

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2012 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Egar (Chairman), Cakebread, Green, Hickman, Hunt, Jones, Rook, Rodenberg, Central Beds. Cllr. Turner, the Parish Clerk and four members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Blackburn, and Hall.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar Item 10(b), Cllr. Hickman Item 7(d)(iii) and 11(c), Cllr. Rodenberg Item 11(d)

4. Welcome to New Councillor/Councillor Vacancy

The Chairman warmly welcomed Cllr.Cakebread to his first meeting as a co-optee to represent Stanford ward. The Chairman also pointed out that there was a current vacancy in Broom following Cllr. Hankins resignation. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the usual manner and if any Councillor knew of a suitable candidate they should contact the Clerk.

5. Police Report

In the absence of any police presence there was no report. The on-going problem of lack of communication with the Parish Council was again highlighted by the Chairman who would write to the Chief Constable outlining his concerns.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Removal of school bus service

Central Beds. Cllr. Turner updated the Council on positive meetings that had taken place with the local authority and the school. No future decisions would be taken without consultation with the school.

7. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

In Cllr. Andrews absence there was no report.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

There had not been a meeting of the group since the last Parish meeting. Cllr. Hickman reported that a similar response had been received from Tarmac to another request from the Council for early receipt of the two agreed vehicle activated speed signs.

c) Grass cutting

Cllr. Green reported that the current year was the last in the agreed three year contract. Therefore consideration would need to be given in due course for a tender process relating to the contract commencing in 2013.

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 taken place and a new Committee had been formed.

e) Community Liaison Forum

In Cllr. Andrews absence, Central.Beds.Cllr. Turner reported that the next meeting of the group would take place on 28th March, 7.30pm at Ickwell Village Hall and items to be discussed would be affordable housing and the local lettings policy. Central. Beds.policy for local lettings was currently out for consultation and Cllr. Turner urged the Parish Council to review the policy and comment. Cllr. Hunt agreed to review the documentation on behalf of the Council and also agreed to be an additional representative from the Council on the Liaison Forum.

8. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Cllr. Jones reported that a planned series of events were taking place to celebrate this event and the organisers were requesting that the Parish Council consider purchasing a small souvenir for children under 16 within the Parish. The two options, should the Council agree, were a coin or bookmark, both suitably endorsed. Following discussion, the Council agreed that it should contribute financially to the event and decided, by a majority vote, to opt for the coins. This would be at a cost of £508. It was also agreed that the wording 'Southill Parish Council commemorates Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee' would appear on the reverse of the coin.

9. Highway Maintenance

There were no current concerns.

10. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

Blewitts Hall, Stanford Road, Shefford

Installation of photovoltaic cells to (non-listed) building

No objection

b) Central Beds. Council Decisions – Approvals

16 Birch Close, Broom

Demolish existing garage & build new two storey 'granny annexe'

c) Refusals

None to report

d) Local Development Framework

The Chairman reported that Central Beds., as part of their development strategy were running a 'call for sites' exercise for future development sites. Workshops for development strategy are available for any interested Councillor.

11. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	7892.13
Business Premium Account	14,818.91

b) Payments

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

Broom Village Hall	Hire of room	25.00
Beds. ATP&C	Affiliation fees	231.00
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Jan./Feb. 2012	854.33
HM Revenues & Customs	Tax deductions Jan./Feb. 2012	146.40
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses March 2012	369.29
HM Revenues & Customs	Tax deductions March 2012	73.20

c) Request for financial assistance – Stanford PFA

The sum of £200 was available in the current year's budget for the Stanford ward. Cllr. Hickman requested on behalf of the SPFA that the money be used towards the cost of replacing fencing around the play area. The total cost of the project was approximately £700. It was agreed that £200 be made available to the PFA and should more funds be required a further request could be made in the next financial year.

d) Request for financial assistance – Southill PCC

Cllr. Rodenberg reported that the heating boiler in the Parish Church needed replacing at a total cost of approximately £27,000 and the PCC were requesting any financial assistance the Parish Council could offer. Unfortunately there was no funding available in the current financial year, but after discussion it was agreed that £250 be made available in the next financial year. If there were any funds not spent from the general fund budget of £500 at the end of 2012/2013, then a further £250 could be made available to the PCC.

12 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. : 'Warmer Homes Healthy People' Strategy
Development Strategy Workshops
'Together' Magazine
London Luton Airport – consultation on future changes

b) General Correspondence

Beds.ATPC

BDO LLP – External Auditors

Beds. Bugle – January and March edition

Winter audit briefing

13. Next Meeting – Tuesday 1st May 2012, 7.00pm at Broom Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35 pm

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

- Request for financial contribution towards Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- Concern over alleged misleading information given by Parish Council to Central Beds. Council on a planning application.