

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Present:

Cllr D Challender (Acting Chair)

Cllr M Edmundson

Cllr P Ferguson

Fergus Christie (co-opted as a new councillor at the meeting)

Cllr R Fry (ELDC)

Clerk - S Asquith

Residents' Forum:

Several residents attended. They requested to know the outcome of the returned opinion slips regarding support for or against the Heneage Estate bike track proposal. They said that they expected the Council to represent the majority view taken by residents.

In response to questions about how the slips had been counted the Clerk explained the process undertaken. She said that she had counted the replies in the presence of Kara Christie, as an independent witness. Names were cross-referenced with the electoral roll to ensure that all replies were from people living in the village. She confirmed that replies from all members of any eligible household were counted. The first reason given on each reply was counted. Some present felt that more reasons could have been taken into account. The Clerk confirmed that data protection rules had been taken into consideration and that all responses remained anonymous. Completed slips were to be shredded following the meeting.

The outcome was as follows:

see below

FOR		AGAINST		UNDECIDED	SPOILED	TOTAL
23		42		12	2	79
MAIN REASONS:		MAIN REASONS:				
SOMETHING FOR CHILDREN TO DO	8	TRAFFIC	32			
SOMEWHERE TO GO	2	ENVIRONMENT	9			
FARM NEEDS TO DIVERSIFY	1	LOSS OF PATH	1			
SOMEWHERE SAFE FOR OUTDOOR PURSUITS	3					
LOCALLY OWNED FACILITY	2					
JOBS	1					
SHOWCASE FOR AREA	1					
NONE	5					

Cllr Elliott explained that he did not feel in a position to be able to support the residents' views and that he had therefore decided to resign from the Parish Council. He handed his letter of resignation to the Clerk and left the meeting.

Claire Harrison said that she was disappointed that the Council had not supported the request for an environmental impact assessment. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had not been approached directly by ELDC for input. Cllr P Ferguson commented that the expectation was that the village would be against the bike track proposal itself so, in a way, it was not an issue.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would represent the majority view of the village which was that it was against the bike track proposal. Fergus Christie said that the Parish Council was the only statutory body that represented the village's opinion and was therefore the first building block from which to launch a formal objection to the plans.

Cllr Ferguson said that there was still a space on the Parish Council if anyone present wished to put themselves forward to join. Fergus Christie said that he would like to join as a councillor. He remained for the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence:

Cllr M Ferguson - unwell

Cllr J Pedersen – for reasons of work

Cllr P Bradwell (LCC) – unwell

2 Declarations of interest in any items on this agenda:

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021

The Acting Chair wished to remove the sentence ‘overwhelming negativity’ from the description of the Residents’ Forum and change it to ‘there were many views both for and against’. The minutes were then agreed as a true record and were signed by the Acting Chair.

4 Matters arising from the meeting held on 15 September 2021

Cllr P Ferguson said that he had installed the bike rack next to the bus shelter.

5 Financial matters

The financial report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and the bank statement was circulated at the meeting. The report was approved. A cheque for £13.50 for LALC training for Cllr Pedersen was signed at the meeting and approval was given for the cheque for £34.48 for the solar light for the bus shelter and post box for the reply slips.

The Clerk asked whether it would be possible to split the role of clerk into financial and non-financial roles. She was happy to carry on with the non-financial side but that she was not confident signing as responsible financial officer. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

6 Co-option of Ron Granger

Ron Granger had contacted the Clerk to put himself forward as a councillor. He had read through the disclosure of pecuniary interest forms and had confirmed that he met the criteria to join the Parish Council. He was unable to attend the meeting as he was working. Cllr Challender proposed his co-option and Cllr Ferguson seconded the proposal.

As Fergus Christie had put himself forward during the residents’ forum and confirmed that he met the required criteria, Cllr Challender proposed his co-option and Cllr Ferguson seconded the proposal.

The Parish Council now has a full complement of councillors.

The meeting wished to record its thanks to Paul Elliott for having served on the council and as Chair for as long as he had.

7 Adoption of updated Standing Orders

Cllr Christie offered to review the draft prepared by the Clerk. **Action:** Cllr Christie to contact Cllr Pedersen to produce the final version for the next meeting.

8 Heneage Estate bike track proposal – reply slip result

This was covered in the residents' forum. The environmental impact screening decision was that the development was of only local impact so a full screening was not necessary.

Cllr Fry confirmed that, in his ELDC role, he would support the stance of the village against the development.

The meeting reiterated that the Parish Council would also support the stance of the village against the development and that it had been a unanimous decision to so do.

9 Risk management

Cllr Ferguson said that the time had come round again for slippery fallen leaves but that not much could be done about it. It was decided that there was enough salt in the bin by the bus shelter to last the winter.

10 Planning matters

The Biscathorpe oil drilling proposal had been refused but an appeal was expected.

11 Parish Council initiatives

Cllr P Ferguson requested that anyone with some old decking oil please donate it for use on further weatherproofing the planters. He would also take some advice from a garden centre about planting some bulbs now to have a bright spring showing. He thought about £40 would buy enough to be worthwhile. He was yet to install the solar light on the bus shelter.

12 Correspondence

Edwina Scott had written with concerns about data protection regarding the opinion slips. The Clerk had replied and thanked her for her helpful comments, which would be applied to the counting and handling of the replies.

Claire Harrison had emailed to request support from the Parish Council for a full environmental assessment of the proposed bike track site. The Clerk had forwarded this to the Chair.

Details of the Local Transport Plan consultation have been put into the bus shelter.

13 Items for next agenda

Vote for new Chair.

Division of clerk role.

Adoption of updated Standing Orders.

Community orchard.

Councillor training.

14 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th January 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman: