

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2010 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Andrews, Green, Hankins, Hickman, Hunt, Jones, Litchfield, Rook Central Beds. Cllrs. Maudlin and Turner, the Parish Clerk, and six members of the public.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Blackburn.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2010 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

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

4. New Councillors

The Chairman welcomed three new Councillors to their first meeting of the Council. Councillors Andrews, Hankins and Hunt will all represent Broom. The Council now has its full complement of Councillors.

5. Police Report

PC Holbrook outlined the crime figures for December 2009 to February 2010 which showed that overall crime had decreased by 7.6%. He also reported that a restorative justice meeting had taken place with Cllr. Hickman and an offender responsible for anti social behaviour on the Stanford Playing Field. A request was made for the mobile police surgery to be operative in Stanford as well as Broom and Southill.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Parish Partnership Scheme 2009/2010

To date only one set of gates has been erected on the B658 through Stanford. Central Beds. Cllr. Maudling reported that the road markings to complement the scheme will take place shortly but that the budget of £5,000 was not sufficient to fund the works at the other entrance to the village ie from Shefford. The Parish Councillors were extremely unhappy with this report as they had previously been advised that both 'entrances' could be funded. The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Dept. asking for a breakdown of the costs involved, which seemed exorbitant.

b) Grit Bin, Stanford

The Council's request for a grit bin at the junction of Old School Lane and Broom Road in Stanford had been refused as it did not meet the approved criteria. Cllr. Hickman reported that the existing grit bin would not be refilled, despite requests, until later in the year. Central Beds. Cllr. Turner stated that the provision of a grit bin outside the school in Southill was to be treated as a 'high priority'.

7. Young Gardener Award

In the absence of Cllr. Gowers there was no report.

8. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

In the absence of Cllr. Gowers there was no report.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

There had not been a meeting of the Group since the last meeting of the Council.

c) Grass cutting

Cllr. Green reported that the contract with M J Granger had been renewed and that the schedule of dates for the ten cuts would be agreed shortly

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - The notice board had been repaired at a cost of £50.

ii) Broom - There was nothing to report

iii) Stanford - The AGM of the Playing Field Assoc. had taken place recently and a new Committee had

been formed.

9. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

The Highways Special Interest Group has been liaising regarding the potential locations of the two speed signs to be funded by Tarmac. A second sign in Stanford, on the road in from Shefford, had always been a Council priority and this was unanimously agreed as the first location. It was also agreed that the second should be placed in Southill, thereby giving two signs to each village. It was, however, not possible to decide whether it would be better located on the Stanford Road or close to the White Horse in the High Street. The Southill Parish Councillors were asked to make the final decision, consulting with local parishioners if possible, before informing Cllr. Hickman prior to a meeting taking place with Tarmac on 18th March.

10. Highway Maintenance

Pot holes - Southill 'Station' and Mill Lane Stanford. Many of the road surfaces in Broom are breaking up and pot holes starting to form, details of which will be forwarded to Highways. In addition the road edges have not been swept since early autumn leaving substantial leaf litter. A large branch of a tree is dangerously protruding on to the road out of Broom in the direction of Jordan's Mill. The 'bend sign' on the B658 is badly situated and giving sighting problems for cars turning onto the road from Stanford. A number of cars are parking along the road in the vicinity of the White Horse, Southill Road, Broom. This is causing potential danger with oncoming vehicles. PC Holbrook will be made aware.

11. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

Land south of Broom, Broom Road, Stanford

Details pursuant to various conditions of Planning Permission 28/2008

Objection

Land at Glebe House, Southill House, Southill Park

Construction of pond

No objection

Park Farm, Southill Park, Southill

Erection of steel framed building to provide roof over existing silage clamp.

No objection

Gracious Farm, High Street, Southill

The sheeting in of open fronted barn and installation of personnel door and roller shutter doors on building 3 and the change of use to B1 and sheeting in of open fronted barn and installation of personnel door and roller shutter doors on building 12

No objection

The Green Man, Broom Road, Stanford

Erection of 4.5m high CCTV masts and installation of kitchen extractor grill

Awaiting comments

110 Broom Road, Stanford

First floor rear extension over existing lounge

No objection

b) Central Beds. Council Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

It was verbally reported that the application for the construction of the pond at Glebe House (see above) had been refused and the erection of a smoking shelter at the Green Man PH had been approved. Concern was expressed again over the continued lack of communication from Central Beds. relating to decisions made on applications affecting the Parish. Central Beds. Cllrs. Maudlin and Turner were trying to resolve the matter.

c) Local Development Framework

Nothing to report.

12. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	10,998.88
Business Premium Account	14,804.11

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 grass cutting of school playing field	400.00
Southill Lower School	Contribution towards litter clearance on school playing field	100.00
Beds. ATPC	Affiliation fees 2010/2011	213.00

P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Jan./ Feb. 2010	873.95
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses March 2010	435.17
Avondale Ltd.	Repairs to Southill Notice Board	58.75

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.

13. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Central Bedfordshire Council - Highways – Annual Satisfaction Survey
 Planning Enforcement Policy
 Standards Bulletin
 Site Allocations Development Plan Document
 'Get Out' Winter 09-10

b) General Correspondence

Beds. ATPC	Bedfordshire Bugle –January and March edition
Beds. RCC	'Network' – February 2010
BDO Stoy Hayward	Audit briefing

14. Next Meeting – Tuesday 4th May 2010, 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.45 pm

At a general meeting before the Parish Council Meeting a member of the public, whilst thanking the Parish Council for their support for the speed restriction works on the B658 in Stanford, expressed their concern at the delay in completing the works.