

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2007 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Ablett, Blackburn, Butcher, Fielder, Green, Hickman, Jones, Litchfield, Revelle, Rook, Taylor, County Councillor Scott, District Councillors Baines and Barker, the Parish Clerk and five members of the public.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies received.

2. Welcome of new Councillors

The Chairman welcomed the four new Councillors to their first meeting of the Parish Council, briefly explaining the various procedures in place and advising them to view the Councils website for details of the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2007 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Village Signs

The Chairman advised that the signs had now been ordered by the Clerk and that delivery was anticipated in about six weeks.

b) Vehicle Speeding in Broom

Cllr. Butcher advised that she had consulted with residents and the other Broom Councillors as to the most appropriate speed reduction measures. The most popular choice was a camera, but chicanes were a possible alternative although there were safety concerns in this regard. In any event, all Councillors were unanimous that a higher police presence was required not only in Broom, but also in Stanford where speeding was also a problem. The possibility of employment of a PCSO could also be considered in the future if their powers were extended to cover speeding offences. Another consideration was to request a reduction in the current speed limits in the three villages. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council and the police on all these issues.

c) Appointment of School Governor

As Cllr. Rook was stepping down as the Parish Council Governor at Southill Lower School after eight years, another Councillor was required to replace her. Any interested Councillor should contact the Clerk or Chairman.

d) Replacement signs, Bancroft Avenue, Broom

Following the last meeting quotes had been sort and the most appropriate was £200 for two aluminium signs. It was agreed to go ahead with this item and that it be funded from the general fund allocation for Broom.

e) Stanford/Broom Quarry – potential expansion

Cllr. Egar declared an interest and vacated the Chair for this item. Cllr. Fielder reported that Tarmac had supplied additional supporting information regarding the environmental impact assessment. He advised that although there was nothing to object to in this information, the Parish Council should reaffirm its objection to the potential expansion. This action was supported by those present. It was also agreed that the Special Interest Group for Highways consider the possibility of a new roundabout on the B658 and contact the County Council through the Clerk.

5. Police Report

PC Holbrook was in attendance and advised Councillors of the latest crime figures affecting the Parish.

6. Parish Partnership Scheme

a) Stanford Road Junction Improvements

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had taken place with himself, County Cllr. Scott and a representative from Amey, the County Council's highway contractor, but that due to safety concerns and funding issues the County Council were very reluctant to complete these works. The Parish Council were of the opinion however, that the works should go ahead and urged the County to complete them as soon as possible.

b) 2007/2008 Scheme

The Clerk reported that the County Council had now appointed new contractors and it was hoped the sign would be in position by the end of October.

7. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

As the new term had only just started there was nothing to report

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

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

c) Grass Cutting

Cllr. Green reported that six cuts had been carried out to date with two still to be undertaken. Dependant on weather conditions an additional cut (ie nine in total) might be needed and approval was given should it be necessary. It was also agreed that the Special Interest Group review the areas in the Parish that are included within the contract.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - Nothing to report

ii) Broom – Nothing to report

iii) Stanford – Cllr. Hickman reported that working parties had undertaken minor safety works on the playing field and that the Playing Field Association annual fund raising event was taking place on 30th September at 1.30pm. Revenue funding was still a problem and there could possibly be a request to the Parish Council for assistance in this matter.

e) Community Liaison Forum

The next meeting will be on 17th September, 7.30pm at Ickwell Village Hall, Cllrs Butcher and Litchfield to attend. Cllr. Litchfield reported that at the previous meeting the issue of 'cold calling zones' was addressed. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk apply for the packs which are available for distribution in Southill and Stanford.

f) Parish Council Website

Cllr. Blackburn asked that he or Cllr. Hickman be advised of any forthcoming events within the Parish so that the website can be regularly updated.

g) Membership Review

The membership of the Groups had now been finalised and this would remain in force until May 2008.

8. Bedfordshire County Council – Communities Fund

The Chairman reported that the consultation form had been completed and forwarded to the County Council. Further details have been promised from the County shortly.

9. Highway Maintenance

A number of maintenance issues were raised (see attached list) and the Clerk was asked to forward these to the County Council. The Chairman reminded members that it was not necessary to wait until the meeting to report these matters, but to inform the Clerk as soon as the problems occur.

10. Planning Applications and Decisions

a) Applications considered

Land between 20 and 22 Stanford Road, Southill

Detached dwelling – erection of detached house with parking area

Objection forwarded to District Council

132 Ireland

Single storey side extension

No objections

Land on the north side of Old Rowney Farm, Ireland

Erection of corn store, machinery and fertilizer store with hardstanding and 2 metre high earth bund.

No objections

White Horse Public House, Broom

Erection of smoking shelter

No objections

Old Inn Cottage, Broom Road, Stanford

Rebuild derelict barn to form double garage

No objections

Southill House, Southill Park, Southill

Internal alterations and alterations to steps and balustrading

No objections

Church of All Saints, Old Warden Road, Southill

Single storey extension to provide meeting room to let and store.

No majority objection, comments passed to District Council

Decisions – Approvals

The Old Vicarage, School Lane, Southill

First floor side extension and bay windows to kitchen

Hazelwood, Old School Lane, Stanford

Erection of one replacement detached dwelling and detached garage

Decisions – Refusals

None.

b) Review of procedure for applications

The Chairman outlined his proposal for a number of changes to the current system for reviewing planning applications. This involved an amended form for completion but more importantly asked that where a Councillor might have an objection to a particular application he or she contact the other village councillors to advise them of that objection. Should a casting vote be necessary within a particular village, the Chairman or Vice Chairman would be consulted. Councillors were also asked that the Clerk be advised of any holidays that were to be taken by them. This would help speed up the process. This review was unanimously approved by the Council. It was also agreed that where a planning application in a particular village might have an impact on all of the Parish, that application be made available to those Councillors that wished to view and comment on it.

11. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	16,620.17
Business Premium Account	14,526.73

b) Payments

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

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Southill Lower School	Hire of room	25.00
MJ Granger Grounds Mtce.	Grass cutting	461.78
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MJ Granger Grounds Mtce	Grass cutting	223.25
MJ Granger Grounds Mtce.	Grass cutting	282.00
Beds Rural Charities Charity	Annual subscription	30.00
Beds Playing Fields Assoc.	Annual subscription	25.00
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses July/Aug. 2007	859.39

c) Annual Return & Statement of Assurance for the year ended 31st March 2007

Following receipt of a 'clean report' from the internal auditor, the Council approved the accounts and their release for external audit. The 'Statement of Assurance' for the year ended 31st March 2007 was duly approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <u>a) Beds. County Council -</u> | Highways Representative Scheme (<u>Clerk nominated</u>)
Highways 5 Year Programme 2008 – 2013 Consultation
'We love Bedfordshire'
Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan |
| <u>b) Mid Beds District Council -</u> | Forward Plan
Standards Board – Bulletin 34
Local Strategic Partnership Newsletter
Community Plan – Progress Report
Comprehensive Performance Assessment
Funding & Grant Opportunities
Local Democracy Week – w/c 15 th October |
| <u>c) General Correspondence -</u> | |
| Beds. RCC | Annual General Meeting – 12 th September, Henlow
Youth Engagement Workshop – 14 th November, Cardington
Village Hall , 7.00- 9.30pm.
'Network' August 2007 |
| Beds. ATPC | Bedfordshire Bugle
Councillor induction training for new members |
| Beds Police | Watch Wide News, Summer 2007. |
| Beds. Playing Field Assoc. | Newsletter, Summer 2007 ; Ashley Watkins Trophy |

13. Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th November, 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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

- Concern over potential flooding from blocked ditch in High Road, Broom
- Full membership of the Parish Council was acknowledged and Councillors thanked for their time and effort.
- The Government would decide in due course over unitary status for Bedfordshire
- The County Council's preferred sites for mineral extraction would be announced shortly

Appendix

Ref. Min No. 9

List of Highway Maintenance Items :

Poor condition of School Lane, Stanford
Inadequate deviation signs, Junction of Stanford Road and The Crescent, Stanford
White lines not repainted after resurfacing at Mill Road/Clifton Road, Stanford
Culverts and drains need cleaning – Clifton Road, Stanford
Road in Ireland leading to cottages not been maintained for 25 years
Some footpaths in Stanford overgrown
Problems with newly erected crash barriers in Gypsy Lane, Broom (Cllr. Green)
Pavements in Kings Road, Broom need resurfacing
Concerns over potential flooding from ditch in High Road/High Street, Broom