

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2009 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Blackburn, Butcher, Gowers, Green, Hall, Hickman, Jones, Litchfield, Rook, County Councillor Scott, District Councillor Baines, the Parish Clerk and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ablett and Fielder and District Councillor Barker.

2. Election of Chairman

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

3. Election of Vice Chairman

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

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2009 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar, 14(b), Cllrs.Hickman and Litchfield 12(d)iii.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

7. County Councillor John Scott

As this meeting was to be his last, the Chairman thanked Cllr. Scott for all his hard work and invaluable support he had given the parish over a period of sixteen years. During that time Cllr. Scott had held a number of key positions within the County Council and was to be congratulated on his excellent public service. The Chairman's comments were endorsed by all those present. The Chairman also thanked District Councillors Baines and Barker for their time serving the Parish Council

8. Police Report

PC Holbrook was in attendance and advised Councillors of the latest crime figures. Concern was expressed to PC Holbrook over the lack of police presence with speed guns in the villages. Previous promises made at the Community Liaison Forum regarding an increased presence do not appear to have materialised. PC Holbrook and the Clerk will follow up this complaint. PC Holbrook, who has been addressing youth issues in Broom, asked that an additional bench be provided in the bus shelter as this had been requested by the youths. The Council were happy to agree and Cllr. Jones will liaise with PC Holbrook over this matter.

9. Commemorative Tree

Mid Beds District Council, as a symbolic gesture to celebrate 35 years of working with town and parish councils, are offering an ornamental pear tree to the Parish Council to be planted in the autumn. The Parish Council is happy to accept the tree and Cllr. Green and the relevant Special Interest Group will liaise to determine the ideal location.

10. Parish Partnership Scheme 2009/10

The Chairman outlined the scheme which was identical to the previous year's scheme. £13,000 was available to the parish for improvements to local footpaths and carriageways. The Highways Special Interest Group will co-ordinate requests and recommend suitable schemes to the next meeting.

11. Stanford Post Box

Cllr. Hickman reported that the only post box in the village had been removed without notice and not yet replaced. Cllr. Hickman has been in dialogue with the Royal Mail, who has stated that the post box is expected to be replaced and operational by early June.

12. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

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

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

There had not been a meeting of the liaison group since the last Council meeting. Confirmation was given that the Section 106 monies will not be available until work commences on the site. There was no information as to when work was likely to commence. Cllr. Green reported that there was a possibility of funding for organisations within areas affected by quarrying works from COMMA. The Special Interest Group will further investigate this matter. It was suggested that groups with an urgent need may therefore wish to seek alternative sources of funding.

c) Grass Cutting

Cllr. Green reported two cuts had taken place to date with a further planned for 13th May. Cllr. Green has drawn up a provisional schedule of dates for cutting with the contractor.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - There had been a minor accident involving goal posts on the playing field. The goal posts have now been removed.

ii) Broom – There was nothing to report

iii) Stanford – Nothing to report.

e) Parish Council Website

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

13. Highway Maintenance

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

Old School Lane, Stanford – the fallen 30mph sign still had not been re-erected.

School Lane, Southill – concern over unsafe materials left by highways team and dressing work not completed. Kerbstone missing near Yew Tree Farm.

The Crescent, Stanford – new name plate required.

Advertising signs attached to road signs at Broom crossroads and outside Green Man PH

Grass verges growing over footpaths on Southill Road, Broom and other locations.

14. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

First Lodge farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands

Single storey rear extension and double door access to farm workshop building.

No objection

b) MBDC Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

None to report

c) Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

15. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	17,414.80
Business Premium Account	14,700.43

b) Payments

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

Southill Lower School	Hire of room	25.00
M J Granger Grounds Mtce.	Grass cutting	465.18
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Allianz Insurance	Annual renewal premium	1221.12
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses April 2009	447.44

c) Request for financial assistance – Whitbread Wanderbus

Approval was given to a grant of £250 towards essential items in maintaining the bus which services the community, particularly the elderly.

16. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Central Bedfordshire Council - Farewell letter from leader of the County Council
Official Commemorative Book – 120 years of the County Council
Temporary diversion order of footpaths 5 and 28

b) General Correspondence -
Beds. Playing Fields Assoc. Spring Newsletter

17. Next Meeting – Tuesday 14^h July 2009, 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

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 :

- Concern over speeding on the B658. Speed analysis data has now been carried out.
- District Councillor Baines, at his last meeting with the Parish Council, gave an interesting overview of the change from two tier authorities to a unitary council.