

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2017

Present:

Councillor D Challenger

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott (Chair)

Clerk: Councillor S Asquith

Residents' Forum

Attended by: Ron Granger and Mark and Mary De Ath who were all interested in the developments with the issue regarding the possible felling of trees along Donington Road.

Cllr Elliott and Mark De Ath had met and walked up Donington Road to look at the site of the flooding. They agreed that access to the point of flooding was not hampered by tree growth. Cllr Elliott had reported this back to Richard Littlewood. Cllr Elliott had received an email from Cllr Bradwell to inform him that road closure dates were being arranged in order for the drainage work to go ahead. In Mr Granger's opinion the drainage system at the point of flooding was quite complex and needed to be unblocked under the road. The ditch on the opposite side of the road was presumed to be the responsibility of the Brays.

Cllr Elliott reported that the tree-felling was on hold for reasons of finance. The colour coding system on the trees was not understood by those who had looked at it. It was agreed that trees identified for felling should be known in advance of any work. Mr Granger said that a new government tree protection scheme was due to come into force shortly which might have an impact.

The residents' forum then closed.

1 Apologies for absence:

Councillor P Cutts owing to family matters.

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 27th September 2017:

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

4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on 27th September 2017:

Cllr Challenger informed the Clerk that Mr Charman would like to receive the outstanding payment relating to Margaret's expenses as a cheque. **Action: Cllr Asquith to arrange payment.**

5 Financial matters. Presentation of financial report and bank statement:

The current bank account and financial report were circulated and approved.

6. Budget 2018/19 financial year

Cllr Elliott suggested that a proposed budget would need to be submitted at the January meeting. There was a discussion about the level of precept and it was agreed that it was difficult to justify the current amount and that, realistically, it should be reduced. The only additional foreseen expenditure would be the maintenance of the adopted telephone box: upkeep and possible charge for electricity. It was suggested that £200 would cover this. It had been decided not to enter the Best Kept Village competition owing to the lack of interest in the past. Cllr Asquith said that the LALC membership fee had risen and she would check by how much. Cllr Asquith agreed to remain as clerk thus attracting no payment from the budget.

Cllr Elliott suggested that the Clerk produce a draft budget for the next meeting and that the precept be reduced by £300. This was to be an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Asquith to check the LALC increase in membership charge.**
Action: Clerk to produce a draft budget for the next meeting.

7. Risk management:

No issues we raised.

8. Vice chair

No one volunteered to act as vice chair.

Action: To be added to next agenda for discussion.

9. Current vacancies:

There are two vacancies on the SWPC. Cllr Elliott said that he would approach people in person to join the council and would ask the editor to place a notice in the next South Willingham Chronicle. A notice of vacancies had been displayed in the bus shelter.
Action: Cllr Elliott to ask for people to join the council and arrange for a notice of vacancies in the next South Willingham Chronicle.

10. Tree-felling update:

This was covered in the residents' forum above.

11. Adoption of the phone box:

Cllr Elliott had circulated correspondence from BT regarding the legal adoption of the phone box. It would cost £1 to purchase and, from then on, all responsibility would lie with SWPC. BT would pay for the electricity to keep the light on until they might decide to do this no longer, when SWPC would have to stand the, minimal, cost. There were certain criteria to be met which a solicitor had looked over and found no problems. There was no obligation to insure the box. The terms were approved by the meeting and Cllr Elliott signed the agreement. The cheque for purchase was made out and signed at the meeting.

It was agreed to consult the village regarding a use for the phone box.

Action: Cllr Elliott would draw up a suitable form and circulate this to fellow councillors for approval. The final version would then be publicised via noticeboards, The Chronicle and the website with a response date a week prior to the next meeting, where a decision would be made.

Action: Cllr Elliott to send off the agreement to adopt the phone box.

12. Village newsletter:

It was noted that the second issue of the South Willingham Chronicle had been circulated and that a management committee had been formed.

13. Planning matters:

It was noted that Mrs Edwina Scott had applied to pollard and fell trees in her garden at The Close, Barkwith Road. The meeting had no objections.

14. Correspondence:

It was agreed not to subscribe to Lincolnshire Fieldpaths Association.

15. Items for next agenda:

Risk management (standing item)
Draft budget 2018/19
Vice-chairmanship
Current vacancies
Tree-felling/drainage update
Ideas for use of phone box

13. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17th January 2018 at **7 pm.**

Future dates: Thursday 22nd March, Wednesday 9th May with Annual Parish Meeting.

Action: Clerk to check with parish hall committee that these dates are free.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairman