

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2009 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Ablett, Butcher, Fielder, Green, Hall, Hickman, Jones, Litchfield, County Councillor Scott, the Parish Clerk and six members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Blackburn, Gowers, Rook and District Councillors Barker and Baines.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar, 9(b), Cllrs.Hickman and Litchfield 6(d)iii.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Police Report

In the absence of PC Holbrook there was no police report. The Chairman commented that there had been a spate of burglaries in the areas recently.

6. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

Cllr. Ablett reported that of the 63 children in school, 57 were full time and 6 were part time. She also reported that the headteacher will be retiring and the process of appointing a replacement was now in place. The school governors had decided to apply for funding for a new classroom under the Section 106 agreement relating to the Broom South/Stanford Quarry.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

There had not been a meeting of the liaison group since the last Council meeting but Cllr. Green reported that extractions had recommenced on the extension site and the tree planting on Broom South/Stanford site was now underway. It is understood that there is to be a twelve month postponement to commence works on the new site. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether this delay would affect the timing of the availability of Section 106 funding.

On the subject of Section 106 funding Cllr. Hickman reported that a draft list of potential schemes had been prepared and circulated to all Councillors. The list could be amended over the coming weeks and if there is any more information available Cllr. Hickman will be co-ordinating.

At this point Cllr. Hickman proposed a resolution which stated :

1. The draft list is adopted as a working list of items to be requested by Southill Parish Council to receive Section 106 funding from Tarmac Ltd. in relation to the development of Broom South/Stanford Quarry.
2. Southill Parish Council's Special Interest Group is authorised to represent the Council in using the working list to make requests for funding, at a meeting of the yet to be formed Quarry Liaison Group or through any other process that is required by Bedfordshire County Council (or Central Bedfordshire Council as appropriate).
3. The Special Interest Group is authorised to add, remove, change and prioritise items on the working list to create a final list. This should be done in consultation with all Parish Councillors but does not require formal endorsement at a Council meeting should the relative timing of events make that impractical.
4. The Parish Council's Communications Special Interest Group is required to publicise the working list via the usual channels (Council web site, notice boards, Biggleswade Chronicle Village News and Outlook, the church and community magazine) and ask for comment.

Following a brief discussion the resolution was unanimously adopted by the Council.

The Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr. Hickman for all his hard work on this matter.

c) Grass Cutting

There were no issues arising. Cllr. Green will contact the contractor when he considers cutting is necessary.

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. took place on 28th January and the same committee was reformed. A recent working party had undertaken normal maintenance items on the playing field. Unfortunately there had been some vandalism recently but the affected items had now been repaired. The Association will give a full report of its activities at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

e) Community Liaison Forum

There had been no attendance from the Council at the latest meeting, which was the last in its present format. A similar forum could be in place under Central Bedfordshire.

f) Parish Council Website

Nothing specific to report. The site is currently up to date with all information.

7. Young Gardener Award 2009

In the absence of Councillor Gowers this item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. 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 through Stanford is in a dangerous condition with the surface continually breaking up. The Clerk reported that the County Council had promised action.

Old School Lane, Stanford – the 30mph sign had fallen down.

9. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

Gracious Farm House, High Street Southill

Dismantle existing internal walls and prop up gable end. Excavate post hole footings, form foundations for new post and introduce new oak cross beam. Replace all existing windows with oak framed and leaded joinery. Remove exterior 'tyralene' paint finish from render to paint with breathable exterior paint.

No objection

Land to the south of Broom, Broom Road, Stanford

Proposal scheme for details of landscaping pursuant to condition 37 of planning permission 28/2008

**No objection but a request forwarded for an
Increase in the size of trees to be planted.**

Broom Quarry, Gypsy Lane, Broom

Variation of condition 12 of planning permission 21/2006 to allow the importation of cement.

No objection

Broom Quarry, Gypsy Lane, Broom

Proposal scheme for application for prior approval for the erection of a concrete batching plant

**No objection but temporary installation should
be removed at the same time as the other plant**

b) MBDC Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

None to report

c) Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

d) Wind turbines, Edworth Road, Langford

The Council considered the planning application for the erection of 16 wind turbines at the above site. A detailed and informative discussion took place debating the concerns over noise and the visual blight compared to the need for renewable energy. A motion was put before the Council to completely object to the application which was supported by five councillors to three with one abstention. Under Standing Order 10 the record of voting was as follows :

For the motion – Cllrs. Ablett, Butcher, Fielder, Jones and Litchfield

Against the motion – Cllrs. Green, Hall and Hickman

Abstention – Cllr. Egar

10. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :	£
Community Account	8,182.57
Business Premium Account	14,794.97

b) Payments

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

Southill Lower School	Hire of room	25.00
Kantara Ltd.	Web site fees	189.86
P. D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Jan. Feb. 2009	857.89
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses March 2009	423.00
Beds. ATPC	Annual affiliation fees	210.00
Mole Begone	Web hosting fees	62.02

11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

- a) Bedfordshire County Council - Mobile Libraries and Library Link Services
Temporary diversion – part of footpaths 5 and 28
Confident Communities Fund – Feedback form
- b) Mid Beds District Council - Submission of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies
Local Inquiry – Planning App. 08/02025/LDC – Land at Silver Lake Farm, Clifton
Appeal lodged against Enforcement Notice against The Green Man, Stanford
- c) General Correspondence -
Beds Assoc. Town & Parish Councils Bedfordshire Bugle
Beds. Rural Charities Commission Village of the Year Competition
Review of MBDC Cycle Route Mapping Project
Beds. Playing Fields Assoc. Winter Newsletter
BDO Stoy Howard Local Council Briefing – Spring 2009

12. Next Meeting – Monday 11th May 2009, 7.00pm at Southill Lower School

The Annual Parish Meeting will also take place on this date to commence at 8.00pm

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.50 pm

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

- The long awaited drainage improvements at Mill Lane, Stanford are now complete and therefore Section 106 monies will not be required.
- Parish Council asked to vote against the proposed wind farm in Langford.
- The new local authority, Central Bedfordshire, will commence on 1st April 2009 but existing Councillors will remain in office until the election in June.