

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2017

Present:

Councillor D Challenger

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott (Chair)

Councillor N Spencer

Clerk: Councillor S Asquith

Residents' Forum: Celia Payne, Eric Payne

Residents' Forum

Two residents attended requesting clarification of the situation with the village street lighting. Cllr Elliott explained the background to ELDC's approach to the Parish Council. Initially, the suggestion was that street lighting be added to the Parish Council precept, which would have quadrupled the figure. It was therefore decided that they would have to be switched off as unaffordable. Then ELDC said they would be making no charge as they were to upgrade the lighting to LED, which was more economical to run but they asked whether the village residents wanted to reduce the number of street lights in use. Following discussion at the previous meeting the Parish Council submitted a return favouring a reduction in lighting, maintaining street lights only at main junctions in the village. A further request from ELDC has since been received for a final response, which stated that no lighting would be removed without a risk assessment.

Mr Payne said that he felt that the topic was of sufficient importance to have the village views taken into account via a survey. Cllr Elliott said that this had been discussed but that in his experience a 50:50 result was usual, which did not resolve the matter so the outcome of a vote of Parish Councillors had been adopted. Cllr Edmundson pointed out that the mechanism for village input was via the Residents' Forum. No comments from residents had been received but it was acknowledged that street lighting had not been a stand-alone topic on the last meeting agenda so it was not clear that it was to be discussed. Cllr Spencer had sought the views of his neighbours, which had brought the matter to the attention of some residents.

Cllr Elliott said he was not aware that anything had yet been decided by ELDC and added that, in hindsight, village opinion could have been sought. He would contact

ELDC to establish the position and if the matter had not been decided the Parish Council would undertake a survey of residents' views.

1 Apologies for absence:

Councillor P Cutts (Vice Chair)

Councillor N Harris

2 Declarations of interest in any items on this Agenda:

There were no declarations of interest.

3 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2017:

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

4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on 12 January 2017:

Matters Arising, Point 7: The Chairman had sent completed forms to co-opt Cllr Spencer to the ELDC.

Matters Arising, Point 10: Best Kept Village Competition – agenda item.

Matters Arising, Point 14: Correspondence. (i) The application form for the phone box had not yet been received. (ii) The minutes and audit report had been put on the website. **Action: Chairman to complete application form to adopt the phone box when received.**

Point 7: Shirley Asquith had submitted the necessary forms for co-option to the Parish Council as both clerk and councillor and had provided her contact details to the relevant bodies.

Point 9: Broadband speed - agenda item

Point 10: Village Tidy Up – agenda item

Point 11: Planning – agenda item

Point 12: Best Kept Village competition: agenda item

Point 12: Vandalism of village signs: The Chairman had emailed Highways and asked about the signs being repaired and would send a copy to Mrs Ferguson.

Point 14: Meeting dates: The dates for the year had been agreed and circulated and were in the village hall diary.

5 Financial Matters: Presentation of financial report and bank statement:

There had been no payments into or out of the account and there was nothing to report.

The Chairman had finalised the budget and submitted the precept form.

The Annual Return forms had been received from Grant Thornton. Deadline for the return is 5th June.

An invoice for the parish hall website had been received for the 2017/18 financial year for £52.96. It was agreed to delay a cheque until the new financial year and new cheque-signing arrangements had been made.

Cllr Asquith had been unable to liaise with HSBC without agreed signatories to her letter. **Action: Cllr Asquith will re-draft the letter and ask Cllr Edmundson and Cllr Harris to sign as they were understood to be approved signatories. She would then circulate a new form for all current councillors to sign.**

6 Risk Management:

This item is to be a standing item on the agenda. The assessment will be undertaken at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Asquith is to seek out the LALC list of risk management responsibilities.**

7 Broadband Speed Update:

Cllr Spencer referred to his circulated email of 29th January 2017. There was to be a full rebuild for the whole village but only partial rebuild for the farther end of Barkwith Road that falls outside of the postcode. The start was to be between August 2017 and December 2019.

8 Village Tidy Up:

Cllr Harris had circulated a report on the event. In summary, 12-15 bags of rubbish and a couple of tyres were collected. The telephone box and post box were washed and the bus shelter swept. She requested that the thanks of the Parish Council to all who attended be minuted.

Cllr Harris also noted that the phone box paint is peeling badly and that it needs rubbing down and redoing both inside and out. She suggested contacting BT to see if they would do this prior to the village adoption. If not, the code number of the paint colour would need to be obtained. **Action: Chairman to contact BT.**

9 Best Kept Village Competition:

The closing date for the application to take part is 5th May and carries an £18 fee. Cllr Challenger volunteered to co-ordinate the application. Following discussion, and the lack of response by the village to the previous year's competition, it was agreed not to apply and to put the money saved towards stationery costs. **Motion not to enter the competition was passed.**

10 Street Lighting:

Two members of the public attended the Residents' Forum. *See agenda item above.*

Should the decision of ELDC not have been finalised, Cllr Spencer offered to draw up a survey form outlining the options, which residents could sign to indicate their preference. Councillors would have to visit houses individually. He would circulate the form for approval. It was agreed that a simple majority vote would carry the day.

Action: A survey of street lighting preferences is to be carried out if ELDC has not finalised their plans.

11 Planning Matters:

Cllr Spencer had provided the name of the landowner to ELDC in the case of the flooding in Donnington Road.

12 Correspondence:

Further correspondence had been received from ELDC regarding Moors Lane.

The LALC News had been received along with an invoice for £74.83 for membership. This had not been included in the budget but would be paid when the banking signatories were confirmed. **Action: Clerk to arrange payment.**

It was agreed that the work currently undertaken by the Parish Council did not require attendance at the LALC Children's Safeguarding training event.

An anonymous note had been put up in the bus shelter regarding the presence of the teddy bears preventing people from sitting on the bench. This was handed to Cllr Asquith by Mrs Ferguson for discussion at the meeting. However, the following day the situation had been resolved by a dedicated 'teddy bench' having been erected in the bus shelter, thus leaving the bench clear.

An approach for stories for Estuary TV had been made.

13 Items for next agenda:

Street lighting.

14 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 10th May, 2017

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman