

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018

Present:

Councillor D Challenger (acting Chair)

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor M Ferguson

Councillor P Ferguson

Clerk: Councillor S Asquith

Richard Fry, Ward Member for Binbrook, Executive Board Member, Portfolio Holder for Finance ELDC

Residents' Forum

No residents attended.

1 Apologies for absence:

Cllr P Elliott as he was on holiday and Cllr P Cutts for family reasons.

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 9 May 2018:

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the financial meeting on 17 May could not be approved and signed as the Chair of that meeting was not present to approve them.

4 Matters arising from the Minutes held on 9 May 2018:

The Clerk was in the process of informing ELDC of the details of the new councillors and requested that they complete the declarations of office along with an updated bank mandate requested by HSBC.

The Clerk had contacted ELDC about how to set about creating a combined parish council with Hainton and had circulated a draft letter via email for discussion. Richard Fry had spoken to Stuart Davy, ELDC chief executive, on this issue and shared the email reply he had received. He recalled that there used to be a parish council for Hainton but that it had folded. For this to proceed, SWPC would need to conduct a consultation in time for a May 2019 commencement of any combined entity. The application to ELDC would have to demonstrate a strong link between the villages,

identify what had changed in both to bring the idea about and then 'sell' the idea to the district council. The meeting discussed the proposal covering such issues as:

- the original reason for the idea being lack of sufficient SWPC councillors (which had been resolved at the previous meeting)
- that Hainton did not have many owner-occupiers being an estate village
- that a combined council would lose focus on South Willingham issues
- that this would not solve the lack of interest in SWPC from South Willingham residents

The discussion widened to the purpose of the parish council and how it could spend the precept as it saw fit without requiring the approval of residents. It was commented that a high precept might encourage residents to take an interest in where their money was being spent. Cllr Ferguson saw part of its purpose as giving residents a sense of community so that they felt South Willingham was a good place to live. Richard Fry suggested adding an agenda item 'parish initiatives' under which projects could be identified and a budget set. This was agreed.

Richard Fry explained the planning department's decision to identify South Willingham as 'an unsustainable community'. This only means that it scores low against the planners' criteria eg no shop, no pub, not that it is not a viable settlement. It also means it is not suitable for enlargement.

Having obtained the further information on the requirements to create a viable joint parish council and following full discussion, the meeting unanimously decided that a possible joint parish council with Hainton was not the way to tackle village apathy, was unlikely to be approved as strong links could not be shown and that the council vacancies had been filled.

As the council vacancies had been filled, Cllr Asquith said she would resign as a councillor but remain as clerk.

Richard Fry explained that the footway lighting, when it all goes back on, will be on a sensor so that it comes on when dark and stays on until it gets light. Any sort of timer system was a capital cost.

Cllr Elliott was to pursue footpath clearance with Cllr Bradwell. **Action: Cllr Elliott**

5 Financial matters.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement had been completed and returned as well as the Annual Return 2017/18 Statement of Account, as per requirements.

The financial report, alongside the latest bank statement. was circulated and approved.

The Clerk distributed the following cheques to Councillors representing the church and parish hall committees:

Parish Hall donation £50
Churchyard maintenance £50
Contribution to village website £52.96
Contribution to clock maintenance £50

The Clerk is to post the LIVES donation of £50. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr P Ferguson explained that the village website contract would be reviewed in March 2019 and asked whether the Parish Council was happy to go 50:50 with the parish hall on payment. He expected a slight rise in cost. This was agreed as it was national policy to publish parish council documentation on a village website.

6 Risk management:

Cllr Ferguson raised the issue of potholes. She was asked to review the situation for the parish of South Willingham and report back at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr M Ferguson**

7 Drainage update:

Cllr Elliott had informed the council that the culvert under Donington Road needed clearing. No further update has been received.

8 Future use of the phone box:

There was no update regarding information on what siting a defibrillator in the phone box would entail. It was decided that this was not going to be the use for the phone box so this would not need to be followed up.

Cllr Challender had spoken to the village history group about a possible display and Paul Fuller was to take this further and suggested input from the parish hall. This was agreed.

The meeting discussed a variety of uses as a book exchange, an information point, and a flower display area. The meeting agreed to retain the integrity of the phone box itself and create an internal display of history and local leaflets. Cllr Asquith suggested the need for fitted shelving and Richard Fry circulated a community grant application form which Cllr P Ferguson would look at completing. Further ideas for the bus stop noticeboard were discussed particularly after Cllr Challender found all the notices torn down and bottles of non-alcoholic drinks left around the bus stop. **Action: Cllr P Ferguson to review a grant application.**

9 Data Protection Officer:

Cllr Asquith reported that parish councils were now exempt from having a DPO.

10 Planning matters:

None received.

11 Correspondence:

Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding National Beauty annual report 2017/18.

12 Items for next agenda:

Risk management (standing item)
Drainage update
Ideas for use of phone box
Parish Council initiatives

The Chair thanked Richard Fry for attending and for his very helpful input.

13 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7 pm

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairman