

Southam Town Council Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE MAYOR'S CHARITY

Each year the elected Mayor of Southam chooses charities to support and raise money for throughout the Mayoral year.



Councillor Willoughby has chosen the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance & Maire Curie Cancer Care.

Donations may be made by cheque payable to the Town Mayor's Fund and sent to Deputy Clerk, Southam Town Council, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA.

STRATFORD DISTRICT HAS A NEW DOG WARDEN

She said "Dog mess stinks with footpaths, school playing fields, parks and other recreational areas all being compromised. A good proportion of dog owners in the District are responsible, but sadly there are a number that continue to let us down. There is no defence to claim ignorance of your dog's actions and only registered blind owners of guide dogs are exempt. Dog fouling is one of the biggest environmental issues for residents. It's time to take action and clamp down on culprits. The message is simple: Scoop it, bag it, bin it! Obey the law and pick your dog mess off the floor. Avoid places where children play and remember to worm your dog at least every six months. By following these simple steps, we can work together to turn the tide on dog fouling." **Contact: Lisa Parkes, Dog Warden 01789 267575 lisa.parkes@stratford-dc.gov.uk**

MAYFIELD ROAD OPEN SPACE

Southam Town Council's lease on the Mayfield Road Open Space has now expired. The Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, which owns the land, has refused the Town Council's request to renew the lease and now requires vacant possession. It is understood that this is because a developer has been granted a legal option to purchase the land with vacant possession.

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL REGRETS THAT THE PUBLIC NO LONGER HAS A RIGHT TO USE THE LAND. The goal posts and litter bin have been removed and in future the Council will not litter pick the land, cut the grass or maintain the land in any way.

Should residents require further information regarding this matter, the agent for the Diocese is **Godfrey Payton 01926 492511**, the Landlord is **CDBF Ltd 024 7652 1200**

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Planning

Council voted unanimously to send Stratford District Council its objections to two planning applications:-

- **14/02213/OUT** to build 700 houses plus a care home, hotel, primary school etc. at Dallas Burston Polo Ground.
- **14/02167/FUL** demolition of existing house and outbuildings and construction of six houses and a new access road on the site of Southam Mill.

A further six applications were also considered but no representations were made.

Burial Ground

A report was received from the Burial Ground Working Party and it was resolved that:-

'STC is minded to become a burial authority, subject to the outcome of a local referendum which it is hoped can be held in May 2015 to coincide with the General Election'

The newly elected Council would need a positive result in the referendum to allow it to borrow the funds necessary to provide a burial ground. A suitable site has yet to be identified. A copy of the report is available from the Town Council Office or at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk.

Policing

Council resolved to issue an invitation to Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Ron Ball, to attend an open public meeting in Southam to address the issues raised by local residents on how Southam is policed. To-date, no response has been received.

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

The Town Clerk reported to Council that an unqualified audit opinion had been received from external auditors Grant Thornton with no matters arising.

It was resolved to name the nine roads of the development on Banbury Road using an avian theme. Kingfisher Drive, Moorhen Grove, Swift Gardens, Lark Row, Kestrel Row, Mallard Close, Dove Close, Heron Close and Wagtail Avenue. Stratford District Council has been advised of the decision.

The new lease for the play area at Tollgate Road was signed at the meeting. See next page for more details.

THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

As a member of the public you have the right to attend Town Council Meetings. They are advertised on the Southam Town Council website and on notice boards; notice of 3 clear days is given, as required under the legislation. Papers for the meetings are available in the Grange Hall in the week preceding the meeting.

By resolution, the Council can decide to meet in private to discuss confidential business or for other special reasons where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest. Items which would come under the heading of 'Confidential' include employee conduct, negotiations of contracts, terms of tender or legal information; this is not an exhaustive list.

Members of the public are permitted to take photographs, film and audio-record, tweet or blog the proceedings and report on all public meetings. Whilst no prior permission is required to carry out these activities, it is advisable to contact officers prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made for the public meeting. This is important because the rules require town councils only to provide reasonable facilities for any member of the public to report on meetings and this may just be from a seat in the public gallery. Those filming should take care not to film members of the public who are not taking part in the meeting in particular children and vulnerable adults where the responsible adult has not given consent for them to be filmed.

When tweeting or blogging, the law of the land applies, including the law of defamation and the law on public order offences. The new rules do not permit oral commentary during a meeting as this would be disruptive to the good order of the meeting. Neither do the rules prevent the Chairman from excluding a member of the public to maintain orderly conduct or prevent genuine disruption of the meeting. You may be excluded from the meeting if you act in a disruptive manner. This would include:-

- Moving to an area outside of that designated for the public without the consent of the Chairman
- Excessive noise in recording, setting up or re-siting equipment during the debate/discussion
- Intrusive lighting and use of flash photography
- Asking people to repeat statements for the purpose of recording

Recording equipment must not be left in the meeting room to record the private part of the meeting.

FULL DETAILS OF THE REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE TOWN CLERK

SAVE A LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

The next Blood Donor sessions will take place at the Grange Hall in the afternoon and evening of 15th January 2015 and 5th March 2015.



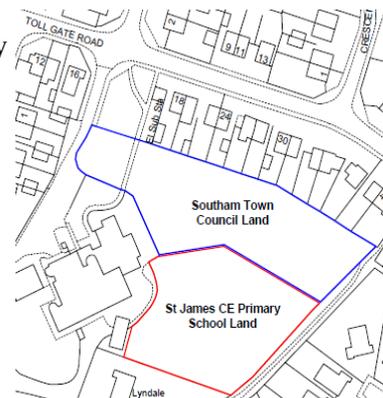
TOLLGATE ROAD PLAY AREA

Warwickshire County Council has now reached agreement with Southam Town Council and St James' CE Primary School on the future use of the playing field land at Tollgate Road and a new twenty five year lease has now been signed.

The playing field land will be divided between the two parties as shown on the plan. The school will fence off part of the land to allow them to have use of a secure area and the remainder of the land will be leased to the town council and retained as public open space. Each party will be responsible for the maintenance of the area they occupy and this is shown on the attached plan.

The school will be installing a fence to divide the two parcels of land and subsequently undertaking works to improve the condition of the land shown edged red. These works will start on site from mid-November and are anticipated to last 4-6 weeks. Southam Town Council will also be carrying out works to replace the fence line along the northern boundary adjacent to Tollgate Road, work will commence on October 27th 2014. Completion of these works will enhance the overall condition and appearance of the playing field land.

It has taken a significant amount of time and input from county council officers, the local Member Cllr Appleton, representatives from the town council, representatives from the school and local residents to reach a solution for the future use of the playing field land at Tollgate Road. It is hoped that by bringing a conclusion to this matter the playing field will be better utilised in the future by both the school and the local residents of Southam.



SALT BIN USE

Members of the public are welcome to use the salt in the yellow bins to make the public highways and footways safer during icy weather. Please remember to replace the lid after use.



Grit for use on private property can be purchased from builders merchants.

Telephone 01926 814004 to report an empty bin.

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

At it's meeting in September Southam Town Council awarded the following grants.

Local Government Act 1972 S.137

- John Turner Festival Committee Competition prizes £ 270
- 2028(Southam) Squadron ATC Replacement of equipment £ 400
- SAAG HS2 Provision of information ref HS2 £1000
- Southam Produce Association Provision of secure storage £1500
- Southam Heritage Collection Display cabinets £2000
- Southam Christmas Lights Association £ 750

(Public Health Act 1936 S.234) power to provide life saving appliances

- SCAN £3500

Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 S.19

- Southam Church & Community Project Youth Club running costs £2500

Grants will next be considered in February 2015. Application forms may be obtained from the Council offices in the Grange Hall or are available from the notice board of the website at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk and should be returned to the Deputy Clerk, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA by Monday February 2nd 2015.

SOUTHAM UNITED CHARITIES—GRANTS FOR SOUTHAM RESIDENTS

Southam United Charities can help an individual or a family in difficult financial circumstances with a grant for a particular purpose. Under the Charities' Scheme only residents from within the town of Southam can apply.

Simply write to the address below and say why you need assistance at this time. You may write on behalf of someone else but make sure you have their agreement first. Your letter will be treated in the strictest confidence. The grant is not means-tested but we ask you to supply the name and address of a referee who is willing to support the application. This could be a local head teacher, GP, councillor, church minister, etc.

Write to John Rouse, Clerk to Southam United Charities, Olympus House, Olympus Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV34 6BF.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON PAVEMENTS. CUT BACK ANY SHRUBS AND TREES WHICH ARE OBSTRUCTING THE FOOTPATH TO ALLOW THE LESS MOBILE TO PASS.

HOW TO BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Town councillors are elected by the public and serve a term of four years. Following elections, councils appoint a chair, or town mayor in town councils. Councillors are unpaid volunteers but travel expenses may be claimed if it is necessary for councillors to attend meetings or training events outside of Southam.

The Election Procedure

Ordinary elections of local councillors take place on the first Thursday in May every four years. **The next election in Southam will be in May 2015.**

Nomination Process

A prospective candidate must deliver or send by post to the Returning Officer a valid nomination paper. This form is obtained from the Officer. The candidate's surname, forenames, residence and description (if required) must be entered and his or her prefix letter from the current register of electors. The Returning Officer has a copy of this register, and the Clerk of Southam Council also has one.

The nomination paper must also contain similar particulars of a proposer and a seconder. They must be electors for the area for which the candidate seeks election. i.e. the parish, community or town or the ward if it is divided into wards: they must sign it.

The Returning Officer is the person responsible for the conduct and arrangement of town council elections. If you are considering becoming a candidate for election, contact the Returning Officer to obtain more detailed information. Tel. 01789 260101

Southam Town Council is keen to encourage more residents to take part in elections and existing Councillors are happy to advise prospective candidates. See the back page for their contact details. Training for new councillors is provided, following election, through the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

VASA urgently needs Volunteer Drivers in Southam and surrounding villages.

Drivers with their own cars are required to transport people with a genuine need to medical appointments. We pay 45p per mile to cover your car expenses. Just drive the hours to suit you.

TELEPHONE 01789 296344

The Grange Hall Management Committee needs VOLUNTEERS to join the committee, attend bi-monthly meetings and give practical assistance with the staging of concerts. Please contact Carole on 01926 813933



RESIDENT & TRADER EMAIL LIST

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL maintains an emailing list to keep residents and traders informed of **PUBLIC MEETINGS** and events of importance to the town.

If you would like to be kept directly informed of such events, please send your email address to:

deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

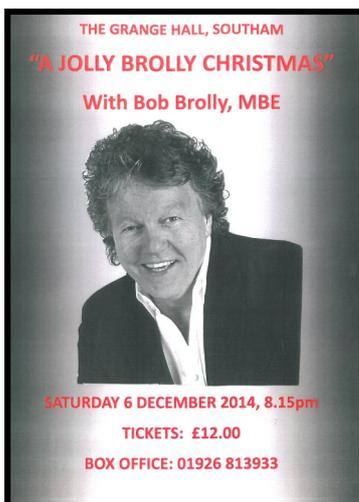
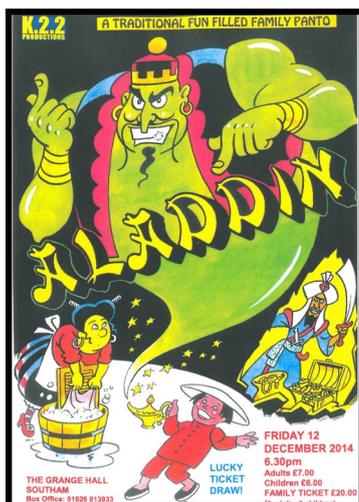
Don't forget to tell us if your email address has recently changed!

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

27th November 2014
 December Christmas Recess (No Meeting)
 8th January 2015 (Precept Meeting)
 22nd January 2015
 26th February 2015
 26th March 2015
 23rd April 2015
 21st May 2015 ATM & Mayor Making
 28th May 2015
 25th June 2015
 23rd July 2015
 24th September 2015
 August Recess (No Meeting)
 22th October 2015
 26th November 2015



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road Southam and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.



SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The Town Council Office will close at 1pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2014 and reopen at 9am on Friday 2nd January 2015. Emergency contact numbers can be obtained by ringing the office on 01926 814004.

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Linda Tasker	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817426	linda@priority-people.co.uk
Deputy Mayor Cllr Jason Ward		01926 812796	WAJAS3@AOL.COM
Cllr Daphne Smith		01926 814430	
Cllr Chris Worsh		01926 817122	cllr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Tony Bromwich	Mill Hill Ward	01926 811965 / 07879670599	tony.bromwich@gmail.com
Cllr Jane Soni		01926 812966	jrsoni@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Bransby Thomas		01926 812607	bransbythomas@btinternet.com
Cllr Lesley Smith		01926 813986	smith.lesley47@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr John Smith		01926 815658	johnsatstc@aol.com
Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE TD	Merestone Ward	01926 811028	mike@mandggaffney.plus.com
Mayor Cllr Mark Willoughby		01926 814257	markjwillo@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Eddie Thornley		01926 259115	mail@eddiethornley.com
Cllr Carol Pratt		01926 812533	carolannpratt@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Victor Shepherd		01926 817010	victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk

MAYOR: Councillor Mark Willoughby (01926 814257)

Editor: Councillor Lesley Smith (01926 813986)

**TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA
 (Tel: 01926 814004) email: clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk.**