

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held at St John's Church Centre on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

Present: Mr C Bulbeck (Chairman), Mrs M Bulbeck, Mr M Everson, Mr A Feltham, Mr R Hayes, Mrs M Hemmings, Mr J Jennings, Mr R Rolfe.
County Cllr M Dunn, District Cllr G Hicks, 11 members of public.

Apologies: Mrs S Cecil, Mrs L Leader, Dr P MacDougall, District Cllr B Finch.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members

523. Mr Bulbeck, Mrs Bulbeck and Mr Hayes declared interests in the Village Hall grant application as members of the Village Hall Committee.

Minutes

524. It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

525. Min 498. New sites had been identified for the speed indicator devices. The Council agreed to purchase another spare battery for the devices.

526. Min 500. The matter of footpath 212 and filling of the ditch was still ongoing in the hands of the County Council Legal Department.

Open Forum

527. The meeting was temporarily closed for public discussion. Upon re-opening the meeting the Council noted the following items raised by the public.
Serious flooding had occurred in Inlands Road, north of the rail crossing. Residents affected were invited to make contact with County Cllr M Dunn and District Cllrs R Hayes and G Hicks who would do what they could to assist.
Cllr R Hayes would liaise with a resident interested in the Biodiversity Group.
There was much concern regarding footpath 212 and the fence being moved and ditch piped and filled in.

County Councillor Comments

528. Cllr M Dunn had nothing in particular to report but invited questions.
Cllr Dunn and Mr Everson had been constantly liaising over the matter of footpath 212 and closely monitoring the situation.
Flooding as a result of ditches not being cleared was a concern and Cllr Dunn emphasized the responsibility for maintaining ditches rested with landowners.

District Councillor Comments

529. Cllr R Hayes reported the provisional figure for grant settlement from the Government had been received. For the next year it was not too bad but the future did not look promising. District now had a five year plan in place.
The Localism Act had introduced a community right to bid to take over assets for the benefit of the community.

A completely new system for benefits had been introduced starting in April, when the administration of the benefits scheme would be transferred to Central Government. The latest figures for the District Council housing waiting list were given. The number of visitors to the Novium museum had topped 21,000.

Correspondence

530. A list of correspondence received had been circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

531. List item 2. It was agreed to participate in the scheme and ask for a smoke free zone sign for the small children's playground at the recreation ground.

532. List item 3. Specifications for Hermitage name signs were received. A position for a westbound sign was still being investigated with the Highways Engineer.

Additional Correspondence Received

533. Mrs H Gilson. Horse tethered on the footpath at Thornham Point. Suggested RSPCA should be informed if the horse was believed to be in distress.

534. Kent CC Landscape Services. Ground maintenance charges for 2013. No increase on last year's charges. It was agreed to accept the charges.

535. Insidegovernment. Forum to discuss the Localism Act one year on, open for parish councils to attend.

536. SSE Contracting. Trees overgrowing a parish street light opposite Frarydene in Prinsted Lane needed cutting back but the owner of the trees did not want them cutting. Mr Everson, Parish Tree Warden, would make contact with the owner.

Councillor Vacancy

537. No-one had come forward to express an interest in filling the vacancy.

Dispensations for Members with Discloseable Pecuniary Interests

538. No applications for dispensation had been received and therefore the item on the agenda could be passed over. The Council noted the Clerk had obtained advice from the District Council and SALC on this topic and a paper giving information on dispensations had been circulated to all members.

Boundary Review with Chidham and Hambrook

539. The Working Group appointed at the December Parish Council meeting had met on 7th January and drafted a paper giving Southbourne's response to the proposed boundary change. The paper was circulated at the meeting. The review of the boundary had formally commenced on 7th January 2013 and those affected, including the Parish Council, would be consulted by the District Council. It was resolved the draft response should be approved, as amended.

Neighbourhood Plan

540. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Hayes and the Clerk had met with Rowena Tyler from Action in Rural Sussex to discuss the first steps to be taken to start the Neighbourhood Plan process.

All members of the Parish Council had wished to join the Steering Group. It was recommended there should be a Core Group consisting of five or six members, to be appointed at the January Parish Council meeting. Focus Groups could then be appointed to deal with specific aspects of the Plan, each chaired by a member of the Core Group.

A public open meeting would be held on Saturday 2nd February at the Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Rowena Tyler would give a presentation.

Ruth Heelan had been asked to prepare publicity notices, copies of which had been given to the Vice Chairman and Mr Hayes.

The Council appointed the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mrs Bulbeck, Mr Hayes, Mr Jennings and Dr MacDougall as the members of the Core Group.

Annual Parish Meeting

541. The Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th March at the St John's Church Centre. Sarah Hughes the new Community Wildlife Officer would be invited to be the guest speaker.

Refreshments would be served at the meeting.

Youth Services

542. Mr Jennings reported youth services had been a topic for the WSCC Community Action Project and asked the Council to consider ways the parish council might support provision of youth services in the parish following the closure of the Youth Wing at Bourne Community College. Some funding had been included in the budget for next year, to be considered later in the meeting.

It was agreed Mr Jennings would liaise with the St John's Church Youth Leader to explore possibilities for Parish Council help.

20's Plenty for Southbourne

543. With the 20's Plenty Scheme in Chichester underway, WSCC were now able to turn attention to Southbourne, following Southbourne's request to have a scheme in the parish. County had suggested a preliminary meeting to consider a scheme for Southbourne.

It was agreed the Vice Chairman, Mr Hayes and the Clerk would meet with the officer from WSCC and report back.

Estimates and Precept 2013/14

544. The report of the Finance Advisory Committee 11th December 2012 had been circulated with the agenda.

Grants

545. In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Committee it was resolved to give the following grants.

Age Concern Southbourne	£500
Bourne Community College	£500
Bourne District Guides	£300
Home Start Chichester & District	£250

Southbourne Sea Scouts	£500
Southbourne Village Hall	£1400
4Sight	£250

(Mr Bulbeck, Mrs Bulbeck and Mr Hayes withdrew for this item.)

Donation St Johns Church

546. In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Committee it was resolved to make a donation to St Johns Church of £500 in appreciation for use of the Church Centre for holding meetings.

Pay Review Caretaker, Clerical Assistant and Litter Picker

547. In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Committee it was resolved, that with effect from 1st April 2013, the pay of these employees should be:
Litter Picker £7.20 an hour.
Caretaker £7.77 an hour.
Clerical Assistant £246.66 a month.

Bank Accounts

548. In accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Committee it was resolved to transfer the Business Base Rate Tracker Account to a Business Active Saver Account and to deposit £25,000 in a Barclays Business Bond.

Estimates 2013/14

549. The Council noted that since the meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee a bulletin had been issued by SALC to inform member parishes a Government announcement had indicated capping of parish precepts would not take place in the coming year but capping of parishes might still occur at some time in the future. It was therefore prudent the Council should reconsider the estimates. The following additions were included in the estimates – street light improvements £2,500, recreation ground improvements/new equipment £7,000. The revised net total expenditure was £103,000.
Subject to these additions, it was resolved the estimates be approved.

Precept 2013/14

550. The precept for 2013/14 was calculated as follows:

Net total expenditure	£103,000
Less from reserves	- £9,693
Funding requirement	£93,307
Less Grant from CDC	- £7,307
Set precept requirement	£86,000

It was resolved the precept for 2013/14 would be £86,000.

Finance – Payments for Approval

551. A list of payments for approval was presented to the meeting, copy appended to the official minutes. It was resolved the payments be approved.

Matters Raised

552. Mrs Bulbeck reported the slow sign north of the A27 bridge was missing, also the kerb on the bridge needed repainting.

553. Mr Hayes commented the Christmas decorations in Southbourne appeared poor in comparison with some other villages and perhaps a Christmas tree at the Church or a best Christmas decorations competition could be considered another year.

554. Mr Everson reported there had been flooding in Stein Road as a result of a blocked sewer pipe. The pipe was the original sewer pipe put in when the houses in Stein Road were built.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....