

South Mimms Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st September 2011 at South Mimms Village Hall

Present: Councillor Kenneth Swayne Chairman
Councillors Paul Binstead, Mark Edwards, Yvonne Harverson
Mrs H. Rook Clerk
12 members of the public

96/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Paula Goodenough.

97/11 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th JULY 2011

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th July 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record.

98/11 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Members' interests.

99/11 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

PC Jon Singleton, Ward Officer for Oakmere, Potters Bar, attended the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** to move this item up the Agenda. PC Singleton reported that the new Potters Bar and South Mimms Police Station was now open and is located near the highways buildings at South Mimms Services. There are four police officers and Sergeant Dave Smith from the Safer Neighbourhood Team based at the station - PC Ross Leopold and PCSO James Leach will cover South Mimms.

The crime statistics for South Mimms village continue to be low, however, there have been reports of vehicle crime in the village including a car broken into and another stolen for use in other crime and the telephone box in Blanche Lane continues to be vandalised as soon as it is repaired.

PC Ross Leopold is in communication with the contractors at the bund construction site along St Albans Road and has some safety videos to show young people who think the site is a playground. He will also be working on speeding vehicles coming from London Colney along St Albans Road over the coming weeks.

Councillors requested that officers patrol the village and in particular the churchyard, Glebeland, lay-by in St Albans Road and Brookside/Gowar Field to give a visible presence especially mid to late evening and also to drive through the village on journeys to/from the new Station.

The police have a new non-emergency number – **101** replaces the old 0845 3300222 number. Residents were encouraged to report all non-emergency incidents on this number as all calls to 101 are logged and followed up.

PC Singleton was thanked for attending the meeting and for his valuable input and he left the meeting at this point.

100/11 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

A Schedule of accounts as follows (attached) were **RECEIVED** and **CONFIRMED**:-

1 st September 2011	Cheques 83-86	Total amount - £2,665.90
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101/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application was considered:

TP/11/1472 – Knightsland Farm, St Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 4RE – Siting of solar voltaic panels in a field adjacent to Knightsland Farm.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to comment to Hertsmere Borough Council that although the council was supportive of renewable energy, the proposed siting of the solar voltaic panels represents inappropriate development on agricultural and Green Belt land and is harmful to the openness of the Green Belt.

The following applications were previously considered by the Parish Council and decisions reached by Hertsmere Borough Council:-

TP/11/1301 – Clare Hall Laboratories, Blanche Lane, South Mimms EN6 3LD – Application for variation of condition 3 attached to TP/10/0196. Permission granted (subject to Section 106).

102/11 APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against Hertsmere Borough Council's decision to refuse the planning application:-

TP/11/0356 – New Grange, Blanche Lane, South Mimms EN6 3NZ – Erection of building as shelter for pigs (retrospective application).

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to comment that the location of the building is on conservation land within the Green Belt and represents inappropriate development. No very special circumstances have been demonstrated to outweigh the harm caused to the Green Belt.

103/11 HIGHWAYS

M25 – The nightworks will continue for a minimum of 2 months between junction 23 and 22 on the anti-clockwise carriageway and will also include work at the South Mimms bund site. These works have been agreed under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

Issues raised by residents in Earls Lane have been reconsidered by the contractor and further noise assessments have been carried out. The contractor has advised that some properties in Earls Lane have been identified as eligible under Noise Insulation Regulations for noise attenuation. The properties affected qualify for either a noise reduction fence or secondary (not double) glazing. Following a meeting between the contractor and residents of Earls Lane it was agreed that a noise reduction fence would be the more appropriate attenuation. However residents have suggested that the length of fencing to be provided (90m of 1.5m high fencing) will not be enough to reduce the noise and visual effect of the road. It was **RESOLVED** to contact the contractor again on behalf of residents to advise the current proposal is inadequate and to request additional noise attenuation of a longer length of fencing and secondary glazing.

Blanche Lane – a meeting was held with Herts Highways and they have agreed to provide an additional hand rail to the steps from the highway outside 100 Blanche Lane. Highways have also agreed to look at the existing rail to see if improvements can be made to make the rail more stable.

The on-street parking by residents and visitors in Blanche Lane between Frowyke Crescent and St Giles Church was also discussed with Highways who have taken the matter up with Hertsmere Borough Council. No complaints have been received by Hertsmere regarding obstructive parking in Blanche Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to request Hertsmere Borough Council provide two passing places along this stretch of highway.

Brookside Surfacing Repairs – this road has not been selected under the Highways Integrated Works Programme, however, funding has been confirmed to carry out repairs and these works will be progressed in due course.

104/11 MEMORIAL TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR IAN DEMPSTER

Details of the proposed memorial were circulated to Members and it was **RESOLVED** to accept a quotation to include 3'0" high all polished blue pearl memorial stand with bronze plaque with solid concrete landing and fixing. The dimensions, design and proposed location of the memorial will be forwarded to McMullen's for their approval.

Details of Stoneguard All Risks Insurance was circulated to Members. The Clerk will investigate whether the Council's existing insurance policy will cover the memorial.

105/11 SUMMER OUTING FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTH MIMMS AND RIDGE

The 2nd SMPC summer outing for residents took place on August 10th organised and led by Councillor Yvonne Harverson. Forty-five residents aged from 5-89 years from both South Mimms and Ridge enjoyed a day trip to Clacton. Councillor Harverson was thanked for organising a wonderful trip.

106/11 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (P3)

The 2011/12 application to the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme for a grant to install an interpretation board at Brookside Meadow has been considered by Countryside Management Services. They have advised that grants for interpretation boards are usually only supported if they are associated with a leafleted walk. It may, therefore, be more appropriate to use the grant for benches along the right of way and/or name boards for the Open Space ("Welcome to Brookside Green Space"). Members **RESOLVED** to request the grant be awarded for benches along Bridleway 76.

The Parish Paths Partnership (P3) process will be administered by Groundwork Hertfordshire for 2012/13. Grants are available up to £1,000 to improve the existing public rights of way network and parishes also have the opportunity to identify more substantial capital work proposals to be considered for the Rights of Way Unit HCC capital programme. Countryside Management Services have obtained a quotation for £1,495 for the Brookside Meadow Restoration Project and Groundwork will be contacted to establish whether this project is suitable for a P3 grant.

107/11 REFUSE COLLECTION ISSUES IN BROOKSIDE

Residents have reported to Hertsmere Borough Council and SMPC two separate incidents regarding paper recycling collection in Brookside. Hertsmere Borough Council Street Scene Services have spoken to the crew concerned and collections will be monitored at this location.

108/11 PUBLIC SESSION

The public were invited to ask questions about items on the Agenda:-

Councillor Usher advised that from April 2012 £90,000 will be added to each County Councillor's Locality Budget for Highways improvements/repairs as part of the Localism Bill.

Councillor Usher also advised that following odour complaints, the Agrivert Composting Site is now operating under strict rules to control odour.

Councillor Wayne advised that S.M.V.H.M.C. have put in an application to the Ward Initiative Improvement Scheme for a grant towards improvements to the Village Hall.

Overgrown trees/hedges were reported in the ditches that run into the Bourne Brook behind Gowar Field.

Residents of Gascoigne Close reported they have not been issued with paper recycling boxes and they would like to be able to recycle their paper waste.

The trees on the island in Blanche Lane by the Glebeland require attention.

Greyhound Lane requires road markings and car passengers are throwing their litter out of their car windows.

The road drains in Blanche Lane may be blocked and require cleaning.

109/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the **next meeting of the Council is Thursday 13th October 2011** in the Back Rook at South Mimms Village Hall.

110/11 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman

Date