

SOUTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th October 2009 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Mr C McEwen (Chair) Mrs S Brown
 Mr K Millard Ms M Presse
 Mr B McGlone Mrs J Franklin
 Mr R Powell (Clerk)

6 members of the public

137/09 APOLOGIES: Cllr D Dart

Due to a recent change to his personal circumstances, Mr Feal-Martinez was no longer able to continue as a Parish Councillor

For the purpose of this meeting, Mr McGlone was appointed Vice Chair

138/09 OPEN 10 Minutes –

Mr Neil Burchell addressed the meeting about the Parish Council's approach to development of the village & the EDA. He felt that many residents were unhappy that the Council was exceeding its mandate. A group of residents was putting together a questionnaire seeking the views of all residents. He urged the Parish Council to join in with this group rather than continue with its current divisive strategy.

The chairman explained that the leader of the group, Simon Olive, was of the opinion that the mandate was for a much smaller number of additional dwellings. The mandate pre-dated the Village Strategy working party work and was not specific on dwelling numbers. . The chairman added that at the public meeting held in the church on 26th May there was support for Simon Olive to continue with the "Stop" campaign and the Parish Council to continue with its approach of trying to get the best development for the village. **Mr Burchell** felt that the outcome from the meeting in the church was muddled with no clear summary/decision.

Mrs Sheila Anderson-Witty commended the council on their earlier Village Strategy approach. but it was clear that this work had been ignored by the Borough in the formulation of the EDA SPD. She was disappointed with the current approach of the council to work with the Borough as this was unlikely to achieve what was wanted for the village. She also felt that the Council should communicate better with residents so that people new what the Council was doing and why.

The chairman felt it was difficult to identify the common ground between the Parish Council approach and the "stop the EDA" group. He added that the Parish Council had objected to many of the EDA proposals , particularly the infrastructure deficiencies.

Mrs Sylvia Brown pointed out various likely scenarios for development around the village. She agreed that there was room for a consensus with the "Stop" group but they needed to understand the reality of actually being able to stop the development.

Mr Burchell felt that many of the residents supporting the “Stop” campaign were unaware of the points raised by Mrs Brown and these needed to be more widely discussed

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had been successful in getting Borough agreement to an SPD for South Marston which would result in an integrated plan for the village. It had appointed its own consultants to assist with the development of the SPD. He felt that the Borough was prepared to be flexible to some extent on final dwelling numbers rather than stick to the EDA numbers. Simply limiting the village development to 300 dwellings could have an adverse impact on what was built on the village boundaries.

A public meeting would be held during the 1st week of December to outline the issues and what realistically could be achieved.

Mr Burchell urged the Council to have a dialogue with residents, other than via the website/Tower & Tap, before the public meeting in December as there was a risk of losing the support of a large number of residents. There was a view that the Council was working against the wishes of the residents . He suggested that a small number of representatives from each of the “camps” should meet with an independent chairperson.

Mrs Anderson-Witty urged the council to breakdown the boundaries between the groups and try to get a united approach to the problem

The chairman thanked Mrs Anderson-Witty & Mr Burchell for their comments which would be considered by the Council.

139/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Mrs Presse –151/09- water conservation (The firm she works for supplies specific equipment); Mr Millard – Discussion on aerial array (Lives adjacent to array); Mr McGlone – 141/09 para 3 - Discussion on representation on the United Charities committee (Secretary of Friendly Club that has requested a donation from the charity.

140/09 TO APPROVE AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th September 2009

The minutes were approved and signed after minor corrections to section 134/09

141/09 CLERKS REPORT & MATTERS OUTSTANDING

1. Planning Decisions

None

2. Parish Council Vacancies

Two people have expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Mssrs Nigel Beckett and Stuart Young. The latter has supplied background details (see attached). Mr Neil Burchell & Mrs Sheila

Anderson –Witty also expressed an interest and would supply supporting documentation. Interviews would be held on 22 October.

3. Highworth United Charities Representative

Mr McGlone agreed to represent the Parish Council as an observer.

4. Project Coordinator

The Council had been running essentially without a Project Coordinator since Mary Case resigned the post in September 2008. It was agreed to advertise for a Liaison Officer on the website and in the Tower & Tap.

5. Village website

Donald Jones has made an excellent start in producing an alternative village website using Wordpress as a platform. The site can be seen at www.smpc.wordpress.com. ID Builder have been to transfer ownership of our current domain address "southmarston.co.uk" but have not replied other than an acknowledgement of our request. Clerk to chase ID Builder.

To set up an additional website for the parish council only eg. www.southmarstonparishcouncil.gov.uk. will cost £10/month for the domain package It was agreed not to pursue this at this time.

It was agreed that the "Wordpress" platform would be used for the official village website

Mr Jones was present at the meeting and agreed to take over the role of website administrator from Kay Long. He was thanked for his help with the developing the new website and for taking on the administrator role..

6. Radio Aerials

Mr Feal-Martinez has received complaints from residents about TV reception interference following the recent digital frequency change. They feel that the cause could be the large aerial cluster at Alma Cottage Old Vicarage Lane.

This issue had been investigated in the past and there was no questions as to their legality. The digital TV signals were probably coming from Oxford and the village was on the edge of the transmitter's range hence some interference. No action to be taken.

7. Standards Training

No courses were planned at present but Stephen Taylor is happy to run a session if we can make it a larger group. This will be raised at the Clerk's Forum on 6th November to see what interest there is from other Councils

8. Matters Outstanding Register

Traffic Management – Discussed in item 143/09
Website – Discussed above

Keypoint Footpath – No new progress

Land Adjacent to 31 Highworth Road – Signed Lease sent to Borough

142/09 CORRESPONDENCE

- Reply from MP concerning Sustainable Communities Act – Noted Clerk to advise MP that the Government department involved was the Department for Communities & Local Government.
- Note on Report from GW Ambulance Service - Noted
- External Auditor's Report – Noted
- Note on Connecting People Connecting Places North Cluster Roadshow. Clerk to ask for numbers attending and the costs of staging it.
- Note from Denis Cole re ditch reinstatement project. Clerk to ask for progress on A420 culvert project.
- Adoption of Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals & Waste DPDs – Noted
- Wanborough Flood Survey – No action

143/09 REMOVAL OF SPEED HUMPS

Residents had obtained a quote of £15,849.36 from a local contractor for the removal of four speed humps in Thornhill Road. Details had been sent to the Borough Highways Dept who had commented that although the contractor was approved by the Borough, it was not approved for the type of work needed for this project. The Borough would be obtaining costs for the work. Borough to be asked who would be paying for the work as the original job was not Fit for purpose?

144/09 PLANNING

S/09/1376 – Insertion of various ventilation louvres with associated external works and erection of security gates and fencing at Merlin 4 building 11a Broadmoor Road South Marston Park

No adverse comments raised but Clerk to raise increased noise pollution query

S/09/1497 – Erection of a detached garage at Mandalay Thornhill Road

Garage forward of building line. Concern that plan did not show distance of front of garage to the road; possible safety visibility issues.

S/09/1498 – Erection of a single storey rear extension and pitched roof to porch at Mandalay Thornhill Rd

No adverse comments raised

S/09/1595 – Erection of a single storey rear extension at 8 Quarrybrook Close

No adverse comments raised

145/09 VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Small discussion group to take place on Wednesday 4th November in the Village Hall to clarify the various issues and agree common ground. Group to include members of Village Strategy working party

146/09 FLOODING IN THE VILLAGE

No new information

147/09 FUNDING REQUEST FOR CHURCH OIL TANK

There was concern about being seen as a funding source for maintaining buildings owned by organisations in the village. It was proposed by Sylvia Brown that as the church was a key community facility of the village with potential for additional community use, a grant towards the purchase of a replacement oil tank would be made on the basis of matched funding This was seconded by Ken Millard and agreed unanimously. It was proposed by Sylvia Brown and seconded by Brian McGlone that a grant of 50% of the cost of replacement up to a maximum of £1000 would be made.

148/09 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Copies of the updated Risk Assessment had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Ken Millard proposed , seconded by Jean Franklin that these be adopted by the Council. This was agreed unanimously.

149/09 COMPLETION OF SPECIAL EXPENSES FORM

It was agreed that this would be completed on 22nd October following the interviewing of Parish Councillor applicants.

150/09 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES & REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

At a recent meeting of the Swindon Area Committee the provision of 20Ha of allotments within the EDA was raised. Clerk to establish proposed location of the allotments.

Neil Pullen of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust would be contacted ref. the planning of the layout of the newly acquired conservation site. It was agreed that this work could go ahead.

Rights of Way Liaison Committee – Footpath 9 to Stanton Fitzwarren uses non defined privately owned roads where it passes through South Marston Park Industrial Estate. The site owners will be asked to designate a specific route through the site.

151/09 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY OR WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

At an earlier meeting, provision of water at the allotments was discussed. Margaret Presse handed over brochures describing a system for collecting ground water that might be worth considering.

152/09 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL & SIGNATURE. SECOND QUARTER REPORT

1. Bank Accounts as at 30th September 2009

Bid Account	78957.70
Current Account	1040.45
Total	79,998.15

NB. Half year Precept received

2. Cheques for Approval and Signature

Cheque

1444 Mr Powell (salary for September less PAYE).....	281.76
1445 Mr R Powell (expenses for October).....	19.97
1446 Voluntary Action Swindon (Photocopying of meeting docs).....	5.65
1447 Stratton Garden Contractors (grass cutting in September).....	318.00
1448 Mazars (external audit fee).....	155.25
1449 Stratton St Margaret PC(Dog Bins 7/9 – 26/10).....	169.88
1450 South Marston Primary School (Mtce donation + copying to Sep.).....	309.03

The chairman closed the meeting at 22.00