

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2013 at 7.30pm in Southill Lower School

Present : Mr. M. Egar (Chair), ten local government electors and the Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms Andrews and Syms.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2012 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed. There was one vote recorded against approval.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report 2012/2013

The report, presented by the Chairman, outlined the Council's key events and achievements during the previous year. The report was tabled for parishioners present. It had been a busy and active year and the Chairman thanked everyone for their help and support.

5. Annual Financial Report 2012/2013

The Chairman presented the report which was also circulated. The report showed an anticipated saving of £2,540 compared to the original estimate and allowed for £1,720 to be taken from Council balances. The Chairman reported that the precept for the current year (2013/2014) had been set at £13,000 an increase of 8%.

6. Charity Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012

The accounts of the John Maynard and Frances Smythe Charity were received and noted. The bank balance at the end of the year was £1,450.07 after providing help towards fuel costs to 30 pensioners.

7. Report from the Stanford Playing Field Association Management Committee

Mr. Hickman representing the Association, gave a comprehensive report including the financial position and the work and activities that have taken place on the playing field. These included a successful duck race and raffle (raising £696). A special fund was set up in 2009 to purchase a larger and more reliable mower. The fund received a grant of £2,000 from the Wixamtree Trust which combined with grants and donations enabled the purchase this year. Volunteers have carried out maintenance work and other required jobs on the playing field which has not suffered from anti-social behaviour and vandalism to any great extent. A 'dog fouling' bin' has been installed which has reduced an on-going problem but not entirely eliminated it. Plans are being drawn up for the phased purchase and installation of an adventure trail for older children. Funding for the first phase has been secured from a Section 106 agreement.

8. Other Matters

One parishioner present complained that the Parish Council was ineffectual in the community and had failed to act over an alleged breach of the Council's Code of Conduct by two Councillors. This was strongly challenged and disputed by other parishioners who believed

that as volunteers the Parish Council was very supportive of the community despite little interest from the great majority of the parish. Regarding the claim of breaching the Code of Conduct, the complainant refused to expand on the matter despite requests from other parishioners.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.