

# **SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Blackburn, Fielder, Gower, Green, Hall, Litchfield, Rook, County Councillor Scott, District Councillors Baines and Barker the Parish Clerk and five members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ablett, Butcher, Hickman and Jones

### **2. New Councillor**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Hall to his first meeting as a new Councillor. Councillor Hall will be representing the Southill ward.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

### **4. Declarations of Interest from Members**

Declarations were as follows : Cllrs. Egar, 11(b), Cllr. Litchfield 8(d)iii.

### **5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

#### **a) Bedfordshire County Council – Communities Fund**

The new vehicle activated speed sign in Broom is now in position and operational.

### **6. Police Report**

PC Holbrook was in attendance and advised Councillors of the latest crime figures affecting the Parish. He also reported that there were continuing reports of anti social behaviour from a small group of youths in Broom. He will attempt to work with local residents to resolve the problem. It was noted that the recent repairs to the bus shelter in Broom following vandalism, had been undertaken by Tarmac Ltd. and the Council expressed their thanks in this regard.

### **7. Parish Partnership Scheme**

#### **a) Enhanced Scheme 2008/09**

Cllr. Fielder reported that the footpath repairs due to be undertaken by the County Council at The Crescent, Stanford, Stanford Road, Southill and Bancroft Road, Broom had now been undertaken satisfactorily. There was, however, a small area of paving in The Crescent which still needed repair and it was hoped this would be carried out in the future.

### **8. Special Interest Groups' Reports**

#### **a) School**

In Cllr. Ablett's absence there was no report.

#### **b) Broom Quarry Liaison**

Cllr Green reported that after local government reorganisation there would be no changes to the current mineral services team at County Hall. The composition of the future liaison group would not be known until the new authority (Central Bedfordshire) is up and running. There will not be new roundabouts at either the entrance to the new site (Broom South/Stanford) or at Broom crossroads but there will be traffic analysis undertaken of vehicles entering and leaving the site. Tarmac has agreed to screening of the new site and the Special Interest Group is keen to ensure the trees planted are as mature as possible within the limited timescales available. The issue of Section 106 monies was discussed fully and it was agreed that a long list of desirable items should be formulated. Any suggestions from Councillors or local organisations such as village halls should be forwarded to the Special Interest Group (Quarry Liaison) who will co-ordinate the requests before presentation to the Council at a future meeting.

#### **c) Grass Cutting**

There were no issues arising.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - There was nothing to report

ii) Broom – There was nothing to report

iii) Stanford – The Annual General Meeting of the Playing Field Assoc. will take place on 28th January, 7.30pm at the Green Man Public House. A letter had been sent from PC Holbrook to neighbouring properties of the playing field regarding anti social behaviour. A memorial tree had been replanted and was now making good progress.

e) Community Liaison Forum

There had been no attendance from the Council at the latest meeting.

f) Parish Council Website

To date there have been ten subscribers to the subscription service. The site is currently up to date with all information.

**9. Young Gardener Award 2009**

Councillor Gower outlined his proposals for this scheme and after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council in principle supports the scheme. Councillor Gower will bring forward more detail together with funding proposals to a future meeting of the Council.

**10. Highway Maintenance**

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

The condition of the B658 close to the junction with The Crescent, Stanford is deteriorating and breaking up. It is extremely dangerous especially to cyclists.

Pot hole on pavement close to the entrance to Broom Hall.

New gully required by 15 -17 High Street, Broom where the water is draining very slowly

**11. Planning Matters**

a) Applications considered

Southill House, Southill Park, Southill

Listed Building Consent : Internal alterations to ground and first floor. External alterations to new entrance and roof, including two new bathroom vents

**No objections**

b) MBDC Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

None to report

c) Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

**12. Financial Matters**

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
|                          | £         |
| Community Account        | 9,574.99  |
| Business Premium Account | 14,794.97 |

b) Payments

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

|                       |                                                                        |        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Broom Village Hall    | Hire of room                                                           | 25.00  |
| Southill Lower School | Contribution towards the cost of grass cutting the playing field       | 400.00 |
| Southill Lower School | Contribution towards the cost of litter clearance on the playing field | 100.00 |
| Southill PCC          | Contribution towards the costs of producing 'Outlook'                  | 252.00 |
| Southill PCC          | Contribution towards the cost of churchyard maintenance                | 254.10 |
| P. D. Knightley       | Clerk's duties & expenses Nov. Dec. 2008                               | 861.32 |

c) Precept for 2009/2010

The Chairman explained in some detail the various items contained in the estimates for 2009/10 making relevant comparisons with the probable result for 2008/09. He went on to explain that the Council balances were still relatively high and the proposed shortfall could be accommodated whilst 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 £11,500 which was at the same level as the current year. This, he felt, acknowledged the current economic climate. This proposal was unanimously supported by all Councillors present. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for his hard work and support throughout the year.

### **13. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Bedfordshire County Council - Prioritised highways work programme  
Farewell reception for Town and Parish Councils

b) Mid Beds District Council - Standards Board for England - bulletin

c) General Correspondence -  
Communities & Local Government Consultation on local authority publicity  
Beds Assoc. Town & Parish Councils Bedfordshire Bugle

### **14. Next Meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 7.00pm at Southill Lower School**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.05 pm

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

- Speeding problems and accidents on B658 in Stanford
- Suggestions from a Stanford resident for items of benefit to the local community that could be funded by the Section 106 Agreement were as follows :
  - Additional vehicle activated speed sign on Clifton Road, Stanford, facing vehicles approaching the sharp left hand bend from Clifton
  - Drainage improvements opposite 112 – 115 Mill Road, Stanford, providing a lasting solution to the drainage problem
  - Filling in gaps in the hedging around the boundaries of the Stanford Playing Field
  - Funding for a Kick Wall on the Stanford Playing Field to reduce vandalism to the fences of adjoining properties
  - New, larger, more reliable mower for the Stanford playing field to make it less time consuming for the volunteers who cut the grass.
- Request for funding from the Section 106 Agreement for floor repairs at Broom Village Hall
- Thanks were passed on to the Parish Council for the great improvement in the surface of the footpaths in Bancroft Avenue, Broom