

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2014 @ 7.00PM AT SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

Present: Cllrs. Egar (Chairman), Cakebread, Grant, Green, Hickman, Hunt, Macan-Lind, Rodenberg, Central Beds. Cllr. Turner and the Parish Clerk. There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillors Andrews and Rook. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Macan-Lind to his first meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2013 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar Items 8(b), Cllr. Hickman Item 6(d)(iii).

4. Police Report

There was no police presence and the bi monthly crime figures had not been received.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Community Speed Watch

The Chairman reported that he had written to PC Coppenhall requesting an update but had yet to receive a reply. Cllr. Hunt reported that the police had been carrying out speed checks in Broom and had received an unconfirmed report that a speed of 65mph had been recorded. The Clerk was asked to request a report on the police findings.

b) Proposed footpath from Broom to Jordan's Mill

There had been no developments on this matter.

6. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

In Cllr Andrews absence there was no report. The school was due to re-open after the Christmas holiday on 7th January and hopefully a current report would be forwarded to all Councillors in due course.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

Cllr. Hickman reported that the vehicle activated speed signs were still not in place. Central Beds. Cllr. Turner updated the meeting that an objection to the location of one of the signs had been received and this had delayed the work. However, it was anticipated that the signs would be in situ and working within the next few weeks. The next meeting of the Broom South Liaison Group was planned for 26th February 2014.

c) Grass Cutting

There had been no further cuts since the last meeting and it was generally agreed that the standard of cuts throughout the year had been satisfactory. Cllr. Green reported that the 'No Parking' sign on the green in Broom had been demolished. It was agreed that the sign be replaced subject to approval of the cost at the next meeting.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - Cllr. Egar reported that the cost of regular inspection of the play equipment was prohibitive and the Clerk was to inspect on a bi monthly basis. The Council's liability was covered under the insurance policy

ii) Broom – There was nothing to report.

iii) Stanford – Cllr. Hickman reported that the AGM of the Playing Field Assoc. would take place in early February and that a small amount of vandalism had taken place on the playing field. It was anticipated the first tranche of equipment for the adventure trail would be installed, weather permitting, in January. A funding request for the second set of equipment had been submitted to the Broom Quarry Community Fund (Section 106) and the third and final set would be funded jointly by Association reserves and a bid to the Lottery Fund.

e) Ivel Parish Forum

The next meeting will take place on 16th January in Ickwell Village Hall. The topic for discussion will be communication with Central Beds. and the use of speed control cameras. All are encouraged to attend.

7. Highway Maintenance

Cllr. Green reported that he had finally met with a representative from Central Beds. Highways on site at Bancroft Avenue where it was agreed that serious attention was required. Whilst temporary measures could be undertaken it was hoped that a more substantial scheme could be included on Central Beds. Structural Maintenance Scheme for future years.

Other areas requiring attention were reported as : Mill Road, Stanford – surface breaking up with pot holes and the soak aways were blocked. Old Southill Station – road from Ireland, continual flooding problems due to deep seated drainage problems.

8. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

There have been no applications considered since the last meeting.

b) Central Beds. Council Decisions – Approvals

21 The Crescent, Stanford

Detached one bedroom annexe with garage.

Estate Office, Southill Park, Southill

Installation of four CCTV security cameras mounted on exterior walls in and around the stable yard complex

c) Refusals

Nothing to report

d) Local Development Framework

Nothing to report

9. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	12,309.43
Business Premium Account	14,833.71

b) Payments

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

		£
Southill Lower School	Hire of room	35.00
Southill PCC	Contribution towards cost of producing the 'Outlook' magazine	230.50
Southill PCC	Contribution towards cost of grasscutting	197.70
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Dec. 2013	421.19
HM Revenues & Customs	Tax deductions Dec. 2013	76.60
P.D.Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses Jan. 2014	425.39
HM Revenues & Customs	Tax deductions Jan. 2014	76.60

c) Estimates for the year commencing 1st April 2014 and the Precept for 2014/2015

The Chairman explained in detail the various items contained in the estimates for 2014/2015 making relevant comparisons with the probable result for 2013/2014. As a result of an unexpected and unbudgeted Council Tax grant from Central Beds. the level of balances available to the Council at 31st March 2014 is anticipated to be significantly higher than previously thought. Due mainly to this fact it was proposed to keep the precept at its existing level, £13,000, for the financial year 2014/2015. This proposal was unanimously agreed. The Chairman reminded Councillors that the allocation for the General Fund had been reduced during 2013/2014 with any grants to be means tested and match funded. After a brief discussion it was agreed that these conditions be continued in 2014/2015. The Council also reconfirmed the existing policy of keeping at least one year's expenditure on reserve.

10 Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Central Beds. Council

Chairman's Civic Service – Sunday 2nd March, 3pm
Highways 2 year programme and Annual Report
'Getting ready for winter'

b) General Correspondence

Beds. ATPC

General update and Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Beds. RCC

'Network' – Diamond Anniversary Issue

Beds. & Luton Local Resilience Forum

Preparing for winter

11. Next Meeting – Tuesday 11th March 2014 – 7.00pm Broom Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35pm

At a general meeting before the Parish Council meeting there were no issues raised by members of the public.