

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 2022.

Present: The Mayor, Councillor G Foster - In the Chair
Councillors A John, C Lambert, A Walster, A Jamieson, K Medgett, N Savage

Apologies: Cllr L Ellard
Cllr M Connors
Cllr M Ray
Cllr K Mullen
Cllr A Crump

Absent without Apologies:
Cllr K Toner
Cllr T Bromwich

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro and Mrs K Fisher

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Foster	Non-Pecuniary Reason	Correspondence item 2 Family member lives on Flying Fields Estate
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153. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

Apologies accepted.

154. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Southam Resident

Local business owner, GJF Furnishings: spoke on behalf of their own and Southam's local businesses regarding the challenges faced because of declining footfall. The council were asked whether anything could be done to help incentivise more custom and prevent the decline of Southam's Highstreet.

155. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th January 2022, having previously been circulated, be confirmed, and signed by the Town Mayor

156. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Invoices were sent to members with their meeting papers.

RESOLVED:

That the payment of accounts dated February 2022, totalling £4,955.92 (details attached) be authorised. Cllr G Foster and Cllr A John to authorise payments.

157. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

157.1 i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated February 2022 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council.

ii) Planning Application decisions

Noted

158. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

158.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Cllr A John's Member's Item was brought forward to respond to public representations.

RESOLVED:

To form a Business Steering group to help address declining footfall in Southam and bring people back into the town centre.

158.2 20 IS PLENTY

Members were invited to suggest roads within Southam that should be limited to 20mph.

RESOLVED:

That all roads leading in and out of the town centre (roughly in alignment with the conservation area) are proposed.

158.3 TREE PLANTING PROPOSAL

Members were asked to consider the tree planting suggestions for the following areas as Southam in Bloom have decided not to include these areas are part of their HS2 Tree Planting grant items 1 (Riverside Walk), 2 (Tollgate Road), and 6 (St Wulstan Way).

RESOLVED:

To obtain quotes, depending on cost maybe deferred until after the next tree inspection.

158.4 SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL PENSION POLICY

In light of WCC's Pension Administration Strategy Statement, members were asked to consider the proposed Pension Policy, drawn up by the Town Clerk and Cllr A John, to address the requirements of this strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Pension Policy is adopted

158.5 TOWN MAYOR'S FUND

Members were asked to consider the closing of the Town Mayor's Fund HSBC account and transfer to Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED:

i) That the Town Council authorises the HSBC Town Mayors Fund Account to be closed down

ii) That a new Town Mayors Fund account is set up on Unity Trust Bank

iii) That the balance from the closed HSBC Town Mayors Fund account is transferred to the new Unity Trust Bank Town Mayors Fund Account

iv) That the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are signatories for this new bank account and that the Town Clerk is the emergency signature

158.6 S137 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members were requested to consider the following 137 Grant Applications:

Southam In Bloom

RESOLVED:

That Southam in Bloom be awarded £3,500.00 for continued provision, planting and erection of civic hanging baskets and railing troughs, and maintenance by professionals.

Southam Carnival

RESOLVED:

That Southam Carnival are awarded £1,542.00 to cover the cost of providing free activities at the Family Fun Day.

Southam & District Lions Club

RESOLVED:

- i) That Southam Town Council will purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator from London Hearts totalling £745.00, with the addition of a £300.00 grant.
- ii) That the defibrillator will be gifted to Southam & District Lions.
- iii) That this equipment be accessible to local groups or event organisers.

158.7 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Noted

159. CORRESPONDENCE

159.1 i) Family Fun Day

Noted

ii) Resident request for playground equipment

RESOLVED:

To inform the resident that the play equipment is to be supplied and maintained by the management company appointed by Taylor Wimpey, not the Town Council.

iii) Resident correspondence regarding S106 monies

RESOLVED:

To respond to the resident advising that over the past 5 – 10 years paved amenity space has been provided through the Hayfield Homes, Flying Fields, and Bloor Homes developments these developments have created paved circular routes, Southam is a Rural Market Town with many Public Rights of Way across fields, with a large amount holding no livestock. The Town Council shares the concern regarding Southam College and has stated on record numerous times regarding future capacity, however the responsibility for this rests with Warwickshire County Council. With regards to infrastructure this is the responsibility of Stratford District Council through planning policy. Finally, the opportunity regarding land, is land that already had amenity access and by purchasing this land would not increase amenity space for Southam and therefore is not the best use of S106 funds.

160. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

160.1 ENV Minutes – 10/02/2022

Item 1- EKFB Section 17 Planning Application Presentation

EKFB gave a presentation to councillors. A discussion took place regarding post construction noise monitoring. EKFB are happy to arrange a specific session with the noise specialist.

Item 2 - ALDI

Aldi attended the meeting to discuss their planning application and the issues that have arisen. They advised that there is an ecology issue, which have so far resulted in having to lose some car park spaces, they are continuing to work with ecology in order to resolve the issues. The second problem is regarding highway issues, pedestrian access, vehicle etc. and they are continuing to try and resolve the issues. A question was asked as to why the access cannot be at the rear of the site because this would resolve some of

the highway issues but they is a legal matter regarding the farm track at the rear and how it can only be used for agricultural use. Lastly, there is a dispute to do with WCC contributions, Aldi feel they are excessive, and the outcome could be that the development is unviable. Cllr Kettle advised that Cllr Crump and himself will investigate this. Aldi advised that the planning determination date has been extending to May 2022.

Cllr Lambert and Cllr Mullen left the meeting

Item 3 SET UP OF A SOUTHAM HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

Cllr John updated members of the meeting Cllr Ellard and herself attended regarding potentially setting up a Health and Wellbeing Group in Southam. These types of groups have tried to be set up elsewhere but unfortunately failed. The focus is on Social Isolation and Mental Health and Cllr John has already got some ideas as to how to help in the areas.

RESOLVED:

- i)That Cllr John discusses this initiative further with Cllr Crump with a view to setting up another meeting with Marie Darwin**
- ii)That the Town Council form a Health and Wellbeing Working Party in order to hopefully set up some bitesize projects in Southam to try and combat social isolation and mental health**
- iii)That Cllr Ray, Cllr John, and Cllr Ellard are on the working party**

Cllr Kettle left the meeting

Item 4 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The plan is as follows:

Thursday 4th June 2022 – Beacon Lighting at Merestone

Friday 5th June 2022 – Potentially a big street party in the Town Centre organised by Southam Lions

Saturday 6th June 2022 – Residents to hold their own street parties should they wish

RESOLVED:

- i)That the Beacon Lighting WP to make arrangements for the Beacon to be installed at Merestone, to hopefully have the church bells ringing**
- ii)That the Town Council will provide 25 Street Party Packs that will cater for 50 people, they will be handed out on a first come, first served basis and only to residents who have applied to SDC to formally close their road**

Item 5 LOBBYING MPS FOR VITUAL MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the letter that Cllr Foster put together is sent

Item 6 MR PHILLIP SECCOMBE PUBLIC MEETING

Members were advised that a meeting is currently being arranged and as soon as a date has been finalised, they will be informed. The meeting will be on a Saturday morning and councillors are requested to attend with a question they wish to raise

Item 6 INITATIVE INVENTORY

Cllr Foster discussed the inventory that he has drawn up, in order to track one off projects. He will bring the spreadsheet up to date and ask lead Councillors to update the spreadsheet with their project information

Item 7 STOWE VALLEY ACADEMY TRUST – LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR BID

RESOLVED:

To respond to the request advising that the Council feel that it would not be appropriate to send a letter of support for their bid and the council would be happy to have a meeting should Mr Samra wish to discuss it further

160.2 Flying Fields Committee Meeting Minutes – 19/01/2022

Noted

160.3 Platinum Jubilee Event Minutes – 08/02/2022

Noted

160.4 Grange Hall Management Committee Minutes – 31/01/2022

Noted

160.5 Indoor Market

Cllr G Foster updated members on the good attendance levels at the monthly indoor market; the group have agreed to continue hosting the market for another 3 months. It was noted that the group wish to explore more methods of advertising the market.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr G Foster will attend the next Youth Council meeting to propose they assist with advertising the monthly market.

161. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Not in attendance but Cllr Crump does email out weekly reports

162. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING

It was moved and

RESOLVED:

that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

163. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

i)To authorise the payment of staff salaries dated February 2022.

164. SDC – JOHN CAREFORD

RESOLVED:

i)To respond stating that the Town Council declines the offer for the following reasons:

- That the proposed land is already an amenity area with PROW running all through it, therefore purchasing this land would not enhance the amenity space Southam has**
- Part of the land in question is already designated green space in the Neighbourhood Plan**
- If the Town Council were minded to purchase it, they wouldn't be making changes to the use of the land, they would just rent it to a farmer.**
- The use of this land is limited due to part of it being on a flood plain**
- Due to the points raised above the Town Council do not feel that it is best use of S106 funds**

ii)To write to SDC and ask that they confirm what S106 monies they are holding for Southam and the deadlines as to when this money must be spent

165. **PERSONNEL WORKING PARTY AND GHMC**

RESOLVED:

i)That the Town Council agree in principle ensuring that the employees are transferred correctly with regards to TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment))

ii)To ascertain if the Green Book applies to the contract

iii)To ensure that the Town Council has a defensible Equal Pay Claim should the need arise

The Meeting closed at 21:26

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

Southam Town Council Financial Year 2021-2022

Accounts Payable February 2022

Voucher No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Bank	Gross Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Net Amount
188	ER (47)	G White	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£89.85	0.00	£89.85
189	ER (47)	T Lyson - Marshall	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£73.21	0.00	£73.21
190	ER (47)	L Commander	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£102.15	0.00	£102.15
191	ER (47)	C McCarthy	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£25.20	0.00	£25.20
192	ER (47)	M Gage-Smith	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£69.30	0.00	£69.30
193	ER (47)	N Thomas	Volunteer Driver Reimbursement	Unity	£84.60	0.00	£84.60
194	6, ER (47)	British Telecommunications PLC	GP 00277011 Bundle services - 01-02-22 - 28-01-22	Unity	£165.54	27.59	£137.95
195	12	Inside IT	Monthly Support tickets.	Unity	£19.50	3.25	£16.25
196	39, ER	Mr R Carro	Maintenance Contract February, plus Grange Hall Grounds - remove and dispose of concrete fence posts dumped in the grounds.	Unity	£718.46	0.00	£718.46
197	32	Warwickshire County Council	Legal Services December - All relates to Southam Flying Fields Community Hall	Unity	£110.00	18.33	£91.67
198	10	Clear Sound Security	Routine inspection on the intruder alarm. Replaced battery.	Unity	£46.56	7.76	£38.80
199	8	Konica Minolta	Copy and printing 04.11.2021 - 03.02.2022 and Flat rate hire charge 04.02.2022 - 03.05.2022	Unity	£150.00	25.00	£125.00
200	4	Paul Jones	Additional internal audit fees - Constructing letters to external auditors and HMRC	Unity	£200.00	0.00	£200.00
201	8	Lauren Hextall	Postage of HMRC letters	Unity	£13.70	0.00	£13.70
202	32	Clear Sound Security	Annual Maintenance Charge, Domestic Monitored Intruder Alarm, Dualcom	Unity	£876.00	146.00	£730.00
203	37	PIRMS (Richard Kibilski)	Quarterly inspections February 2022 (7 sites)	Unity	£260.00	0.00	£260.00
204	48	Continental Sports Limited	Southam Gymnastics Grant application - part 1 of 2	Unity	£652.80	108.80	£544.00
205	48	Gymnova UK LTD	Southam Gymnastics Grant application - part 2 of 2	Unity	£747.60	124.60	£623.00

Total Payments £4,404.47 £461.33 £3,943.14

Voucher No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Bank	Gross Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Net Amount
DD6	32	E.ON	1/02/2022 Southam Flying Fields Community Hall Fixed Business Electricity Plan	Unity	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00
DD7	32	British Gas	03/02/2022 Southam Flying Fields Community Hall	Unity	£471.45	£0.00	£471.45

Total DD £551.45 £0.00 £551.45

Payments and DD's Total £4,955.92 £461.33 £4,494.59

Town Clerk

Councillors

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

ENV

21/01292/REM	Ilke Homes Land Ltd And Walsall Housing Group Limited	Land At, Welsh Road East, Southam	AMENDED/ADDITIONAL: Submission of reserved matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline permission 18/01796/OUT for the erection of 43 residential units together with landscaping, car parking, public open space and associated works and facilities.	No Representation
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Applicant Name	Site	Proposal	Previous Representations	Council Representation	Council Comments
Mr Roderic Collett Ravensgate Homes Ltd	Land Adjacent To Rose Petal Cottage, Welsh Road East, Southam, CV47 1NE	Proposed erection of 4 no two storey dwellings, new access and demolition of outbuilding		Object w Comment	Southam Town Council object to this application on the grounds of highway safety; the primary route from this side of the bypass into the town centre is not fit to handle more traffic.
Molloy Molloy Property Partnership	Holt Farm (Ross), Welsh Road East, Southam, CV47 1NB	Outline Planning Application for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of a single dwelling with all matters reserved except for access and layout.		No Representation	
Mr Daniel O'Neill	Tarsus Hotel And Restaurant , Daventry Road, Southam, CV47 1NW	AMENDED/ADDITIONAL: A revised Site Plan and Garage Plans have been received which reduce the size of the proposed garages. ORIGINAL PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 5no. detached dwellings, garaging and associated works	08/07/2022: The Town Council objects on the grounds of overdevelopment of this site. The Town Council is in support of the adopted application for three dwellings, but feel that five dwellings would be overdevelopment.	Object w Comment	State previous objection
Beverley Cardall	Land Adjacent To , 67 Banbury Road, Southam, CV47 1HJ	AMENDED/ADDITIONAL: Revised plans have been received which change the proposed access to a shared access point and re-site the new dwelling further east. ORIGINAL PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garage and erection of a new detached dwelling with associated access and works, and the creation of a new vehicular access to serve 67 Banbury Road.	14/10/2021: No representation, subject to review of Highways issues. 25/11/2021: TC objects to this application because of issues highlighted by Highways. Should these issues be addressed, the Town Council	No Representation	