

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2006 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar (Chairman), Blackburn, Emanuel, Fielder, Jones, County Councillor Scott, District Councillor Baines the Parish Clerk and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Capon, Hall, Hubbard, Green, Rook and Stuckey

2. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2006 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Councillor Vacancy

The only response to the notice for interest in being co-opted to the vacancy for the Southill ward had come from a resident of Stanford. It was unanimously agreed that the resident should be considered and that the usual procedure take place which involves an interview by the Chairman or Vice Chairman and the applicant's details being circulated to all Councillors for consideration. The suitability of the applicant can then be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

b) Stanford/Broom Quarry – potential expansion

The Chairman declared an interest in this matter, left the room and vacated the chair in favour of the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman outlined the actions taken since the receipt of the planning application from Tarmac Ltd for the extraction, processing and sale of sand and gravel, erection of a concrete batching plant and construction of improved access to B658. These actions included the formation of a special group of Councillors to formulate the Council's response to the application together with access to the viewing of that application for all members of the public at both Broom and Southill Village Halls as advertised on the Council notice boards. The Councillors present concurred with the actions taken. The Vice Chairman also announced that the Council had received an invitation from the Quarry Action Group to attend a public meeting on 14th November at Broom Village Hall commencing at 8pm. It was agreed that Councillors would attend as private residents if they so wished.

c) Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct

The various documents had been reviewed by Councillors and there were no changes requested. It was therefore unanimously agreed that they be formally adopted by the Council.

4. Police Report

In the absence of PC Schreiner there was no police report.

5. Parish Partnership Scheme

a) Stanford Road Junction Improvements

The Clerk will be arranging a meeting with Cllr. Rook and a representative from the County Council in an attempt to finally resolve the matter.

b) 2005/2006 Scheme

The vehicle activated speed sign was now in place and fully operational.

c) 2006/2007 Scheme

The balance of funding (£1000) required for the vehicle activated speed sign in Broom had been provided by a grant from the Ivel Community Liaison Forum.

d) 2007/2008 Scheme

The vehicle activated speed sign which has previously been agreed for Southill will cost

approximately £5,000 of which £4,000 will be funded by the County Council. It was agreed that Council balances be used for the remaining £1,000.

6. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

There was no report

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

There had not been a meeting of the Group since the last Council meeting.

c) Grass Cutting

It was anticipated that there would be one more cut this year.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - New trees were to be planted on the playing field in due course.

ii) Broom - Little progress on the playing field had been made since the last meeting but Cllr.

Jones agreed to speak to the landlord of the Cock Public House regarding the possible use of land to the rear of the public house for use as a playing field.

iii) Stanford – the playing field association had requested the balance of grant (£300) towards the cost of projects on the playing field. It was agreed that the Clerk inform the association that only a specific project with costs would be considered by the Council.

e) Community Liaison Forum

Cllr. Fielder reported that grants of £250 available from the Forum had been applied for by both Broom and Southill Village Halls.

7. Highway Maintenance

There were a number of concerns regarding the lack of salting on various roads in the parish, particularly in the Broom area and also from the old Southill station towards the A600. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council regarding this matter. Concern was also expressed regarding the potential freezing of water on the entrance to the Tarmac Quarry in Gypsy Lane and the resultant danger. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with the Secretary of the Broom Quarry Liaison Group.

It was noted that the laurel hedge at 22 High Street, Broom, after many requests to the County Council, had finally been repositioned.

8. Broom Village Green

Cllr. Emanuel reported that a number of residents had expressed their concern regarding the safety of children playing football on the green. Councillors agreed that safety was a problem but there was little the Council could do to resolve the situation. Any form of fence or barrier would not be welcomed by the majority of residents. The only possible solution was to provide another area or playing field for the children, but despite many efforts there had been little success with this project. Min. 6 (d) ii above refers further to the proposed action on this matter.

9. Parish Council Website

A dummy website had recently been made available for Councillors to view, and all comments were extremely positive. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Blackburn, together with the Clerk, be given delegated authority to progress the matter with a view to making the site 'live' when it was considered appropriate. Thanks were expressed to local parishioner, Mr. D. Emmett, who had very kindly undertaken a considerable amount of work on the website free of charge.

10. Planning Applications and Decisions

a) Applications considered

Tree Nursery, Yew Tree Farm, School Lane, Southill

Installation of eight floodlights

No objections

Land at Fir Screen Nurseries, Broom Road, Stanford

Erection of two detached houses and two double detached garages

No objections

Land at 'Bircham', 8 High Road, Broom

Section 73 – variation of conditions 1 & 2 (duration of consent) attached to planning permission 03/01424 – renewal of outline planning permission for one dwelling

No objections

Church of All Saints, Old Warden Road, Southill

Single storey extension to provide new kitchen, toilet and meeting room facilities

No objections

Woodlands, Old School Lane, Stanford

Ground floor extension

No objections

27 Southill Road, Broom

Two storey rear extension with single storey store

No objections

Gracious Farm, High street, Southill

Change of use from agricultural to B1 (light industrial) and B8 (storage)

No objections

b) Decisions – Approvals

Gracious Farm, High Street, Southill

New access and access road

Tree Nursery, Yew Tree farm, School Lane, Southill

Installation of eight floodlights

Land at 'Bircham', 8 High Road, Broom

Section 73 – variation of conditions 1 & 2 (duration of consent) attached to planning permission 03/01424 – renewal of outline permission for one dwelling

11. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	15,603.58
Business Premium Account	14,391.66

b) Payments

The following accounts have been received and were approved for payment :

		£
Southill Lower School	Hire of room	25.00
A. R. Worboys	Grass cutting	768.51
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Sept./Oct.2006	837.91
Southill Sawmills Ltd	3 Picnic benches – Stanford PFA	234.98

c) Expenditure Review 2006/06

The Clerks review of expenditure to date and projected probable out-turn was noted by the Council. The Chairman asked that any suggestions to be included in next year's precept be passed to the Clerk by 4th December 2006.

d) Request for a financial grant

The Chairman outlined a request from Broom Village Hall for further assistance towards the cost of resurfacing the main hall floor. A grant of £250 had previously been awarded. After discussion the Council awarded an additional £250.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Bedfordshire County Council

Emergency Planning Briefing

b) Mid Beds District Council

Forward Plan
Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group
Community Safety Updates and Alerts
Use of Fireworks
Calendar of Meetings

c) Bedfordshire ATPC

Bedfordshire Bugle - September

d) Beds. Police

Internal Reorganisation

d) Other

Watch Wide News – Autumn Edition
Tarmac Ltd. – Information letter re planning application
Southill Village Hall – letter of thanks for grant aid
Standards Board for England - Newsletter
Dept. of Health – Health Profile for Mid Bedfordshire

13. Dates for Meetings in 2007

The following dates were agreed :

Tuesday 16 th January	Broom	Monday 12 th March	Southill
Monday 14 th May (AGM)	Southill	Tuesday 3 rd July	Broom
Monday 10 th September	Southill	Tuesday 6 th November	Broom

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.40pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 16th January 2007 commencing at 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

At a general meeting before the Parish Council Meeting the following points were raised by the public : -

- Concern over lack of salting on roads in and close to Broom.