

D R A F T
MINUTES OF SOUTH WILLINGAM
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016

Present:

Councillor D Challender

Councillor P Cutts

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott

Councillor N Harris

Councillor D Nutten Chair

Councillor N Spencer Vice Chair

Councillor R Fry (ELDC)

The Chair thanked Councillor Fry for his attendance.

1 Apologies for absence:

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of interest in any items on this Agenda:

Councillor Cutts declared an interest in Item 13: Planning Applications for Church Farm, Station Road.

3 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2015:

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising from the Minutes:

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5 Financial Matters:

Councillors were able to view the latest bank and budget statements.

The following issues were considered under the heading "Setting of Budget and Precept for 2016/17".

The Parish Council was aware that ELDC would be charging Parish Councils for elections from 1 April 2016 onwards (as per previous minutes).

ELDC Proposed charges to the Parish Council for Street Lighting (estimated to be in excess of £700.00 per annum): Councillor Fry explained the District Council's budget position caused by reduced funding from Central Government. Councillor Fry also informed Councillors of the various budget headings under which reductions were planned. Most would not affect the Parish of South Willingham but there would be no more Councillor Grants and there would be an increase in the charge for Green Waste collection which would affect residents directly.

Councillors discussed the various options available for street lighting and in view of the increase in precept that would be required, following a vote it was agreed that the street lights should be turned off. **Action: Councillor Nutten would notify ELDC of the Parish Council's decision.**

Outcome of questionnaire to residents: The results from the questionnaire had been collated and in the main no firm conclusions could be drawn. The majority were in favour of an increase in the precept. Some of the issues for concern included traffic/speeding (which was the responsibility of the County Council/Police); confusion between County Council/District Council and Parish Council responsibilities; concerns that an increase in the number of bins and signs would clutter the village. There was a majority in favour of nature conservation, planting of trees and flowers and footpath signs and maps.

There would also be a cost involved in producing signs for the new footpath.

Charges for additional grass cutting: LCC had informed Councillor Nutten that one additional grass cut on the village approaches would cost £500.00. It was agreed that this was not a viable option.

Councillor Fry left the meeting at this point and the Chair thanked Councillor Fry for his attendance.

Action: It was agreed that this would be discussed at greater length at the next meeting and decisions made on future Parish Council spending on the topics covered by the questionnaire.

Setting of Precept for 2016/17: Councillors discussed the various issues as to whether the precept should be raised, and if so by how much. It was agreed that the precept should be raised to £900.00 and that clear plans should be made as to how the money should be spent. This would be discussed in depth at the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk would submit the form for the precept to ELDC.**

6 Update on Proposed Footpath following the meeting with Christopher Heneage:

Councillor Nutten had received a letter from Andrew Carter, the Estate Manager, with a draft agreement to be signed by both parties. The extension from South Walk Farm to the High Street had been omitted and an amended agreement was being prepared. **Action: Councillor Nutten to respond and clarify the type of signage required.**

7 Progress on Cutting Back Trees:

This had been an issue raised by Christopher Heneage as trees overhanging the highway caused a hazard to high vehicles using the junction. Councillor Nutten had contacted Richard Littlewood from LCC. Mr Littlewood had informed Councillor Nutten that branches were required to be 17' 6" above the highway, and were the responsibility of the owner of the property.

8 Progress on Possible Children's Area:

Councillor Elliott informed the meeting that a piece of land was now available for this purpose if the residents supported it. Planning permission for a change of land use would be required. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting; costings and insurance requirements would need to be identified.

9 Broadband Speed Update:

Councillor Spencer informed the meeting that no further progress was anticipated in the near future. **Action: Councillor Spencer would draft a letter to be sent to BT from the Parish Council.**

10 Wildlife Conservation:

Councillor Challender had obtained contact details for an expert on Barn Owls who would be willing to give a talk and look at possible sites for boxes. **Action: This would be discussed at the next meeting.**

11 Correspondence:

Letter from NALC regarding audit procurement; letter from the Boundary Commission regarding an Electoral Review of Lincolnshire; letter requesting a donation to the Community Spirit magazine: Councillors noted the first two and agreed that with current budget pressures they would be unable to submit a donation.

12 Items for the Next Agenda:

Budget: future spending plans to be identified to include environmental improvements to the village/wildlife conservation/children's play area; progress on new footpath/signage; progress on cutting back overhanging trees; village tidy-up.

13 Planning Matters: Applications for Church Farm, Station Road and The Old Mill House, Donington-on-Bain:

Councillor Cutts had declared an interest in the applications for Church Farm. Councillors raised several queries on the plans which Councillor Cutts was able to answer before leaving the meeting.

Councillors discussed the plans in greater depth following Councillor Cutts' departure. **Action: Councillor Nutten would contact the planning officer at ELDC.**

The Old Mill House, Donington-on-Bain: The Parish Council had no observations relating to this application.

14 Date of Next Meeting: 10 March 2016

Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: