

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2007 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Egar (Chairman), Blackburn, Capon, Emanuel, Fielder, Green, Hall, Hubbard, Jones, Rook County Councillor Scott, District Councillors Baines and Gillett, the Parish Clerk and six members of the public.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies

2. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2006 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Councillor Vacancy

It was proposed by Cllr. Fielder and seconded by Cllr. Egar that Mr. N. Hickman be co-opted to fill the existing vacancy on the Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Council and Mr. Hickman took his place alongside other Councillors. Although Mr. Hickman is resident in Stanford he will be representing the Southill electorate.

b) Stanford/Broom Quarry – potential expansion

The Vice Chairman, Cllr. Fielder reported that a letter outlining the Council's objections to the planning application had been sent to the County Council. All Councillors had received a copy of the said letter, and if any members of the public wished to view the letter they should contact the Clerk who would make a copy available.

c) Parish Council Website

The Clerk reported that the website would hopefully be live within the next few days and could be accessed via www.southillparishcouncil.gov.uk. It was agreed that links to other community organisations within the parish would be welcomed.

4. Police Report

PC Holbrook was in attendance for the first time and introduced himself as the new beat officer for Broom and Stanford. He reported that following a reorganisation within the County there would be two officers involved in the parish area. PC Paterson was the beat officer for Southill and it was hoped he would be able to attend future meetings.

5. Parish Partnership Scheme

a) Stanford Road Junction Improvements

The Clerk is to meet with a representative from the County Council in an attempt to finally resolve the matter.

b) 2006/2007 Scheme

The vehicle activated speed sign is now in place in Broom although not yet fully functional.

c) 2007/2008 Scheme

A vehicle activated speed sign has previously been agreed for Southill. The exact location will be determined by local Councillors and the County Council.

It was noted that the recently installed speed sign in Stanford was not functioning correctly. The Clerk will report the matter to the County Council.

6. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

Cllr. Rook reported that 66 children were attending school of which 53 were full time and 13 part time. The new term had commenced on 4th January 2007 and years 3 and 4 had commenced swimming lessons.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

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

c) Grass Cutting

The last cut had been late and affected by bad weather. Cllr. Green had received prices for next years cutting from the present contractor but was of the opinion that the service could be a little better. It was agreed that Cllr. Green obtain an alternative quote and report back to the Council.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - New trees were to be planted on the playing field in due course. Cllr. Hubbard reported that the new curtains had been installed in the village hall and he informed Councillors that a website for the hall was now up and running.

ii) Broom - Little progress on the playing field had been made since the last meeting due to lack of available land and trustees willing to take on the project. The Clerk was asked to contact Greene King plc regarding potential land to the rear of the Cock Public House.

iii) Stanford – Cllr. Hickman reported that the AGM of the Playing Field Association was being held on 17th January at 7pm in the Green Man Public House.

e) Community Liaison Forum

Grants of £250 available from the Forum had been received by both Broom and Southill Village Halls. It was agreed that Cllr. Hickman would replace Cllr. Fielder as Council representative on this group.

7. Highway Maintenance

It was noted that repairs to the footpaths in The Woodlands, Broom had taken place recently, but the footpaths in Birch Close, Kings Road, and Bancroft Avenue, Broom were in a poor condition and also needed repair.

There was a problem with cars parking on the area of grass in Bancroft Avenue and the Clerk was asked to ascertain who owned this piece of land.

The 30mph speed roundels outside the White Horse in Broom need repairing.

8. Tree Felling in Parish

Cllr. Egar outlined the situation regarding the felling of dangerous trees by roadsides and the environmentally friendly policy adopted by Southill Estates whereby all trees felled are replaced. If any trees are potentially dangerous they should be reported to the Estate Office for action.

9. Potential withdrawal of rural bus services.

Cllr. Rook expressed the view of many local parishioners over the anticipated withdrawal of the local bus service. She went on to say that many people would be affected by this unacceptable action and in particular pensioners and younger people. County Councillor Scott responded by stating that the County Council were doing all they could to try and reinstate some of the affected routes and hopefully there would be some positive news within the next week. Notwithstanding the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council expressing the Parish Councils strong concerns in this matter.

10. Planning Applications and Decisions

a) Applications considered

Hazelwood, Old School Lane, Stanford

Erection of one replacement detached dwelling and detached garage.

No objections

Southill Station, Shefford Road, Southill

Erection of garage/workshop building

No objections

Black Horse Cottage, Southill Road, Broom

Certificate of Lawful Development : Erection of summerhouse

Awaiting comments

b) Decisions – Approvals

Woodlands, Old School Lane, Stanford

Ground floor rear extension

27 Southill Road, Broom

Two storey rear extension with single storey store

11. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	13,240.97
Business Premium Account	14,429.34

b) Payments

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

		£
Broom Village Hall	Hire of room	25.00
Lubbock Fine	External Audit Fee	411.25
A. R. Worboys	Grass cutting	363.08
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Nov./Dec.2006	836.90
Southill PCC	Contribution towards 'Outlook'	332.55
Southill PCC	Contribution towards churchyard maintenance	244.41

c) External audit for the year ended 31st March 2006

It was noted that the Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006 had been approved by the external auditor. This had taken longer than usual due to the higher levels of expenditure and income than in previous years. The fee charged by the auditors had increased as a result.

d) Precept for 2007/2008

The Chairman explained in some detail the various items contained in the estimates for 2007/089 making relevant comparisons with the probable results for 2006/07. He went on to explain that the Council balances were relatively high and that the proposed shortfall contained in the figures could be accommodated whilst still conforming to the agreed policy of retaining approximately one year's expenditure on reserve. Accordingly the Chairman proposed a precept for the coming year of £10,750 (an increase of £250). This was unanimously supported by all Councillors present. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for his hard work and support throughout the year.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Bedfordshire County Council

Highway Design Guide

New procedures for implementation of traffic

Regulation Orders

Planning Application for extension to Broom Quarry and land to east of Gypsy Lane has now been determined

b) Mid Beds District Council

Forward Plan

Notes from meeting re future of Bedford Hospital

Community Service Project Work
Hurricane Magazine

c) Local MP

Copy of letter sent to Beds.CC re potential expansion of quarry site

d) Other

Watch Wide News – Winter edition
Bedfordshire Bugle – January 2007
Beds PFA Newsletter

13. Next Meeting – Monday 12th March 2007, 7.00pm at Southill Lower School

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.05pm.

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

- Concern over lack of safe area for children to play in Broom
- Concern over withdrawal of rural bus services
- Bedfordshire County Council to submit bid for unitary authority