

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 27th APRIL 2017

Present: In the Chair, Mayor, Councillor M Brooks,
Councillors M Connors, G Foster, M Gaffney, K Toner, L Ellard, G Barratt, A Crump, W
Baillie & Cllr Oubridge

Apologies: Cllr Jenkins - Work
District Cllr Bromwich

Absent: Cllr S Exton

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders & Cllr J Appleton

188. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

That the apologies are accepted

189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

190. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr B Thomas, 9 St Mary's Close, Southam

Advised the Council the minute 173.2, was incorrect, that it was not the fault of the officers, he had obviously not made himself clear and that the minute should read

“Spoke about the item stated in ENV regarding purchasing land for a Country Park. He advised that prior to 1977 the old Southam Borough Council negotiated with SDC regarding the building of the Grange Hall. The Borough Council agreed to pay all the maintenance of the jointly owned hall. This proved to be too onerous and it was then difficult to renegotiate a 50/50 split. Therefore, Council should be mindful of the maintenance costs associated with a Country Park”

Mr A Walster, 1 Daventry Street, Southam

Advised the Council that he was putting himself forward to fill the Councillor position that he would like to invest something back into the community and he was mindful of the time commitment.

Mrs S Stone, Southam

Advised the Council that she was also putting herself forward to fill the Councillor position, that she works part time and wants to give something back to the community

Mrs D Smith, 20 Springs Crescent, Southam

Wanted to know if the sale of The Grange would affect The Grange Hall

191. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

i) That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2017, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendment:

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That minute 173.2 should read “Spoke about the item stated in ENV regarding purchasing land for a Country Park. He advised that prior to 1977 the old Southam Borough Council negotiated with SDC regarding the building of the Grange Hall. The Borough Council agreed to pay all the maintenance of the jointly owned hall. This proved to be too onerous and it was then difficult to renegotiate a 50/50 split. Therefore, Council should be mindful of the maintenance costs associated with a Country Park”.

192. POLICE

The Town Clerk advised that that there is an on-going vandalism problem at the Park Lane Recreation Ground, that the Police are aware and will be patrolling the area, that they have also got additional support following the recent fires to the barn that leads to the Holy Well. All vandalism has been reported as a crime and that Councillors should advise residents if they see anything to report it on the 101 number.

193. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Invoices were available at the meeting for inspection

RESOLVED:

That the payment of accounts dated April 2017, totalling £23,216.89 (details attached) be authorised

194. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

194.1 i) Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated April 2017 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council. (details attached)

194.2 ii) Planning Application decisions dated April 2017

Noted

194.3 iii) Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Noted

195. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

195.1 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

i)Mr Thomas was advised that Members have taken onboard his comments and the minutes have been amended accordingly

ii)Mr Walster was advised that his Councillor application would be considered later

iii)Mrs Stone was advised that her Councillor application would be consider later

iv)Mrs Smith was advised that there are covenants in place to protect the rights of access and parking for users of The Grange Hall

195.2 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – SOUTHAM FIELDS WARD

RESOLVED:

That Mrs S Stone is co-opted to fill the vacancy.

COUNILLOR VACANCY – BROWNS BRIDGE WARD

That Mr A Walter is co-opted to fill the vacancy should the Council be in a position to fill the vacancy via co-option after the 12th May 2017

195.3 PARKING COMPLAINT

Members considered the resident complaint regarding parking on Springs Crescent and Mayfield Road, Members were advised that Southam College have offered the resident a date for a meeting to discuss their concerns, the College is committed to improving the parking situation as soon as the opportunity arises but has no powers to stop on-street parking outside resident houses when the parking is legal.

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195.4 CCTV

Members considered the CCTV report and were pleased to see the outcomes.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk will organise a CCTV Control Room visit for any Councillor who wishes to attend

195.5 ORBIT – TITHE LODGE MANAGEMENT

Members considered Cllr Brooks report

Noted

195.6 HOLY WELL FURTHER REMEDIAL WORKS QUOTATION

Members considered the quotation from Hewer Builders Ltd

RESOLVED:

i)To accept the budget quotation £2432 + VAT

ii)To investigate if there are any grants available

195.7 COUNCIL MEETING DATES ENV DATES

Noted

196. CORRESPONDENCE

i)Southam First Grant Thank you - Noted

ii)Southam Civic Ideas Forum Grant Thank you – Noted

iii)Macmillan Cancer Support

RESOLVED

That Cllr Brooks and Cllr Ellard will meet with the organisation

v)SDC Street Trading – Record of Decision

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk makes the other complainants aware of the conditions

vi)WCC – Invitation Southam Multi Agency Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk Emails Councillors for an attendee

197. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY ON 13TH APRIL 2017

197.1 Stratford Time Bank

Sarah Coxall from SDC attended to brief us on the Time Bank initiative. This is a service designed for people in Stratford district to help and support each other, particularly those in need as members of the community by giving an hour of their time where they have individual skills and expertise in return for banking an hour's time credit they can spend as they wish for return services or to give to another person who needs help. People can join regardless of age, ability, financial circumstances or mobility. Sarah has been engaging with various Southam community groups and the response has been positive.

RESOLVED:

That the council supports this initiative and assists in promotion through the council newsletter and other media means as appropriate.

197.2 Councillor T Bromwich

Councillor Bromwich attended to update the council on his idea and talks with SDC Leader Chris Saint regarding safeguarding the Stowe Valley from housing development. Councillor Bromwich believes Barwood who currently have an option on some of the land will, when they submit an application argue that the Core Strategy represents only the minimum requirement for new

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housing and is likely to push for the applications approval under the 20% buffer requirement required, even by appeal if the application is refused. His fear is that if successful this will set up a precedent that will open the valley to other developers. A meeting of Conservative District councillors is being held next week. Councillor Bromwich discussed his option 1, to enter discussions with the developer to purchase the land and set up a trust with Chris Saint with the intention of floating his idea at that meeting. Chris Saint asked whether this would be supported by the Town Council. Councillor Bromwich offered to draft a letter over the Easter weekend but was advised he was not authorised to do so on behalf of the Town Council and that the office would be closed over the holiday period in any case so could not be done that quickly or without full resolution by the council.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Crump is hoping to attend the meeting and will make it known the Town Council will be considering drafting a letter to SDC supporting the option at the next available council meeting.

197.3 HS2 CEF Application

Councillor Brooks provided additional information on the funding process. There are no rules as to how many simultaneous applications an applicant can make but should one be successful the same applicant cannot submit another for 6 months. At the February council meeting a prioritised list of projects was agreed, refurbishment and re-branding of the Grange hall deemed 1st on the list. Councillor Brooks is seeking approval to proceed and submit a claim for £75,000.

Discussions revolved around whether it is worthwhile proceeding given the fate of the Grange Hall is unknown. It was pointed out that the condition report shows that many of the Halls service systems are fast approaching the end of their life span and that we are already some years behind the time frame for the first 3 priority lists for repair or replacement. It was also noted that there are too many unknown variables concerning the hall's fate; we are in the position we are in now and to do nothing when an operating loss is forecast is simply not an option. There is of course no guarantee a grant claim would be successful.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Brooks proceed with writing up an offline version of the grant request form for the Grange Hall project and submit for approval to the Grange Hall Stewards before submitting online to Groundwork.

197.4 Section 17 Working Party

Under section 17 of the act HS2 is required to submit planning applications for certain design aspects of the railway along the route, approximately 150 are expected in all. Districts affected by the route will be expected to respond to applications in the usual manner, however at a recent meeting of parish councillors run by the appointed SDC officials it was stated neither NPPF or Core Strategy/Local plan policies would apply so viewpoints would be somewhat subjective. Applications could range from where trees and screening, footpaths/ cycle paths are planned to the design of bridges. Concern has also been raised by SAAG that HS2 would operate on a divide and rule basis during construction, providing information to specific parishes rather than the wider community. There is a need for parishes to share information.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Brooks and Foster be appointed as a working party specifically to deal with Section 17 applications and be the contacts with other parishes to share construction information. Councillor Exton who has expertise in tunnel design to be contacted as a third member and for the Town Clerk in conjunction with the working party to have delegated powers to make decisions should an urgent response be required.

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197.5 Item 5– Rights of Way Volunteer Group

A number of volunteers have volunteered as a result of a recruitment drive to do with litter picking and maintenance of the footpaths around the town. This stems from a resident complaint. WCC manage and supervise local volunteer groups to undertake work of this nature. Two additional volunteers have since come forward, Mr Jonathan Swain and Mr Peter Barratt, bringing the number to 11 inclusive of councillors Brooks and Oubridge.

RESOLVED:

That councillors Brooks and Oubridge be appointed to lead the group, the priority to organise a meeting of the interested residents with the appropriate WCC officials to get the group started

197.6 VASA – Southam Office Closing

Councillor Gaffney provided a short paper detailing the history of the voluntary drivers scheme in Southam and our involvement with VASA. The decision has been taken by VASA to close the Southam office due to lack of funding and move it To Stratford which means our service users will either have to travel to Stratford to make bookings or use the telephone. Members considered the option of breaking away from VASA to set up our own service for Southam residents only. The current staff and volunteer drivers may be willing to continue. Members voted unanimously following recommendations by councillors Gaffney and Brooks to undertake this option to continue to deliver a service that`s valued and depended on current clients.

RESOLVED:

To endorse Councillor Gaffney`s proposal as follows-

- i)That a Volunteer Drivers booking service for Southam remains in the Grange hall staffed by the same volunteers and providing the same excellent service funded from the present budget to refund drivers mileage expenses but under the management of the Town Council.**
- ii)That funding be approved to transfer the Southam telephone line (currently held by VASA) and provide low cost advertising to inform clients of the change.**
- iii)That this is immediate as this is a vital service to current users most of whom are elderly and it is important that the changeover is seamless as soon as possible.**

197.7 Dog Fouling

Councillors Barratt and Oubridge provided a progress report on the field survey they were carrying out relating to citing and usage of dog bins. SDC have been contacted to obtain a location list of all the bins currently in the town

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Barratt and Oubridge provide a report of their findings for the June ENV meeting.

197.8 Public Seating complaint

Cllr Ellard presented her findings in response to Mr Munday`s complaint. The benches on Market hill are basically sound but unloved and in need of re-varnishing or slat replacement. It was noted the bench opposite the post office has a broken strut.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk look into getting the benches smartened up and slats replaced where necessary bearing in mind some have been donated and may require the donor`s permission.

197.9 The Great Get Together

Members considered the correspondence received from The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP announcing an initiative to take place over the weekend of 17 to 18th June. Designed to follow the first anniversary of Jo Cox`s murder and in conjunction with The Big Lunch and dozens of other

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groups the intention is to invite people across the country to come together with friends, neighbours and others they don't yet know for street parties, picnics, barbecues and bake-off competitions. He is keen for local authorities to facilitate and work with voluntary parties in their area to mark the occasion, avoiding bureaucracy and red tape to enable residents to hold their own events.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Ellard approach Southam 1st to see if this is something they would be interested in facilitating.

197.10 Planning Applications

Members considered 3 planning applications, no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests were declared

17/00930/TREE – 8 Banbury Road.

RESOLVED:

Refer to arboriculturist.

17/00444/FULL - 11 Roman Way.

RESOLVED:

The council objects to the retrospective erection of a new boundary fence and change of use of former landscape buffer to domestic garden. Whilst a precedent has been set elsewhere in the neighbourhood this is a corner plot that sits on the junction of Roman Way and Shepherds Hill. The council's opinion is that the new 1.9mt fence restricts line of sight for approaching vehicles, pedestrians, and obstructs the view for the neighbouring property's residents on Shepherds hill wishing to reverse their car onto the highway.

15/03618/OUT – Lower Farm, Southam Road, Stoneythorpe.

Members considered the changes made to the application which last came to council in January 2016. Little has changed, some amendments to housing density and a temporary access road to mitigate HS2 construction traffic.

RESOLVED:

The council Objects to the application. Our original objections of January 2016 stand unchanged except for the fact that now the Core Strategy has been adopted the wording of the first two reasons be amended to reflect the current position.

198. INFORMATION FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Appleton thanked the Town Council stating that he had enjoyed working with the Council over the last 14 years and wished the Council well

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Appleton

Cllr Crump advised the following:

- It is envisaged that there will be a planning appeal for the 240 dwellings for land off the bypass
- The current 5-year land supply number is likely to be known in June

199. 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

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200. STAFF SALARIES AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

RESOLVED:

To authorise the payment of staff salaries dated April 2017

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL - MEETING THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017 ISSUE 2					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Comments
17/00733/FUL	Mr Wilmot	8 Orchard Way, Southam CV47 1EG	Single storey rear extension and single storey side extension	28th April 2017	No representations
1700644/FUL	Dr Dallas Burston	Stoneythorpe Estate, Southam Road, Stoneythorpe CV47 2DL	Replacement general purpose building to be used in connection with the agricultural and forestry activities on the Stoneythorpe Estate, together with the equestrian activities undertaken on the Stoneythorpe Estate; demolition of existing buildings	4th May 2017	Please be aware that you are being notified as an adjoining Parish Council and your comments will not trigger this application being determined at Planning Committee but will be fully considered in coming to a decision on the application No representations
17/00948/FUL	Mr Dan Allen	Orchard House, 43 Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HW	First floor side extension	11th May 2017	No representations
17/00911/FUL	Mr Tony Langford	Unit 1 The Hanger, Harp Farm, Banbury Road, Southam CV47 2BL	Construction of a lean to extension to existing factory unit for use as a steelwork plating shop	16th May 2017	No representations
17/01075/FUL	Southam Town Council	Car Park, Market Hill, Southam	Temporary change of use of Market Hill car park (5 years) to hold a weekly market (up to 52 days per year)	16th May 2017	No representations

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Southam Town Council

APRIL 2017

Item No	Budget Line	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT (to be reclaimed)	Gross/Cheque Amount
1	48	<u>Southam College Eco Club</u>	Section 137 grant - constuction of greenhouse	1000.00	0.00	£1,000.00
2	48	<u>Southam Heritage Collection</u>	Section 137 grant - start up costs in new premises (furniture & legal fees)	2900.00	0.00	£2,900.00
3	51	<u>Southam Christmas Lights Association</u>	Section 137 grant provision of - 400 bulbs and 7 motifs	3112.00	0.00	£3,112.00
4	48	<u>Southam First</u>	Section 137 grant - premises hire,engraving of trophies, stationery and incidentals	500.00	0.00	£500.00
5	48	<u>Southam First</u>	Section 137 grant - retro revival event entertainment,childrens craft activity & TEN licence	861.75	0.00	£861.75
6	48	<u>Southam Carnival Committee</u>	Section 137 grant - provision of climbing wall and laser tag game	£1,140.00	£0.00	£1,140.00
7	48	<u>Southam Lions Poetry Competition</u>	Section 137 grant - printing of entry forms and books & room hire for awards	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00
8	52	<u>Southam in Bloom</u>	Section 137 grant - purchase of plants and maintenance of same	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00
9	46	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd	Grasscutting of play areas	£892.50	£178.50	£1,071.00
10	20	The National Association of British Market Authorities	Membership subscription 2017/18	£318.00	£63.60	£381.60
11	47	VASA	Reimbursement of volunteer drivers incl admin and stationery for February 2017	£672.60	£0.00	£672.60
12	49	Citizens Advice Bureau	Grant made under Local Government Act 1972 S2A power to provide information and advice - rental of a town centre room for CAB to continue the provision of an outreach service in Southam	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00
13	8	Inside IT	Broadband and FTTC Internet Service April to June	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
14	ER 39,30,37	Mr Richard Carro	Groundsman handyman contract April £688.46, Holy Well repair of sign and strimming £50, Park Lane supply and fit locks on bins £25	£763.46	£0.00	£763.46
15	4	Blythe Liggins	Legal fees and disbursements re Natural Amenity Space & Parish Pound in advance - invoice to follow to account for VAT	£1,700.00	£0.00	£1,700.00
16	25	Mrs Debbie Carro	Reimbursement of planning application fees (to be repaid by CJs envents)£192.50 Various travel expenses £47.48	£239.98	£0.00	£239.98
17	44	E-on	Street lighting electricity	£1,680.13	£335.29	£2,015.42
18	18	Express Press	April newsletter printing and delivery	£361.00	£0.00	£361.00
19	20	WALC	Membership subscription 2017/18	£936.08	£0.00	£936.08
20	7	CASH	purchase of stamps	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
			TOTALS	22612.50	604.39	£23,216.89

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