintain their areas.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Brooks attends such a meeting.

58. RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk be authorised in consultation with the Town Mayor, Deputy mayor and Past Mayor to deal with business arising, which is deemed urgent during the period of the Summer and Christmas recesses, including authorisation of payments.

59. 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

60. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise the payment of staff salaries dated July 2016

61. TITHE PLACE COMMUNITY ROOM LEASE

RESOLVED:

To respond to SDC advising that the Town Council do not want to take back the responsibility for the lease.

62. BURIAL GROUND

RESOLVED:

To respond to the agent stating that the Town Council agree to the terms of entering into the option regarding the one off payment of £2500 and restrictive covenant.

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63. THE PARISH POUND

Noted

Meeting closed at 9.37 pm

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - JULY 2016 ISSUE 2						
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information and link to application	Comments
16/01725/FUL	Mrs Graham Rudd	26 Flying Fields Road, Southam CV47 1GA	Retrospective erection of boundary fence	3rd August 2016	Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Eplanning	No representations
16/02147/OUT	Dallas Burston Property	Dallas Burston Polo Grounds, Stoneythorpe, Southam CV47 2DL	Outline application for erection of 130 bed Hotel; including car parking (retrospective) vehicular access from A425; cycleway A425 and all other necessary and facilitating works. All other matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale)	1st August 2016	Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Eplanning	Objection see attached
16/02092/FUL	Mr Thomas Satinet	24 Welsh Road West, Southam CV47 0JN	Proposed first floor side extension above existing flat roof garage	11th August 2016	Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Eplanning	No representations
16/02009/FUL	Star Pubs & Bars	Bowling Green Inn, Coventry Street, Southam CV47 0EP	Formation of new single storey extension to existing building with retaining wall and steps. Alteration to existing building including new internal and external openings.	15th August 2016	Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Eplanning	Southam Town Council has no representation to this application, subject to the approval of the Conservation Officer
16/02091/REM	Mr Holt, Orbit Homes Ltd	Land adjacent The Service Station, Banbury Road, Southam	Reserved matters application for the erection of 45 dwellings- Layout, Scale, Appearance, Access and Landscaping in accordance with condition 2 of planning permission 14/00503/OUT	16th June 2016	Stratford-on-Avon District Council: Eplanning	Southam Town Council has no representation to this application, subject to the provision of pedestrian safety measures and footways around the service station.
15/04305/OUT - amended	Kier Group	Banbury Road, Access Land East of Southam Bypass, Banbury Road, Southam	Outline application for the erection of 240 dwellings all matters reserved except access	11th August 2016		Southam Town Council reiterates its previous objections to this application. This land is not identified in the Adopted Core Strategy as suitable for development.

16/02147/OUT Dallas Burston Polo Ground 130 bed Hotel

Southam Town Council strongly object to this planning application on the following grounds; the detrimental visual impact it would have on the countryside, that it would create excessive light and noise pollution, that it would increase traffic on the A425, that the height and scale of the buildings would be overdevelopment of the site, the detrimental effects on wildlife, of construction traffic on local roads and would also like to see a limitation on helicopter flights. The Town Council also supports the Environment Agency objections regarding non mains foul drainage and the risk of pollution of rivers.

In addition, the Core Strategy says ‘for schemes involving large scale hotels or similar accommodation in rural locations, the accommodation should be directly associated with the existing use which has to be of such a nature and scale that it can justify the provision of overnight accommodation in its own right. It must be genuinely ancillary to the needs of that use and it will be a requirement for all applicants to justify why the accommodation proposed is appropriate in relation to the particular existing use.’

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Southam Town Council						
JULY 2016 PAYMENTS						
Item No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Gross/Cheque Amount
1	8,24	<u>Mrs Debbie Carro</u>	Land Registry enquiry to establish responsibility for maintaining land £10 replacement plaque Mayors memorial tree £46.00	56.00	0.00	£56.00
2	47	<u>VASA</u>	Reimbursement of volunteer drivers May & June 2016 including admin fee and stationery	1412.75	0.00	£1,412.75
3	ER	<u>Allen Construction Consultancy</u>	Professional services relating to the Parish Pound including site appraisal, application and disbursements	2613.69	522.74	£3,136.43
4	5	<u>Stratford District Council</u>	Southam Neighbourhood Plan initial consultation	3225.00	645.00	£3,870.00
5	R	<u>Barkers Amusements</u>	Refund - Event cancelled - ground too wet	420.00	0.00	£420.00
6	20	<u>NALC</u>	Subscription of Direct Information Service	90.00	18.00	£108.00
7	7	<u>CASH</u>	Postage	250.00	0.00	£250.00
8	24	<u>Mr P Taylor</u>	Gild and drop shadow sign writing of Mayoral Board	70.00	0.00	£70.00
9	44	<u>E-on</u>	Street lights electricity to 31/05/2016 climate change levy to 30/06/2016	1180.06	236.01	£1,416.07
10	46	<u>Limebridge Rural Services Ltd</u>	Grasscutting 6 and 7 of 16 visits	1904.38	380.88	£2,285.26
11	18	Express Press	Newsletter printing and delivery	£345.00	£0.00	£345.00
12	6	Inside It Solutions	Broadband FFTC service 30th Sept 2016	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
13	19	SLCC	10th Edition Arnold Baker Local Council Administration	£76.60	£0.00	£76.60
14	46	4 Counties Ground Maintenance	Churchyard and Tollgate Road grasscutting 2nd & 20th June 2016	£510.00	£102.00	£612.00
15	40	Shaw Loos Ltd	Hire of portable toilets for Southam Carnival	£380.00	£76.00	£456.00
16	19	Viking	Stationery	£44.95	£8.99	£53.94
17	30,37,39, ER	Mr Richard Carro	July contract £688.46 Holywell x2 £42.50 Park Lane Stowe£5, Riverside Walk £5	£740.96	£0.00	£740.96
18	39	Mr Jason Goode	Bus Shelter cleaning x3	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
			TOTALS	13499.39	2016.62	£15,516.01

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