

SOUTHERY PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th December 2016 at 7.00pm in Southery village hall**

**Present:** Cllr T Hipsey, Cllr M Moore, Cllr R Whitehead, Cllr T Feltwell, Cllr C Copsey, Cllr M Bird, Cllr S Hart, Cllr J Osler, Cllr M Storey & Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr K Hipsey

**Members of the public:** 12

**Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2016 were discussed and agreed to be a true record of proceedings.

Proposer: Cllr T Hipsey

2nd: Cllr S Hart

**Declarations of interest**

Members are invited to declare personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. It is a requirement that declarations from a member include the nature of the interest and whether it is personal or prejudicial.

None declared

**Chairman’s reports/updates**

On 15th November 2016 Cllr T Hipsey was asked to attend a meeting with the monitoring officer, head of legal services at Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk to discuss a formal complaint which has been raised by a member of public involving two former members of the Parish Council. At this stage the monitoring officer is satisfied that no further action will be taken at this time.

The Parish Council has reviewed and signed the code of conduct.

A letter has been received from Sophie King at Fraser Dawbarns, the letter states that the parish council has made no decision as yet as to what action to take, this is not correct. The solicitor has been instructed to investigate the western boundary, register the yellow area to the south and regain the triangle to the north. The letter from Fraser Dawbarns explains the options available to the council in relation to the instructions above.

The solicitor advises the council to take into consideration what benefit they will obtain from spending money to proceed to land tribunal. It is likely that the costs will be more than the value of the land. The costs of proceeding to land tribunal could amount to £6000.00 plus the costs of the other party should the parish council lose the case.

Cllr M Moore asked the Council what they would like to happen, what outcome does the Council want? and strongly suggested that the Parish Council try and negotiate with Mr. Burton. Mr. Burton has offered to negotiate and return the triangle to the north into parish ownership in return for a visual splay which would mean that the council would be restricted when planting or placing structures on the Werehen but the fence would then remain in place as it is today. Mr. Burton has also stated that some green land would be available to the west of the Werehen during development of the land behind.

Cllr M Moore was concerned that village money is being spent on this matter when a negotiation settlement option is available. There are no guarantees that the Council will win the case should they proceed to tribunal. Cllr Moore stated that he would not agree to further legal proceedings in this matter.

Cllr T Hipsey stated that he has or knows of no personal interests in this matter.

It was proposed by Cllr C Copsey that the Parish Council should seek advice and a second opinion for an independent solicitor.

It was proposed to instruct Metcalf Copeman and Pettifar at Kings Lynn to review this case and advise accordingly.

Proposer: Cllr C Copsey

2nd: Cllr J Osler

6 Councilors in favor of proposal.

2 Councilors against this proposal.

The Clerk will contact Metcalf Solicitors and arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.

Highways are waiting for a full report from their contractor with regard to the drains on Lynn Road they will then be able to confirm a way forward.

Clerk wrote to Dave Stephens to obtain an update on the proposed weight restrictions in the village following the recent consultation. A number of objections were raised to the first proposal.

Cllr M Storey called for a 20mph speed restriction outside of the school. Following this two resolutions have been put forward:

a) officers will investigate the possibility of a 20mph speed restriction outside the school

b) Following the response received to the informal consultation on a part-time weight restriction through Southery, officers should undertake further consultation on alternatives to the currently proposed options.

Cllr M storey will be attending a meeting on 22.12.16 at County Hall.

**Correspondence**

Safer Neighborhood Action Panel (SNAP) meeting will be on 7th December 2016 at 7.00pm in Downham Market Town Hall.

In March 2016 the Parish Council submitted a proposal and plans to St Georges Medical Centre, Littleport for a new Doctors surgery at the village hall. At present St Georges Medical centre is still awaiting long term approval from NHS England with regards to rent reimbursement. Whilst this is ongoing they would not like to submit any other applications with regards to outreach clinics which might have a negative impact on the application with regards to the littleport premises. They are hopeful that this issue will be resolved within the next 6mnths and they will inform the Parish Council when they can move forwards with regards to Southery proposal. They have requested some further clarification on the plans which were submitted.

**Planning applications**

16/01947/f: Retain timber cladding to garages at 16 Westgate Street.

16/01929/f: Conversion of existing office to dwelling at Nicholson Machinery, 1 Westgate Street.

No objections were raised to the applications by the parish council.

**Payments for approval**

Clerk £502.64

Expenses £40.90

C Wills £59.35

HMRC £65.00

E.on £47.73

M Woodbridge Cemetery work £300.00

Smiths of Derby £271.20

Hodson office supplies £74.35

K & M Lighting £624.00

B Stubbins internal audit £50.00

Village hall hire 6mnths £75.00

All payments were approved for payment.

Proposer: Cllr T Feltwell

2nd: Cllr M Moore

**Matters requiring attention**

The Parish Council reviewed the latest bank reconciliation and discussed the precept requirement. It was agreed to request the same figure as last year.

This will be £22,000.00 + Council tax support grant of £889.00

Propose: Cllr M Moore

2nd: Cllr M Bird

Wicksteed have carried out the annual play area inspection, some medium risk repairs require attention. C Wills will carry out these subject to approval by the Parish Councils insurance company.

Electricity meter is due for replacement in the portacabin

The Parish Clerk has resigned from post and an application for Clerk position has been received. The Council will meet on 12.12.16 to discuss the applicant and terms and conditions prior to organizing an interview.

Proposer: Cllr C Copsey

2nd: Cllr T Hipsey

Application for memorial: Dorothy Pearl Barrow and Lorraine Youngs. These were approved by the Council.

A copy of the structural inspection report for the village hall has been obtained for Council to review. This will be issued to all councilors and discussed at a future meeting.

Moles are still present on the football pitch, the mole catcher has been informed and will commence work. The pitch has been damaged and a request has been made for the this to be rectified. It may require top soil and rolling. Council will review once the moles have been removed.

The Council have been issued some dates on which to attend a visit to Wissington sugar beet factory.

It was decided to accept Tuesday 3rd January 2017. 7 Councilors will attend.

Funding is available from the Parish Partnership scheme, The Council have discussed resurfacing the footpath which runs from Lynn Road through to Holman's Chase, Campsey. Highways are costing this and a bid will be placed.

Highways are going to install a kissing gate to stop children being able to run straight out into the road at the top of this footpath which opens on to Lynn Road.

Cllr M Storey briefed the Council on matters concerning the devolution process.

Cllr S Hart informed Council that the team who carry out the maintenance work at Littleport cemetery would be happy to quote for any work to be carried out in Southery cemetery.

Streetlight no 1 on Campsey Road at the junction of Ringmore is not working. Clerk will instruct Lighting company to change all Campsey Road to LED light bulbs.

Cllr M Moore reported that the Community speed watch scheme is very successful with fewer people being reported. Thanks was given to all the volunteers who carry out the speed watch scheme.

Cllr J Osler gave thanks to Mr. Woodbridge who has been working at the cemetery cutting the laurel hedge.

Cllr T Hipsey discussed the recent news that Ten Mile Bank school has been under the threat of closure. A consultation is currently underway proposing the closure but the Dioceses has issued news that the school will not close at this time and will remain open until 2019 to enable other options and funding to be investigated.

**Matters bought to the attention of the Council:**

Issues raised by the Council which are not on the agenda will be put forward to the next meeting of the Council; no decision will be taken at this meeting.

The BMX track on the playing field needs clearing so it can be used.

**Members of the public comments / questions**

Member of the public raised concerns regarding the Werehen issues and wished to see the Parish Council regain the ownership of the land.

There is a big puddle which sits on stocks corner, the drains needs clearing.

Member of the public was able to clarify a few items regarding evidence that the Parish Council does have ownership of the land to the south of the Werehen.

Meeting closed 8.20pm

The Next Parish Council meeting will be meeting will be held on 6th February 2017 at 7.00pm.