

**Minutes of the Meeting of Southoe and Midloe Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 22 July 2025 at the Nave of St Leonards at 8.15 pm**

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

In attendance: 6 members of the public and Mr Ben Stoeher (Locum Clerk)

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Wells (work commitment).

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

Cllr Marnes reported that no-one declared an interest at the last meeting.

Cllr Faux declared an interest as Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Butler declared an interest as a coach for a football club that used the Recreation Ground and as the Parish Council's representative for the Village Hall.

2.2 To receive written requests for the new Disclosable Pecuniary interest dispensations

None.

3. District and County Councillors' Reports

Reports were not available.

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

A resident raised a question about the proposed petanque court. The resident recognised that with the moving of the court, it needed to be re-assessed, but was hoping for a quick conclusion.

Cllr Marnes reported on a site meeting on 14 July. There was an agreement that there was no petanque group, just interested individuals. It had been noted in the February minutes that the Parish Council would adopt the project. It would be necessary for the planners to agree if anything more was needed following the change of location.

A discussion took place about the specification and which specification is to be used.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 12.1 next.

12.1 Petanque

RESOLVED that Cllr Marnes should continue on behalf of the Parish Council to contact the HDC Planning department and the CCC Archaeological department to ensure that there are no issues with the proposed location which is approximately 100 inches from the property boundary. (Prop CF, 2nd BB, unanimous)

5. To Approve the minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED that approval of the May minutes be deferred as they were not available. This is to be checked with Cllr Wells.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the June meeting 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

RESOLVED, noting that the mandate could be updated online, to update the Natwest Bank mandate to remove signatories that were no longer required.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Marnes and Nevard should be added as signatories.

RESOLVED to note that the consultation for the Marlow Park planning permission had now ended.

RESOLVED to note that £150.00 had been received for the Cemetery. New regulations are to be placed on the notice board.

7. To assign Councillors' areas of responsibility

Cllr Faux reported on the proposal to assign areas of responsibility to Councillors and referred to the initial plan circulated by email.

The following member responsibilities were agreed:
Cllr Faux – Village amenities, flower beds and village maintenance.
Cllr Butler – Sports activities and engagement with young people.
Cllr Marnes – Drainage and Flooding, Ouse Valley Trust. He reported that he would like to be involved with the Recreation Ground and would be happy to help with the admin but could not walk the footpaths any longer.
Cllr Nevard – Banking and Finance, Budgets.
Cllr Wells – Grant applications for projects.

8. Planning

None received.

9. Finance & Policy

9.1 To approve payment of bills

Cllr Nevard reported that the Bank payments had been set up but there is a limit on the transaction value which needs to be reviewed with the bank.

RESOLVED that the payments from the previous meeting be paid.

9.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

9.2.1 To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025)

A discussion took place about the accounts and audit.

9.2.2 To prepare and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED that the statements in the Annual Governance Statement be all answered “Yes” apart from Question 9 on Trust Funds which was not applicable.

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman and Locum Clerk on the Parish Council’s behalf.

9.2.3 To consider and approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)

The Accounting Statements were considered.

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman.

9.2.4 To declare exemption from External Audit (if applicable)

RESOLVED to declare exemption from External Audit.

RESOLVED to defer the appointment of an Internal Auditor to the next meeting.

9.3 Change of Bank to Unity Trust Bank

Cllr Faux reported that CAPALC had suggested Unity Trust Bank for banking.

9.4 Blister Pack Recycling Grant

RESOLVED to approve the grant request for £216 (Prop CF, 2nd BB, carried with 3 in favour and 1 against)

9.5 Policy Review & Adoptions

Cllr Marnes reported that the Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders needed updating.

RESOLVED to circulate the updated policies to Councillors.

9.5.1 ICO Data (Use and Access) Act

RESOLVED to note the enactment of the ICO Data (Use and Access) Act.

RESOLVED to check whether there are any relevant changes for the Parish Council. It was noted that all Parish Councils should move to a .gov.uk domain.

9.6 Training

RESOLVED to note that training was available from CAPALC and that there is a small budget for Councillor training.

10. Council website, .gov domain, DropBox, IT Policy

10.1 Website Transfer

RESOLVED to note that the website upgrade was in progress and documents were being updated.

9.1 To approve payment of bills (Continued)

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Ground Tech		£240.00
Ibbetts	Mower	£6358.00
Ibbetts	Padlock	£109.48
CAPALC	Chair Training	£50.00
CAPALC	Code of Conduct	£45.00
GIO Gardening	Grass cutting	£300.00

11. Highways Matters

11.1 Footpaths

Cllr Marnes reported on Footpaths. The Ouse Valley Way walk took place last week. Residents were encouraged to walk the route.

There were several lost footpaths in the village which have been reported at various times.

Cllr Marnes is keen to have a meeting Savills, CCC, National Highways, etc, to get the path moved towards the A1. The previous council had an aspiration for a path to Little Paxton.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is happy in principle for Cllr Marnes to progress this.

11.2 A1 and A1 Safety Group

RESOLVED to note that this was not really a Parish Council responsibility. It was noted that the visibility on the A1 southbound is still very poor. These issues need to be reported to National Highways.

11.3 Village roads and footpaths

Cllr Marnes reported on the state of the roads in the village. Issues can be reported to CCC Highways. The Parish Council is looking at options for hedge cutting. A discussion took place about the Bell Lane junction onto the A1.

11.4 Cycle Route

Cllr Marnes reported on the Sustrans cycle route, which should be maintained to a reasonable standard. There is a new cycle route from Buckden to Little Paxton.

11.5 Upcoming Road Closures

Cllr Marnes had not been able to find out exactly when the works were due to take place on Rectory Lane.

11.6 20 mph in village

There had previously been a proposal. There was a discussion about lack of enforcement and the benefits of a reduced speed limit.

RESOLVED that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wells should look at grant options for funding MVAS equipment.

It was noted that there is a CCC 20 mph scheme.

12. Play area and Playing Field

12.1 Petanque

Taken earlier.

12.2 Rabbit holes on the football field

RESOLVED to note that there was a large number of rabbit holes on the football field and that Cllr Butler is filling these weekly as they appear.

RESOLVED to check if there is anything on the risk register about Football Clubs checking for holes before games.

12.3 Clearing of mowing cuttings on the play area

Cllr Marnes reported that there were piles of grass cuttings which needed removing. It was noted that the piles would mulch down shortly.

12.4 School Holiday Camp

Cllr Butler reported on the idea of providing holiday camps, and he had investigated a scheme similar to the one run at Buckden. The cost was approximately £300.00 per day subject to numbers. It was noted that the provider had insurance and had been DBS checked, etc.

RESOLVED to approve holding a holiday camp at a cost of approximately £300.00 per day, for one day as a trial, and that Cllr Butler should investigate this further. (Prop BB, 2nd CF, unanimous)

13. Village Hall

13.1 Village Hall deeds and Charity Commission

Cllr Marnes reported that the Charity Commission has said that the Village Hall must abide by the Trust Deed and must hold an AGM.

Cllr Faux reported that there had been significant investigation into the deeds by ACRE and the solicitor. The holding of the AGM has been delayed pending the building works being completed.

14. Church and Burial Matters

14.1 Cemetery Deeds, Regulations and Communication

RESOLVED that the Parish Council need to look at the deeds as there are matters that the Parish Council should be aware of.

Cllr Marnes raised the 80 year rule. A resident clarified that the land is on an 80 year lease, then reverts to Parish Council ownership.

The deed indicates that there may be a Trust/Charity in existence which needs to be investigated.

RESOLVED, noting that all Councillors should have a copy, that Cllr Marnes should circulate the deeds.

14.2 Vicar's retirement

Cllr Marnes reported that the Vicar is retiring and offered thanks for her commitment to the village over the years and for making the Church into a Community Hub.

The Vicar thanked Cllr Marnes and reported that they are continuing as a member of the public.

15. Update on the Hub report

Another two grants have been received and the work will be commencing shortly. Still waiting for Heritage Lottery. It was reported that the installation of the solar panels, from the HDC grant in March, was delayed as they are still looking for a contractor to install.

RESOLVED to circulate the report to Councillors.

16. To note Correspondence received (other than agenda items)

16.1 CCC – Protected Road Verges

RESOLVED to note the email. RESOLVED that there were no other verges to nominate at present.

16.2 Resident – Warning signs around the village

RESOLVED to defer this item pending the 20 mph discussions.

16.3 Resident – Request for tree in churchyard to be cut back

A request had been received from a resident that a tree in the Churchyard is now touching their property.

RESOLVED that Cllr Faux should look at the request to see what can be done.

17. Councillor items

17.1 GOVT event

Cllr Marnes reported that the Parish Council had traditionally attended.

17.2 Attendance at important events

RESOLVED that events will be reviewed as invitations are received.

17.3 Dog Fouling

Cllr Marnes reported that dog fouling was getting worse. The Parish Council discussed various problem areas and issues. It was noted that there was a considerable number of signs. The Parish Council had previously written to residents. It was noted that enforcement requires witnesses and reporting. RESOLVED that a note be posted on the website.

17.4 Resilience and Anglian Water issues

Cllr Marnes reported that there is a local forum and the District Councillor had asked if the Parish Council could join the group.

RESOLVED that Cllr Marnes should arrange for the Parish Council to join the forum.

17.5 Commemoration Seat

Cllr Faux reported that there would be no cost to the Parish Council. The company had been dismissive of the issue so the matter had been taken direct to the powder coater and the seat should be collected shortly. The bench can be stored in the container pending installation.

17.6 Notice board

It was noted that the notice board was double sided. RESOLVED that the updated Burial Regulations should be posted.

17.7 Village Communication

Information can be posted on the Parish Council website, the notice boards, the village website and Facebook.

RESOLVED to review leaflet drops again in the future.

17.8 Village Broadband

Cllr Nevard reported that the Broadband service was getting worse and proposed that the Council petition BT and the local MP to have the provision improved.

RESOLVED that Cllr Nevard should look into the options.

18. Councillors' questions

RESOLVED that Councillors should issue a new Councillor advertisement.

19. New Clerk's advert

Cllr Faux reported that the Parish Council was looking for stability in the short term before reviewing.

20. Date of the next meeting and closure of meeting

RESOLVED that subject to business, the next meeting is to be held in September, with the date to be confirmed.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 11.12 pm.

SignedChairmandate.