

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2008 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL

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

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cllrs. Blackburn and Litchfield

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr. Egar was proposed as Chairman by Cllr. Fielder and seconded by Cllr. Hickman. There being no other nominations Cllr. Egar was unanimously elected as Chairman.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr. Egar proposed and Cllr. Butcher seconded Cllr. Fielder. There being no other nominations Cllr. Fielder was unanimously elected as Chairman.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar 11(b) , Cllr. Hickman Items 9(d) and 12(c)

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Litter Pick

At the recent litter pick, six volunteers helped in Broom with three in Southill and two in Stanford. Despite the appalling weather it was very successful.

b) Bedfordshire Communities Fund

It was reported that the application for a vehicle activated speed sign had been approved by the County Council. It had been previously approved that the sign should be situated in Broom and it was agreed that the precise location would be determined by Cllr. Fielder and any other interested Broom Councillor.

7. Police Report

PC Holbrook was in attendance and advised Councillors of the latest crime figures affecting the Parish. He agreed to monitor the situation regarding youths congregating at the bus shelter in Broom. It was reported that the bus shelter was in a unacceptable condition with lots of graffiti and accumulated rubbish. It was agreed that Broom Councillors would regularly clear the rubbish and the Clerk was asked to write to Tarmac Ltd. to ask whether they would apply some anti graffiti paint to the shelter.

8. Parish Partnership Scheme

a) Stanford Road Junction Improvements

The Clerk together with Cllr. Rook will attempt to review the situation with the new area steward from Bedfordshire County Council.

b) 2007/2008 Scheme

The vehicle activated speed sign in Southill on the road from Broom is now in place and operative. Cllr. Revelle expressed his displeasure with the visual aspect of the sign and went on to advise Councillors of the lack of accidents in the area which should therefore not necessitate such a sign. He further proposed that the sign should be removed. A vote was

taken on this proposal and did not receive any support from other Councillors.

c) Enhanced Scheme 2008/09

Cllr. Fielder had undertaken a survey of footpaths in Broom and proposed that the available funding should be used to refurbish these areas. To date there had been no proposals for either Stanford or Southill. Due to the strict deadlines involved in applying for funding, the matter was delegated to Cllr. Fielder, and if there were any areas in the other villages which needed attention, details should be passed to Cllr. Fielder without delay.

9. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

There was nothing to report

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for 4th June 2008. It was noted that there had been no response from Tarmac regarding further screening along Gypsy Lane.

c) Grass Cutting

Two cuts had been undertaken to date and a flail cut would soon be undertaken. Approval was given to Cllr. Green to purchase some weedkiller.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - Nothing to report

ii) Broom – Nothing to report

iii) Stanford – A working party will take place to re-site the picnic tables and paint the fence. Fund raising will continue with the annual duck race in September and a resident will be running 105 miles along the Icknield Way to raise funds for the Playing Field Association as well as the St. John's Hospice.

e) Community Liaison Forum

The next meeting will be held on 9th June 2008.

f) Parish Council Website

It was previously reported that a security weakness had been identified, which left the Council's web site at risk of hi-jack. A temporary measure was put in place which mitigated the risk but left the Council dependent on an external web site technician for all updates to the site. This has worked well but is not in the best interests of the Council or the technician for this to be a permanent solution.

A technical redesign is now almost complete. This addresses the security risk and gives control of the website back to the Council. The web site address remains the same and the existing content of the site is preserved with some changes in the way the content is presented. The Council will also gain the ability to better present Council and community notices.

The management guidelines for the website state changes of this nature should be reviewed and approved by the Special Interest Group and the Chairman and Vice Chairman. This will be undertaken no later than 18th May and assuming approval is obtained it will be published the following week.

g) Communications

Cllr. Hickman reported that summaries of Council meetings now appear in 'Outlook'.

10. Highway Maintenance

The following highway issues were reported and would be reported to the County Council in the usual way :

The gullies in Clifton Road, Stanford and High Street, Broom need clearing.

A large pot hole outside 'Southill Station' needs repairing.

B658 Stanford : pot holes near to the Old Inn Cottage; 40mph roundel near Old School Lane need repainting; drainage problems close to junction with The Crescent.

Road surface repairs and surface water drainage problems in Mill Road, Stanford

11. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

Five Gables, Birch Close, Broom

Horse chestnut crown thinned and overhanging branches shortened to form a more compact and lighter crown **No objections**

Land at Bircham, High Road, Broom

Erection of 4 bed detached dwelling with garage attached **No objections**

The Ranger, Broom Road, Stanford

Single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing flat roof extension.

Extension of pitched roof over the south west gable extension of sunpipe to

existing roof space

No objections but concerns over proposed extension to roof line and detrimental impact on immediate neighbours

b) MBDC Decisions – Approvals

None

c) MBDC Decisions – Refusals

None

d) Local Development Framework

Cllr. Fielder advised that the decisions made by the Council at the last meeting had now been passed on to the District Council. Further information from the District Council is anticipated around September 2008.

12. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	15,505.34
Business Premium Account	14,700.43

b) Payments

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

	£
Broom Village Hall	25.00
Allianz Insurance	1132.96
M J Granger Grounds Mtce.	950.58
P.D. Knightley	436.00
Hire of room	
Insurance premium renewal	
Grass cutting	
Clerk's duties & expenses April 2008	

c) Request for financial assistance – Stanford Playing Field Assoc.

Approval was given to a grant of £82.99 to the Association for the cost of a slow growing 'amenity grass mix' to sow around the perimeter of the hard surface play area on the playing field.

13. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Beds. County Council Safeguarding Adults

b) Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan

c) General Correspondence –

Beds Rural Communities Charity - April edition of 'Network'

14. Next Meeting - Monday 7th July 2008, 7.00pm at Southill Lower School

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

At a general meeting before the Parish Council Meeting there were no points raised by the public.

