

SOUTH WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024

Present:

Cllr F Christie

Cllr V Edmundson (Chair)

Cllr S McDowall

Cllr Pat Bradwell – LCC

Shirley Asquith (Clerk)

Residents' Forum:

One person attended and requested an update on the situation with the bike park.

Cllr McDowall expressed a declaration of interest and left the room.

The number of objections on the planning portal was discussed and it was agreed that those who previously expressed an objection should be asked to do so again. Natural England was expected to repeat their objection. Cllr Bradwell was asked why she had supported the original planning application. Councillors updated her with the Section 73 amendments requested by the applicant and she offered to make enquiries with Planning now having been made aware of the feelings of the village against the development.

Cllr McDowall returned to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr E Bray

Cllr R Granger – work reasons

Cllr K Marsh - illness

Cllr J Pedersen – illness

Cllr R Fry – ELDC

2. Vacancies:

There are currently no vacancies.

3. Declarations of interest:

Cllr McDowall declared an interest in the Heneage Estate Bike Park planning application.

4. To agree the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9 November 2023:

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

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the parish council meeting of 9 Nov 2023:

Various Highways issues were raised with Cllr Bradwell who offered to ask Highways to send someone to review the drainage problems, pavement surfaces and potholes around the village.

The Clerk had written to Oak Cottage and The Thatch about overgrowing vegetation on the roadway and footpath. Some cutting has since taken place.

Cllr Christie had circulated the water pipeline map as requested.

6. Financial matters: presentation of financial report and bank statement:

The financial report and bank statement were circulated and approved.

7. Agreement of Precept 2024-5:

The meeting agreed to request a 5% increase in precept. **Action:** Clerk to submit the form.

8. Approval of Councillor Grant application form:

Cllr Fry had offered SWPC a grant of £300 towards the repair of the bus shelter. The Clerk had filled out the application form which was approved by the meeting. This will not be sent until responsibility for repairs has been ascertained (see point 10.)

9. Defibrillator

Owing to the absence of Cllr Marsh this item will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Edmundson confirmed that the parish hall committee was prepared to have the defibrillator mounted on the outside of the hall and would provide the power supply to it.

10. Bus Shelter

The Clerk has contacted a contractor who is contracted to the County Council to repair bus shelters. They have logged the request for repair. The Clerk has found the paperwork dating from 2000 stating that the parish council has taken over the maintenance of the bus shelter. This is on a ten-year renewal term. There is paperwork for 2010 but not for 2020. The Clerk is therefore asking who is responsible for maintenance currently and whether there are any funds available from the County Council. Cllr Bradwell said she would also make enquiries.

11. Bike track Heneage estate (standing item):

This was discussed in the residents' forum above.

12. Risk management (standing item):

The bus shelter is in hand. No other issues have been raised.

13. Planning matters:

None received.

14. Parish Council initiatives:

Village first aid training will be dependent upon a decision on the defibrillator.

Litter Pick to be arranged for the spring.

All the flower tubs had been 'adopted' by nearest neighbours who would tend and water them. Councillors expressed their appreciation.

15. Correspondence:

No items received.

16. Items for next agenda:

Budget.

Defibrillator.

Bus shelter.

17. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 21 March 2024, 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signed:

Chair

Date: