

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held at St John's Church Centre, Southbourne on 14 July 2015.

Present: Mr J Brown, Mr C Bulbeck, Mrs M Bulbeck, Mr M Everson, Mr W Fergusson, Mr Hayes*, Mr G Hicks*, Mr P Hicks, Mr M Lane and Mrs A Russell.

*Also District Councillors for Southbourne

County Councillor Ms S James and seven members of the public.

Welcome

75. The Chairman welcomed Mr Bryce Withers to his first Council meeting following his co-option on 9 June

Apologies

76. Apologies were received from Mr Feltham.

Declarations of Interest

77. None

Minutes

78. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Open Forum

79. A member of the public advised that litter continued to be a problem along Inlands Road and there was a broken fence by the housing estate near the railway line where the wood had not been removed. Mr Lane commented that it had been possible in the past for local volunteers to get help with equipment from the District Council. Mr Hayes would check that this was still the case.

80. It was noted that there had been a good response to the request for information about where trees might be planted in the parish. An order for them would be placed with the County Council by the end of July 2015.

81. In response to a question regarding the submission of a definitive map modification application for footpath 3675 to the County Council, the Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss it.

Mens Shed

82. The Chairman welcomed Mr Meaney to the meeting. Mr Meaney advised the Council that Mens Shed was a place for men over 60 who were not in full time work to meet socially. It currently had 32 members meeting every week. The idea had started in Australia in 2007 with the idea that it would help overcome loneliness and depression in men and have other health benefits. The Southbourne Mens Shed had started a year ago and Mr Meaney said he it needed publicity to promote its work. There were plans to build a meeting venue alongside the Age Concern building in the parish.
83. The Chairman thanked Mr Meaney for informing the Parish Council about the work of the Mens Shed. He suggested that if the group required funding for projects it should consider applying for a grant from the Parish Council later in the year.

County Councillor's Report

84. The report from County Councillor Ms James was received and noted.

District Councillor's Report

85. Mr Finch reported that the District Council had adopted the Local Plan on 14 July 2015 and it would need to be reviewed in five years' time. The Cabinet would be asked to approve the Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan and the timetable for its referendum on 8 September 2015. The referendum would be likely to be held in October. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan for Loxwood had been passed its referendum but was being taken to judicial review by developers. It was not expected to succeed however.
86. The Council's housing target of 141 affordable homes had exceeded with 272 homes being built. The Council was investing £0.65m to help financially marginal projects to succeed in building more affordable homes.
87. The Council was undertaking a survey to look at visitor experience in the District so that it could better target its resources to boost tourism.
88. Although the advertising and sponsorship team had raised £309,000 over the last three years the Council wanted to raise significantly more in the future through advertising and sponsorship for services.
89. There would be a "Ward Walk" on 10 August with Mr G Hicks and Mr Hayes starting at 2pm. Mr Fergusson would arrange for a briefing to be made available regarding the green ring project.

Police Report

90. The report from PCSO Lemm was received and noted.

Finance

Payments

91. The payments for July 2015 were approved.

92. Resolved - that the payments for August 2015 be agreed by the cheque signatories and be reported to the meeting in September 2015.

Report of Finance Advisory Committee

93. The Council received the report of the Finance Advisory Committee (copy appended to the signed minutes).

94. Resolved

- i. that the revised budget of £94,953 be approved;
- ii. that the hire cost for the football pitch be agreed at £120 per month (or £60 for individual matches) for clubs based in Southbourne or £180 per month (£90 per match) for clubs outside Southbourne;
- iii. that the hire agreement for use of the football pitch and pavilion be approved.

Steering Committees - Terms of Reference

95. The Council received the proposals for terms of reference and remit for steering groups from Mr Brown. In response to a question about "non-residents" Mr Brown clarified that he meant professional officers such as the District Council's environment officer.

96. It was recognised that each steering group would require its own specific terms of reference. However concern was expressed that some projects such as the green ring could not be dealt with by an environment steering group due to their complexity and would require a separate steering group. Each group would need to be reviewed at least biennially to ensure that it remained relevant to the Council's work.

97. Members agreed that the Parish Council would need to remain responsible for any expenditure and a steering group would need to seek approval if it needed to spend money. The Clerk advised that when setting its budget, the Council should consider allocating a proportion of that budget for spending in support of the steering groups.

98. Resolved

- (i) that the purpose of each steering group be clearly established and reviewed at least once every two years
- (ii) that a single budget for all steering groups be considered as part of the Council's budget for 2016/17; any expenditure against the budget being approved by the Council.

Neighbourhood Plan

99. On 8th September 2015, the District Council's Cabinet would be asked to approve the referendum.

New Homes Bonus

100. It was noted that the proposed project with Westbourne Parish Council for the Joint Burial Ground was not proceeding.

101. Resolved – that a bid for New Homes Bonus funding from the District Council, comprising £2,500 for tree plantations and fencing and £4,000 for the pre-feasibility study on the footbridge as part of the project to establish the Green Ring, be supported.

102. Mr Fergusson commented that there would need to be 39 separate projects to complete the Green Ring.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

103. It was noted that one SID on Main Road needed replacing. Options and funding would be considered at the draft budget for 2016/17.

Litter and Dog Bins

104. The Council considered the siting of additional litter bins in the Parish.

105. Resolved – that an additional litter bin be sited:

- (i) on Thorney Road on the corner of the public footpath
- (ii) on the left hand side of Stein Road by the bridge over the A27

Correspondence

106. The Council noted the correspondence from the County Council regarding the Boundary Commission proposals for West Sussex.

Items for Future Meetings

107. Members asked to invite Mrs Tanya Murphy from the District Council's Parking Enforcement Team to a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

108. 8 September 2015

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....