

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 28th
JANUARY 2010**

Present: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Soni - In the Chair
Councillors G Thomas, P Thomas, A Crump,
D Smith, B Thomas, L Hewer, R Waller, C Worsh, D Isham

Apologies: Revd Cllr W Hawkins Work
 Cllr L Tasker Work
 Cllr J Griffin Personal
 Cllr P Caruana Late

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

135. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
None

136. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th January 2010, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT
137. PARISH TAX BASE
The provisional Council Tax Base for Southam 2010/2011 had been calculated at £2323.22
Noted

Cllr Caruana arrived at 7.40pm

138. BUDGET PROPOSALS
The proposed figures for the 2010/2011 budget were based on a 1.9% inflation allowance. Where there was a clear need to revise the figure in light of current levels of expenditure, or known changes likely to occur, a new proposed figure was shown. **Noted**

139. ELECTORATE
Statistics verified to 4th December 2009 showed that the electorate in Southam stood at 5073. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 limited a Council's expenditure on grants to £6.15 per elector. **Noted**

140. COUNCIL'S AIMS
The Council had agreed to the following aims that were taken into consideration in all policy matters:

1. To improve the service it provides whilst ensuring best value
2. To work with others to improve safety, the environment and quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of our community
3. To regularly and effectively consult the community
4. To promote the local economy

Noted

141. **CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2010/2011**
RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed, subject to the following amendments:
- 141.1 **Item 4 – Legal Fees & Services**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £1750 for this item.
- 141.2 **Item 5 – Telephone Fax & Email**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £1300 for this item.
- 141.3 **Item 7 – Office**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £1600 for this item.
- 141.4 **Item 18 – Memberships of Associations**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £1550 for this item.
- 141.5 **Item 22 - Regalia**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £150 for this item.
- 141.6 **Item 24 – Emergency Planning**
RESOLVED: To set a nil budget for this item.
- 141.7 **Item 25 – Elections**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £200 for this item.
- 141.8 **Item 31 Repairs/Inspections/Replacements**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £10000 for this item
- 141.9 **Item 32 Miscellaneous Services**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £8430 for this item
- 141.10 **Item 39 Columns & Repairs**
RESOLVED: To set a budget of £30000 for this item

Additional Proposals

RESOLVED: To include

- i) A budget line ‘Mayfield Play Equipment’ £10000
- ii) A budget line ‘Interest’ (£300)
- iii) A budget line ‘Other income (£850)
- iv) That the budget line Columns and Repairs should be discussed at ENV
- v) That enquiry should be made with Southam Charities/Chamberlain Trust to ascertain if there are funds available to contribute to the War Memorial maintenance.
- vi) That Dealer Systems be asked to provide a report on the office computers and the work necessary to improve performance

142. **REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES**

RESOLVED: That the following reserves be earmarked as follows:

Grange Hall Capital Works Programme	£3000
Traffic Calming (Welsh Road East)	£20022
Southam Youth Projects (Mayor's Fund)	£1439
Southam @ Play	£15140
Town Centre Consultant	£2500
Holy Well Maintenance	£5182
Elections	£ 800
Section 137 Grant ATC	
Flood Grant (Ring Fenced)	£ 3200
Advertising	£ 500
Grange Hall Transitional Funding	£ 1000
Section 137 Grants	£ 4033
Projects to weather the Credit Crunch	£ 5319
Total	£62135

The Clerk reminded Council of its commitment to Southam College all weather pitch and the Stockton to Southam Cycle Way.

143. **URGENT BUSINESS**

143.1 **APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

Council considered applications for planning permission 09/02441/FUL, comments due 8th Feb 2010, and 09/02495/FUL, comments due 10th Feb 2010, upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council
Cllr Caruana declared a personal interest in application 09/02195/FUL

144. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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 about to be transacted.

145. **PROPOSED BUDGET 2010/2011**

RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed subject to the following amendments.

145.1 **Item 10 Salaries**

RESOLVED:

- i) To include a staffing contingency line of £697
- ii) To set a total salaries & travel budget of £41494

145.2 **TOTAL BUDGET**

RESOLVED: That the total budget is set at £171268

146. **PRECEPT UPON THE TAX AUTHORITY**

RESOLVED: That the precept upon Stratford District Council be declared to be £171268

It was noted that Council Tax payable for a D Band property will be £73.72 which equates to the last two years and will not result in an increase in council tax.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Southam Town Council – January 2010

Application Number	Applicant Name	Site	Proposal	Observation Date / Comment
09/02441/FUL	Mr Russell Harrison	Stoneythorpe Hall, Leamington Road, Southam CV47 2DL	Proposed conservatory, swimming pool and changing room, tennis court and enclosure, greenhouse, garage block with staff accommodation at first floor, walled gardens, helicopter storage and landing area, bridge over River Itchen, extension of access road to service buildings	Southam Town Council has asked me to say 'it is concerned about the proximity of the proposed helicopter landing area to the public footpath. It would like a restriction to be placed on the number and the timing of helicopter flights to avoid causing undue noise nuisance. The facilities for helicopter landing are a duplication of those on the Dallas Burston Polo ground and it might be possible to arrange to share those facilities'
09/02495/FUL	Mr Tony Langford	Harp Farm, Banbury Road, Southam CV47 2BL	Retrospective change of use of agricultural land and buildings to Use Classes B1 (Business), B2(General Industry)and B8(Storage/ Distribution	Southam Town Council is disappointed that this is yet another retrospective application and also suggests that a covenant may exist to prevent this use of the land.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm