

**Minutes of the Meeting of Southoe and Midloe Parish Council
Held on Thursday 5 February 2026 at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors: Chris Faux (Chairman) (CF), Barry Butler (BB), Alan Marnes (AM), Phil Nevard (PN) and Scott Wells (SW).

In attendance: 6 members of the public, County Cllr Liam Beckett (CCC) and Mr Ben Stoehr (Locum Clerk)

Cllr Marnes reported that two long term parishioners had recently passed away. A minute's silence was held in their memory.

1. To receive apologies for absence and reasons for non-attendance

None received.

2. Declarations of Interest for Members

2.1 To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests, and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda

Cllrs Butler, Faux and Wells declared an interest as members of the Village Hall Committee and declared the existence of their dispensations.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations

None.

3. District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Liam Beckett's written report was noted. He reported on:

- The CCC budget process.
- Local Government Reorganisation. The Government Consultation is now live and will last seven weeks.
- The Government's withdrawal of funding for Children's Services.
- Potholes. These have quadrupled in number and the County Council is carrying out repairs to try and catch up.
- The 20 mph scheme is now open for applications.
- Grants are listed in the report, for various projects including CCF grants.
- He is due to hold at least two surgeries in the parish in the next six months, with dates to be advised.
- A Frequently Asked Questions section has been added to the Councillor reports.

4. Open Forum for all for all members of the public present

A resident asked for an update on Petanque. Cllr Wells reported that this is on hold pending a response from Savills for permission from the landowner. Cllr Marnes and a resident stated that the project had already been given permission subject to HDC and Archaeological Department agreement. It was noted that the location of the Petanque court had changed since the previous permission was granted. Questions were asked about the project costs, opportunities for grant funding and whether those who want the Petanque court are contributing.

A question was asked about the enforcement of any potential 20 mph speed limit. This would be enforcement by the Police.

5. To Approve the minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 24 November be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PN, 2nd CF, carried with 4 in favour and 1 against)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 December be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PN, 2nd CF, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

6. Matters Arising from the last meeting

6.1 (Open) Publicity for community projects

None.

7. Planning

7.1 To consider any Planning application consultations received

None.

7.2 Planning/Local Plan issues

It was noted that the deadline for responses had now passed.

8. Finance & Policy

8.1 To approve payment of bills

RESOLVED, noting that a standing order needed to be set up for Then Media for £42.00 per month, that the payments below, as shown on the Finance Report, be paid.

RESOLVED, given that the December payments had not cleared, that these had been re-uploaded for authorisation. (Prop CF, 2nd PN, unanimous)

Then Media	Website hosting	£42.00
Then Media	Website hosting	£42.00
Then Media	Website hosting	£42.00
Then Media	Website hosting	£42.00

8.2 To review the budget for FY2026 and consider arrangements for any outstanding projects or spending and also the earmarked reserves

The budget for FY2026 was reviewed.

8.3 To consider and approve the budget for FY2027

The Council reviewed the draft budget, discussing each budget heading.

RESOLVED that the budget for FY27 be approved. (Prop SW, 2nd CF, carried with 4 in favour and 1 against)

8.4 To set the precept for FY2027

RESOLVED to set the precept at £20,030.00 as this is the amount required by the Parish Council to balance its budget for FY27. (Prop SW, 2nd CF, carried with 4 in favour and 1 against)

Cllr Butler left the meeting briefly at 9.39 pm and returned at 9.41 pm.

8.5 Proposal to require all agenda items, where possible, to be supported by a written proposal and supporting information

RESOLVED that all agenda items are clear as to the business to be transacted and, where possible, to be supported by a written supporting paper with any relevant information for Councillors to consider. (Prop CF, 2nd SW, unanimous)

8.6 IT Policy

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

8.7 Review of documents/procedure/policies, leases/legal documents

RESOLVED that all policies, etc should be circulated and if any Councillors have any proposed changes, these should be considered at the May meeting.

8.8 Natwest Bank Account

There were no updates.

9. Highways Matters

9.1 GOVT – maintenance of approximately 1.3 miles of FP18

RESOLVED that no further action be taken.

10. Play Area and Playing Field

10.1 Petanque - update

Taken earlier. There was no update.

10.2 Container Planning Permission update – to consider whether to apply for a Certificate of Lawful Development

RESOLVED to push back with HDC and ask for more clarity.

10.3 HDC Active Lifestyles – Children’s School Holiday Sessions

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

- 10.4 To consider the play area inspection report and any quotes for remedial works
RESOLVED to delegate the replacement of loose fixings and caps for a sum up to £260.00, but to leave the algae as it will clear when the sun comes out.
RESOLVED noting that the grate on the playing fields ditch needs clearing, that Councillors should take a look and clear it if possible.
- 11. Village Hall**
- 11.1 Village Hall basketball hoops
A third quotation was awaited and should be ready for consideration at the next meeting.
- 11.2 Village Hall issues
It was noted that the railings were due to be installed shortly.
- 12. Church and Burial Matters**
- 12.1 Lych Gate woodworm treatment – to consider quotations received
RESOLVED to monitor the woodworm to assess whether it is active.
- 12.2 Cemetery – appointment of Councillor responsibility
RESOLVED that Cllr Faux should take on member responsibility for the Cemetery.
RESOLVED that Cllr Faux should take a look at the Cemetery fence, which needs attention.
- 13. Village Matters**
- 13.1 Report from external meetings attended by Councillors
Cllr Marnes circulated his report on the ACRE Energy Group meeting, he had attended a meeting with the MP, and a Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue meeting. A meeting with Paxton Quarries is due shortly.
- 13.2 Councillors representing the Parish at various functions
RESOLVED that Councillors are able to attend meetings if interested and should report back in writing to the Council.
- 13.3 Asset Register for the insurance basis
The Asset Register was noted.
- 13.4 MVAS and speed reduction options
Already taken under the budget discussions.
- 13.5 Cambridgeshire ACRE – request for the Parish Council to join
RESOLVED to join Cambridgeshire ACRE. (Prop CF, 2nd BB, unanimous)
- 13.6 Overhanging Hedges around the village including in High Street, Lees Lane and Thurley Close
Cllr Marnes reported on the issues reported by a resident.
RESOLVED that a flyer should be sent to all properties asking them to keep their hedges cut back so that they do not obstruct pavements.
- 13.7 Bins blocking the footpaths
RESOLVED to add a note to the flyer asking residents to ensure that bins are not blocking the footpaths, and to write to HDC asking them to ensure that they are not left obstructing the footpaths after collections have taken place.
- 13.8 Wind Farm issues
There was a discussion about the management of the fund the current situation was not clear. The issue needs to be resolved as the funding is for the benefit of the village.
RESOLVED that Cllr Butler should ask for an update.
- 13.9 Flooding
Flooding had occurred in the ditches in Rectory Lane and on the other side of the A1. Cllr Marnes had not been able to attend the Flood Forum.
County Cllr Beckett had reported that there were grants available. It was discussed at a previous meeting that a £10,000 grant may be available to fix the ditch on the other side of the A1.
RESOLVED that Cllr Marnes should discuss this with Martin Hassell.

14. **Councillors' Questions**

None.

15. **Date of the next meeting and closure of meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 23 March at 7pm.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.57 pm.

SignedChairmandate.