

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017 at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, Southill

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2016 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report 2016/2017

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 reasonably busy and active year and the Chairman thanked everyone for their help and support particularly Cllr. Hickman for his work on the Council's website. The Chairman also thanked Mrs Jane Hickman for her continuing hard work in ensuring the success of the 'Community Speed Watch'.

5. Annual Financial Report 2016/2017

The Chairman presented the report which was also circulated. The report showed that there would be an anticipated surplus of £1,693 compared to the original estimate which allowed for a shortfall of £410. This was mainly due to a reduction in expenditure levels. The Chairman reported that the precept for the current year (2017/2018) had not been increased and remains at £13,000 for the fifth successive year. The level of balances continues to rise and any community schemes or projects requiring finance will be welcomed.

6. Charity Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016

The accounts of the John Maynard and Frances Smythe Charity were received and noted. The bank balance at the end of the year was £2,525.25 after providing help towards fuel costs to 22 parishioners.

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 which together with grants and donations raised £1327. The playing field has suffered significant vandalism over the last year, all of which has been reported to the police. Necessary repairs to fencing have been made, but at a financial and volunteer cost that is not sustainable. Volunteers have carried out maintenance work including litter picking, mowing, hedge cutting, safety checks, weed killing, and general repairs. There are no major projects planned for the current year but the usual ongoing activities to maintain this valuable asset for the villagers will of course take place. Fund raising must continue and a repeat of the annual duck race is provisionally planned for 17th September.

8. Other Matters

An article about 'speedwatch' will be placed in the village magazine 'outlook' hoping to encourage more volunteers. The Biggleswade Chronicle correspondents for Stanford (Jane Hickman) and Southill (Kathryn Dilley) were thanked for their hard work. It was noted that the local police no longer have a mechanism in place for receiving and returning lost property. Grass cutting at road junctions needs to be monitored closely to ensure safety standards are maintained and not allowed to become overgrown as was the case last year.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.