

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2011 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Blackburn.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2011 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar 11(b), Cllr. Hickman 6(diii),12(cii), Cllr. Rodenburg 12(ci)

4. Police Report

Two PCSOs attended and PCSO Bannon gave a brief report outlining that, of the 20 crimes reported in the parish over the past two months, the majority were burglaries. There was great concern from Councillors that rural crimes were on the increase and that the police response had been unsatisfactory.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

Cllr. Andrews reported that 55 children were currently attending the school, an Ofsted visit had been undertaken and it was hoped a good report would be received. The Friday enrichment club was progressing well and a fruit and vegetable patch was being looked after by children.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

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

c) Grass cutting

Nothing to report.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - There was nothing to report

ii) Broom – There was nothing to report

iii) Stanford – The AGM of the Playing Field Assoc. had been held and the Committee reformed.

7. Council Elections

The Chairman reminded members that four years had elapsed since the last election and it was hoped that all Councillors would be available for re-election. The nomination forms were available from the Clerk and should be returned to Central Beds. Council.

8. Royal Wedding Celebrations

The Council considered in some detail the most appropriate way of giving support to any activities taking place to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton on 29th April 2011. It was agreed that all children in the parish, aged 16 and under and in full time education, should be treated equally where possible and approval was given to the purchase of approximately 150/160 commemorative mugs. The Broom WI, who are organising a street party for Broom children, have very kindly agreed to purchase the mugs on the Council's behalf and arrange distribution to all children. The funding for this will be met from the budget for 'New Projects' in 2011/2012. Cllr. Andrews will liaise with the Broom WI on this matter.

9. Housing Needs Survey

The Chairman informed members that Bedfordshire RCC has asked the Council if it would agree to them undertaking a Housing Needs Survey in the parish. The Chairman went on to explain that in rural communities affordable housing can be developed on 'rural exception sites' where an exception can be made to planning restrictions to allow affordable housing specifically to meet local parish need. A potentially suitable site has been earmarked in Stanford. Following discussion it was agreed that the survey should be carried out at no cost to the Council.

10. Highway Maintenance

Highway issues were reported as follows :

Pot holes in Bancroft Avenue and Kings Road, Broom, Southill station, Rowney Lane.

Surface badly damaged at entrance to Birch Close, Broom

Loose road chippings in gutters along Southill Road, Broom causing problems.

11. Planning Matters

a)(i) Applications considered

28/29 School Lane, Southill

Repair to house and replacement of outbuilding (retrospective)

No objection

28/29 School Lane, Southill

Listed Building Consent : Repair to house and replacement of outbuilding (retrospective)

No objection

Land south of Broom, Broom Road, Stanford

Details pursuant to condition 15 of planning permission No.28/2008 concerning plant layout

No objection

a)(ii) Central Beds. Council Decisions

Approvals :

I Laburnham House, Old School Lane, Stanford

Two storey side/rear extension (replacement of planning permission 12/11/2007)

Refusals :

None to report

c) Local Development Framework

Central Beds. Council are currently undergoing public consultation on their minerals policy for safeguarding areas. It was agreed that the Special Interest Group for Local Development respond on behalf of the Council and their comments be forwarded to all Parish Councillors.

12. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	11,492.91
Business Premium Account	14,811.51

b) Payments

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

Southill Lower School	Hire of room	25.00
Southill PCC	Contribution towards the production costs of 'Outlook'	198.50
Southill PCC	Contribution towards the cost of churchyard maintenance	359.80
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Jan/Feb 2011	922.22
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses March 2011	451.83
Amey LG Works	Placement of new salt bin	231.08

c)(i) Request for financial assistance – All Saints Church, Southill

The Council unanimously agreed a contribution of £500 towards the church building fund.

c)(ii) Request for financial assistance – Stanford Playing Field Association

The Council unanimously agreed a contribution of £500 towards the association's mower fund.

13. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Central Bedfordshire Council - Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan
Part of footpath 28 – temporary diversion order

b) General Correspondence
Beds ATPC 'Bedfordshire Bugle'

14. Next Meeting – Monday 9th May 2011, 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 raised by the public:

- Financial assistance requested to help fund the Broom 'street party' for the Royal Wedding
- Concern over speeding on B658 through Stanford
- Update on speed reduction scheme through villages