

SOUTHOE & MIDLOE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 6 December 2023

At the Village Hall at 7pm

Present Alan Marnes (AM) Chairman, Dick Saw (DS), A Ellmer (AE), Andy Kiley (AK), Parish Councillors.
R Mimiene, the Clerk and RFO
CC Cllr Ken Billington
1 member of the public joined the meeting after 25minutes

MINUTES

12/153 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance

Cllrs John Taylor and Sharon Mitchel sent apologies for absence.

HDC Cllr M Hassall sent apologies for absence.

12/154 Declarations of Interest for Members

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

To receive written requests for the new Disclosable Pecuniary interest dispensations

Cllr AE registered a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 12/163.6 re payment to the VH for its maintenance.

12/155 District and County Councillors Reports

CC Cllr K Billington provided a verbal report. Meeting on 20th Dec is going to be held re closure of Kimbolton Fire station.

CC Cllr KB left the meeting

Please see **Appendix 1** for HDC Cllr MH report

HDC enforcement officer re dog control orders.

The history was written down and can be shared showing Parish Council's position. **Clerk** to respond to the resident's query. Attach to the minutes, **Appendix 2**

Close of meeting

12/156 Open Forum for all for all members of the public present including

Members of the public can address the Council in an open surgery session. Each person wishing to address the council will be allowed to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes, subject to the Chairman's discretion. This part cannot be longer than 15 minutes.

Re-opening of the meeting

12/157 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 6 November 2023

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AE, seconded by Cllr DS, all in favour, it was RESOLVED that the minutes are true and correct record of the meeting. Carried.

12/158 Matters Arising from those Minutes

12/159 To Consider Co-option to fill one Vacancy of the Parish Council

12/160 Planning, Local Plan

Erection of single storey rear extension Site Address: 50 Lees Lane Southoe St Neots
Reference: 23/02209/HHFUL – received 21 Nov 23, comments by 12th Dec

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....2023

CHAIRMAN

Recommend Approval but to note that the property is within 250m of a pond and an underground stream which comes from Rectory Lane and runs all along Lees Lane directly in front of that house.

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AE, seconded by Cllr AK, all in favour, it was RESOLVED to recommend Approval to the above planning consultation. Carried.

Note since meeting: Planning recommendations were submitted HDC on 7 Dec 2023.

12/161 Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Assessment (WCHAR) - Connection between Southoe and Little Paxton.

12/162 A1 – 9th January next scheduled meeting which Cllrs JT and AM will attend. There is NH fund available for parishes to apply for. Agreed to consider applying for the footpath to Little Paxton.

12/163 Finance

12/163.1 To note information received from HDC:

One member of the public joined the meeting

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL TAXBASE 2024/25

HDC is currently considering a proposal to amend the Council Tax Support scheme to better support low-income households across the district.

	Current CTS Scheme	Proposed CTS Scheme
Draft Taxbase 2024/25	156.9	156.0

Noted.

12/163.2 Steps to complete Bank of Scotland application – paperwork received for signing after the registration completion.

12/163.3 To Consider Budget and Precept request for 2024.25

PC approved the Budget £29,145.64 and Precept is £15,775 at the last meeting. The Precept request was submitted to HDC.

12/163.4 To approve Funds Transfer letter

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AM, seconded by Cllr AK, all in favour, it was RESOLVED to approve funds transfer of £5,000. Carried.

12/163.5 To approve the payment of £1,050+vat for the Coronation Bench. Bench is made from a fully welded steel frame with 6mm laser cut steel decorative backing, primer powder coated then top coat (gloss black) powder coated. Price does not include install of base. Delivery of bench and install onto pre-existing concrete pad can be added for £100 + vat.

Company based in Alconbury Weston. We are paying for delivery and installation. Base will be done mid-January. Cllr AE will inform the company. This will be paid to secure the bench.

12/163.5 To Note Accounts balances, Cashbook, Income against Expenditure – Noted.

12/163.6 To approve 6 December 2023 payments:

Cllr AE withdrew from this item.

Agreed to make a payment to VH for the maintenance for £150.00.

Date payment raised	Date debited	Income/Expenditure	Details	Chq/So/DD/Trans	Income	Total Expenditure	Balance	V.A.T.

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CHAIRMAN

Dec 23									
06/12/2023		Wages	Including PAYE	1454 1455			491.55	30,018.39	
06/12/2023		NEST	Pensions	DD			51.70	29,966.69	
06/12/2023		Expenses	Expenses	1456			22.85	29,943.84	
06/12/2023		Ultimate Fabrication Ltd	Coronation bench	1457			1,380.00	28,563.84	230.00
06/12/2023		St Neots Museum	S137 Donation	1458			50.00	28,513.84	
06/12/2023		Mr Holdaway	Grounds maintenace Churchyard and VH entrance	1459			151.50	28,362.34	
06/12/2023		Southoe Village Hall	For maintenance of the Village Hall	1460			150.00	28,212.34	
								28,212.34	
								28,212.34	
								28,212.34	
						0.00	2,297.60		230.00

Proposal: Proposed by Cllr AE, seconded by Cllr AK, all in favour, it was RESOLVED to make the payments listed above including £150.00 payment to the Village Hall for maintenance. Carried.

Clerk to write to Mr Holdway and thank him for his ongoing service and wish him well in the future – wait till after the final invoice received.

12/164 Village assets – Risk Assessment of the PC assets will be carried out (last done Dec 2022) by Cllr AK, and presented to the next meeting.

12/165 Website maintenance - <https://southoeandmidloe.wixsite.com/website/the-parish-council>

12/166 Policing in the village – thefts were reported in the village from cars last weekend nights which have been reported.

12/167 Village Defibrillator, Councillor Angela Ellmer

12/168 Highways matters:

12/168.1 Footpaths in the parish including Ouse Valley Path – Public Rights of Way Officer – Huntingdonshire - a new public Right of Way Officer now in place at CCC. To set a meeting with the new officer.

12/168.2 Trees in the village – Tree works

Await for the quote now. When received, take to the next meeting. Clerk to chase if nothing received by the end of this week.

12/168.3 Streetlighting – all ok.

12/168.4 Traffic along Lees Lane and the Village. Wait till Cllr **JT** is present.

12/168.5 Drainage issues in the village, Cllr A Marnes – Cllr AM emailed the highways officer, problem found in Rectory Lane (31) collapsed drain. It is getting worse as water is running down the road.

Highways responsible for maintaining the system at Lees Lane.

Drains in Lees Lane are clear and water runs well towards the gravel pits.

Upstream – drainage responsible Cambs CC Flood Team responsible for the whole area. But when it comes under highways, NH are responsible for that. There is a grant to get it done as they have no funds. Ian Winfield sent info last autumn.

12/169 Village Grass cutting – no issues

12/170 Play Area and Playing Field

12/170.1 Monthly visual checks carried out, the list of checks received, update Monthly check will be done in the next few weeks. Apologies from the volunteer. Cllrs checked the area.

12/170.2 OUEM Ltd - Southoe Recreation Ground, Lease and Head of Terms

12/170.3 Parking by the Playing Fields gate

12/170.4 Grass cutting – To consider tender for the next Grass Cutting Season

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CHAIRMAN

Four tenders were approached. **Clerk** to check if they received the pack of tender documents and if they are happy to quote.

12/171 Village Hall update, Cllr A Ellmer – CCF refused application for grant on the VH. Apart from that all is running well and being used.

12/172 Update on the Hub project – 3 quotes reduced down to 2. Contractors coming in Jan 2024 when questions will be asked and will approve the contractor.

Tower work completed.

12/173 Church & Burial Matters. Consider the situation of our current contractor who will not be tendering next year.

12/174 Training - Training can be booked via: www.bookwhen.com/capalc

HDC training on Planning - Presentation and Material Planning Consideration circulated to the Council

Raise concerns re HDC pre-meetings with developers and advice with developers with HDC Cllr **MH**, action to the Clerk. FOI request to submit – **Clerk** – raise concern re this course.

12/175 To note Correspondence received

12/175.1 HDC: Sustainability settlement, reply requested by 13th Dec 2023 – feedback to submit, the **Clerk**

12/175.2 Notification from HDC: From April 2024 Huntingdonshire District Council will be introducing a garden waste subscription service. Residents will be able to start signing up for the service in December 2023 and we will be offering an Early Bird discount to residents who sign up before the end of January 2024. This discount will see residents pay £50 for the year instead of £57.50.

Our early bird discount for the new garden waste subscription service is coming soon in December! Keep an eye out on our website and social media for the launch of the early bird discount and don't forget to subscribe. Find out more here: [Garden Waste Subscription Service - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://GardenWasteSubscriptionService-Huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

12/175.3 Resident's email received re Playing Fields and dog orders implemented by HDC - reply giving the history to be sent by the **Clerk**.

12/176 Councillors' Questions

Please, note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. Business must be specified therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

HDC Christmas Carols concert – **Cllr AE and the Clerk** will attend represent a parish – Mon 18th at 6pm.

12/177 Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 3 January 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall

Meeting finished 8.20pm

Appendix 1

Dear Residents,

In the spirit of the season, I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. May this festive season bring you moments of peace, love, and cherished time with family and friends.

As we turn the page to welcome 2024, my sincere hope is that it unfolds as a year of renewed hope, growth, and prosperity. Let's look forward to a brighter future, filled with opportunities for personal and professional success.

Signed for and on behalf of Southoe & Midloe Parish Council.....2023

CHAIRMAN

Wishing you and your loved ones a festive holiday season and a Happy New Year filled with positivity, good health, and the fulfilment of your aspirations. Cheers to new beginnings and a year that brings villagers together in both spirit and accomplishment.

EARLY BIRD SIGN-UP DISCOUNT FROM DECEMBER TO 31st JANUARY

The new garden waste subscription service will begin on 1st April 2024. The Standard Subscription Price is £57.50 for one garden waste bin to be collected for the whole year, and £30 for any additional bin up to four bins.

Residents will be able to sign up for the garden waste subscription service in December 2023 and January 2024 and take advantage of the Early Bird Discount, with plenty of time for April 2024, when the subscription service comes into effect. Details below:

Early Bird Discount from December to 31st January

HDC will be offering a reduced price of £50 for your first bin (additional bins remain at £30 each).

If you choose to pay for the service by:

- **Direct Debit Payments: the reduced price of £50 per year will be locked in for 3 years.**
- **One Card Payment: the reduced price of £50 will be for the first year only, followed by £57.50 next year.**

You can find out more information about the forthcoming Garden Waste Subscription Service, as well as sign up to catch the Early Bird on the council's website:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service>

Those who subscribe to the fortnightly service will receive a sticker to put on their bin and collection crews will have devices to check the collection service has been paid for. Only bins displaying the sticker will be emptied.

It's an entirely optional service and this is not a compulsory charge, but from April HDC's garden waste collection will only be available to residents that register and subscribe. If you do not have a garden or do not want to pay for the collections, you do not need to do anything.

For those who choose not to join the subscription service can dispose of their garden waste by taking it to their nearest Cambridgeshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centre or compost at home instead.

Residents can also purchase discounted compost bins via the council's website:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/manage-your-bin-collections/additional-garden-waste-bin-and-composting/>

COUNCIL TACKLES ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HUNTINGDON

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has collaborated with BID Huntingdon First and Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) to tackle anti-social behaviour in Huntingdon by installing a new deployable camera.

This collaboration signifies a collective initiative to enhance the overall safeguarding of Huntingdon, particularly of the Commemorative Hall and the surrounding murals. The implementation of deployable cameras, along with related endeavours, marks a progression in establishing a community space that is both safer and more secure.

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The new camera is connected to the CCTV Shared Service Monitoring Centre. This shared service monitors cameras across Cambridgeshire, 24/7 from a central shared control room based in Huntingdon. This is not a particularly well known service provided by HDC, but can be used to protect other communities and businesses outside of Huntingdon.

Happy New Year,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe
Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services - Phone: 07480 798 342
Email: martin.hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Appendix 2

The history of Southoe play dog control area was set down very early on. When the play area was envisaged it was for all people to be able to play on the whole area. Dogs are excluded from the children's play equipment area, this is a rule anywhere in England.

Then what is known as the football field, this was sanctioned as a dogs on leads area and, has all but the last few years been covered by HDC the "Dogs On leads" areas from when the park was opened. There have always been "DOGS ON LEADS" notices on all the entrances to the park and these have been replaced several times with the stickers being supplied by HDC after contacting and co-operation of the dog warden.

This was only challenged when a councillor asked a dog walker to put their Dog on a lead. It was subsequently found the Southoe football Field had been missed of the map when it had been updated and no one informed the parish council. So when the council were told about the 2023 plan to review the District Councils Dog control policy, after the HDC consultation period, the parish council asked for the area to be readded to the list of dog control areas that it had been on previously.

The reason for the original dog control order was that the parish council and SPACE (Southoe Play Area Community Endeavour) the group of residents that worked very hard to raise funds and get this play area up and running. We were all told about the need to limit the possibility of the dog attacks and just as importantly the spread of Toxocara Canis (see [Toxocara canis - Wikipedia](#)) This after a young person in Kimbolton was blinded after accidently coming into contact with dog faeces on the green. Then as the local council cannot control the need for worming in pet animals, the only option was to make sure that owners and dog walkers comply to dogs on leads and dog control orders.

The parish council have a duty to protect anyone who uses the play area and that includes dog walkers who do keep their animals on leads from the owners who may let their dogs off the leads. This as pointed out by the visit of HDC enforcement team, where he said that locally a person was walking their dog on the lead when a dog off the lead came over, the 2 dogs fought and the one off the lead was severely injured. The owner of the dog off the lead wanted the other owner prosecuted, but it was the owner with the dog off the lead that was in the wrong so no prosecution took place.

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CHAIRMAN

There are many dog types in and around Southoe, from Rothweiler to toy poodles if dogs are allowed to run free then this has to apply to all allowed breeds.

There were 22,000 dog attacks in England and Wales last year(from [Dog attacks: 34% increase recorded by police in England and Wales - BBC News](#)



and Wales

There were at least 22,000 reported cases in England and Wales last year.

) that resulted in injury's that required hospital treatment, then there have been 8 deaths this year up to yet (see [List of fatal dog attacks in the United Kingdom - Wikipedia](#))

The parish council cannot be party to where dogs are allowed off the lead on land we rent/control.