

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present:

Cllr P Elliott (Chair)

Cllr D Challenger

Cllr M Edmundson

Cllr P Ferguson

Cllr M Ferguson

Cllr J Pedersen

Clerk - S Asquith

Residents' Forum:

There was healthy attendance at the residents' forum which took the form of an hour-long presentation and Q&A with Christopher Heneage regarding the proposed mountain bike track within the parish boundary. Discussion ranged around access to the site, increased traffic through the village, environmental impact, litter and noise. A straw poll at the end of the session indicated overwhelming negativity from those residents who attended whilst there was some support vocalised. It was stressed that the proposal was at a very early stage of development and Mr Heneage handed out forms for people to fill in with their comments and return to him.

1 Apologies for absence:

Cllr P Bradwell (LCC) – reasons of work

Cllr R Fry (ELDC) – reasons of work

Alice Pedersen had decided not to join the Council.

2 Declarations of interest in any items on this agenda:

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

4 Matters arising from the meeting held on 14 July 2021

There had not been time to look through the proposed new Standing Orders so this item is to be deferred to the next meeting.

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. There had been no further financial activity.

6 Tree planting/community orchard

Cllr Pedersen explained that there was funding available for tree planting and that she would undertake a scoping exercise of trees within the parish boundary. They could be planted on private land, with negotiation. Along Moors Lane was a suggestion as well as around the permissive footpaths. Cllr Pedersen said a map of who owns which fields would be helpful.

The community orchard thrives, apart from one tree, but is getting a bit overgrown.

The idea of a community apple press and pulper would be mooted at the harvest supper and a poll taken on whether to buy one. Estimated cost £170.

7 Heneage Estate bike track proposal

The main objection raised at the residents' forum appeared to be increase in traffic. The meeting discussed possible access from the A157 as well as from the Caister High Street, to make a dedicated junction, instead of from the narrow Donnington Road at an existing crossroads. A current traffic survey was suggested.

Councillors said they could see benefits, as discussed at the residents' forum, of some environmental improvement around the arable fields, some economic gain to the area, an added amenity for locals, and use by schools and disability projects.

Based on the information available at the current time Councillors decided that they would support the proposal in principle provided that the access road to the site was moved from the Donnington Road to the Caister High Street or possibly the A157, and that a thorough traffic assessment was undertaken. There should also be environmental gain and an undertaking on litter management. It was felt that the village itself should benefit from the proposal by gaining new footpath and bridleway routes and such things as free passes to use the bike track.

The meeting decided upon holding a residents' vote. A secure post box would be installed at the parish hall. Voters would be eligible only if on the electoral roll for the parish and if they put their name on their papers to verify this. They would be asked to state on the form their one main reason to either support or object to the proposal. Voting would remain confidential, beyond ascertaining eligibility.

Action: Cllr Elliott would draw up voting forms and arrange circulation to each household.

Action: Cllr Elliott said that he would discuss the proposal with Cllrs Fry and Bradwell.

8 Risk management

There were no items raised.

9 Planning matters

It was noted that the planning application for a residential building on the site of a pole barn at Granary Cottage had received permission with some amendments.

10 Parish Council initiatives

Cllr P Ferguson planned to fit the bike rack next to the bus shelter shortly. He had trimmed the trees around the site of the solar light at the bus shelter, also to be fitted soon. The bus shelter noticeboard was on hold. There was some rot at the foot of the bus shelter. Cllr P Ferguson requested that anyone with some old decking oil please donate it for use on further weatherproofing the planters.

11 Correspondence

Information on the Historic England local historic listing project had been circulated and Cllr Pedersen said she would take this to the history group.

12 Items for next agenda

Adoption of updated Standing Orders.

13 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17 November 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman: