

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2009 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Blackburn, Fielder, Hickman, Jones, Litchfield, the Parish Clerk, and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ablett, Butcher, Gowers, Green and Hall and Central Beds. Councillors Maudlin and Turner.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar 10(b) Cllr.Hickman 8(d)iii.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Speeding Issues

This item was dealt with in conjunction with Item 6 below.

5. Police Report

Although PC Holbrook was not present his report was briefly summarised by the Chairman. A full version of the report would be forwarded to all Councillors.

6. Parish Partnership Scheme 2009/10

It had previously been agreed that the £13,000 available should be spent on footpath repairs and divided between the three villages as fairly as possible. The proposed repairs have been forwarded to Central Beds. Highways for action. However, in view of the speeding problems in Stanford, a 'gateway entrance' has been proposed on the B658 at a cost in the region of £5,000. This could be funded from the Parish Partnership Scheme. Following discussion it was agreed that speeding issues were more of a priority than footway repairs and that the scheme should be progressed if possible. The Clerk will contact Central Beds. to ascertain whether funding can be allocated to a 'gateway entrance' at Stanford with the balance (approx. £8,000) being allocated to the designated footway repairs in Broom and Southill.

7. Young Gardener Award

In Cllr. Gowers absence there was no update on this matter.

8. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

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

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

Cllr. Green, on behalf of the Special Interest Group, had attempted to meet with Ms. A. Taylor from the Minerals and Waste Team at Central Beds. Council to discuss make up of the reconstituted Liaison Committee but unfortunately had no success. The Chairman thanked Cllr.Green in his absence for his efforts on behalf of the Council. Cllr. Hickman reported that, although a lot of the new hedging planted had been a success, there were still areas which needed attention. Tarmac would be contacted about this and also whether any hedging would be available for the Stanford Playing Field.

c) Grass Cutting

There was nothing to report.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - Damage to the fence at the playing field was being investigated.

ii) Broom – There was nothing to report

iii) Stanford – There had been further instances of vandalism and liaison had taken place with PC Holbrook. The annual fund raising duck race will take place on 13th September 2009. In conjunction with fund raising activities the Playing Field Assoc., through Cllr. Hickman, asked for funding of £50 from the Council towards raffle prizes the aim of which was to raise sufficient money for nine months

operation at the playing field. The Chairman commented that the Council do not normally fund this type of expenditure preferring to contribute to items of equipment or repair. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Playing Field Assoc. would nominate items of equipment or maintenance, to the value of £50, which the Council will then fund.

9. Highway Maintenance

The Chairman reported that a request had been made to Central Beds. to include the roads in the Parish leading to the A600 on the winter salting programme. A definitive response was awaited. The Highways 5 year programme had been received from Central Beds. The Special Interest Group was considering a response. Flooding problems were occurring in heavy rain alongside the old Southill Station site.

10. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

First Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands

Single storey rear extension, provision of double door access & relocation of personnel door and wall.
No objection

b) Central Beds. Council Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

None

c) Local Development Framework

Site assessment criteria consultation was currently taking place. The Special Interest Group would respond if necessary.

11. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :	£
Community Account	15,760.15
Business Premium Account	14,800.00

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
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses July/Aug. 2009	880.117

12. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Central Bedfordshire Council - Town & Parish Council Conference – 4th November 2009
Green Communities Programme
Local Democracy Week 2009 – w/c 12th October 2009

b) General Correspondence

Boundary Committee	Electoral review of Central Bedfordshire
Beds. RCC	Network
Beds. ATPC	September edition of Bugle

13. Councillor Fielder

The Chairman reported that, very sadly, the Vice Chairman will shortly be moving out of the Parish and will therefore cease to be a Councillor. The Chairman echoed the views of all present in thanking him for all his time and effort he had put into being a Councillor for several years. The Chairman requested that any Councillor interested in becoming Vice Chairman should contact himself or the Clerk. In the event of two Councillors wishing to stand, a secret ballot would be held at the next meeting.

14. Next Meeting – Tuesday 3rd November 2009, 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30 pm

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

- During the recent local elections it became apparent that a number of parishioners held the present occupiers of Southill Village Stores responsible for the closure of the Post Office within the stores. The occupiers wish to state that 'this is categorically untrue, a complete fabrication'. As postmasters, they were not allowed to raise objections to any of the Government's closure plans but did all within their powers to keep it open.