

## Southorpe Parish Council (SPC)

Minutes of meeting held at Ufford Village Hall at 1900 hours  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Councillors present: Simon Little (SL) Chair  
Carl Brown (ACB)  
Corinna Blackmore (CB)  
Peter Corder (PC)  
Victoria Haynes (VH)

Barnack Ward Councillor: David Over (DO)

Parish Clerk: Alison Hurford (AH)

Member of Public: Anne Corder  
Vanessa Edwards  
Steve Flora  
Irene Walsh  
Liam Curran  
Michael Cunliffe-Lister  
Jill Bartlett  
Bec Wilson  
Dan Wilson  
Katherine Smith  
John Bradshaw  
Joan Riddel  
Jake Riddel  
Archie Dennis  
Paul Fieldhouse

### 1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

### 2. Declaration of interests from members

No declaration of interest was declared.

### 3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November were accepted as a true record and duly signed by SL.

### 4. Matters Arising

**4.1 Fogarty Trust** AH reported there has, to date, been no decision from the Fogarty Trust regarding the application for funding to purchase two speed monitors despite several emails being sent. AH/SL to continue to chase.

**Action: SL/AH**

**4.2 Footpath from Ufford Bridge along Walcot Road** CB has been in contact with the Rights of Way Officer at PCC who has promised action. CB to monitor.

**Action: CB**

**4.3 Phone Box** The repainting of the phone box has been postponed until Spring.

**4.4 Burghley Triathlon** AH reported that this will be taking place on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Warning signs for road closures will be in place 2 weeks prior to the event, and leaflets will be distributed confirming road closures. All residents will have passes to move in and out of the village.

**4.5 Parish Liaison Meeting** SL agreed to attend the next Parish Liaison Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## **5. Parish Planning**

**5.1** 23/001149/DISCHG Middle Farm – Discharge of Condition C4 (Biodiversity), C6 (drainage system), C8 (details of windows, doors and rooflights), and C9 (construction methodology of plan) – validated

**5.2** 23/00658/LBC Middle Farm - Proposed stable block and menage (comments submitted) – awaiting decision

**5.3** 23/01082/LBC Middle Farm - Replacement roof finish on annexe – permission granted with conditions

**5.4** 23/00996 Bottom Farm – Replace existing fence with stone wall, replacement dormer windows and internal alterations to property (comments submitted) – awaiting decision

**5.5.** 23/01703/CTR Grange Farm – Removal of deadwood from Oak Tree – no comment from the SPC

## **6. Ward Update**

**6.1** DO reported that the postponed meeting to discuss speeding and traffic calming measures for the Ward, has yet to be rearranged. Once a new date has been agreed this will be circulated to Councillors.

## **7. Finance**

### **7.1** Current Finance

VH gave an update of the current Council's finances, see appendix 1.

**7.2** It was proposed by SL and seconded by ACB to increase the Clerk's pay by £1.00 an hour in line with pay scales agreed by Society of Local Council Clerks and Association of Local Council Clerks. This will be back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

## **8. Environmental**

**8.1** CB reported that there was no funding available at present from the John Clare project but there is a possibility of a second round of funding which we could potentially apply for.

**8.2** There is continued concern about the amount of flooding occurring in the village. Several gardens were completely flooded with one garden being flooded with raw sewage. This has been particularly severe during the last few weeks due to the heavy and continued rainfall. Work was carried out two years ago to try and alleviate the problem, this has improved things slightly but has not resolved matters. The Council will write to Anglian Water to inform them of the current problems. Also, it was suggested that the ditches are cleared and drained throughout the village. AH to investigate who would be responsible for this. DO suggested that a letter is written to the Shailesh Vara MP for NW Cambridgeshire to see if he could help. SL to speak to Adrian Chapman to see if Highways were responsible for the ditches and wrote to Anglian Water on behalf of those effected with sewage issues.

**Action: AH/SL**

## **9. Traffic**

### **9.1** Dualling of the A47

There has been no update meetings with Galliford Try. PC to contact Keeley Russell to enquire as to when the next meeting will be. PC has received several information emails regarding road closures etc. which have been placed on the village WhatsApp group.

**Action: PC**

## 9.2 Barnack Ward Traffic meeting

The meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> December was cancelled and is due to be rearranged for January/February. SL will email to chase this.

## 10. Local Plan

SL gave an introduction and an outline of the current status and situation regarding Peterborough City Council's Local Plan, which once adopted forms the blueprint for future development and growth across the city and the villages.

Southorpe is included in the initial draft Local Plan. During the consultation earlier in the year Peterborough City Council issued a 'call for sites' invitation to anyone to put forward their ideas for future growth e.g., housing and employment. This initiative tends to attract landowners and strategic planning consultants keen to seek out future development opportunities.

The process has produced three potential development sites in and around Southorpe.

Many of the 'call for sites' proposals are eliminated at any early stage, partly as they are deemed unsuitable. The Local Plan timetable is scheduled to last a couple of years and conclude in March 2026 with various key staging dates along the way.

The three Southorpe 'call for sites' are:

- 1 A 3,000 home development between Wittering and the edge of Southorpe. This is part of a much larger development which goes beyond Southorpe Parish and into Wittering Parish where the proposer of the 'call for sites' believes 8,000 homes in total could be built.
- 2 Fifteen new homes to be built on the paddock in Main Street, Southorpe (the field behind the telephone box)
- 3 A much larger development of 148 homes, in the field, behind the paddock and stretching from the track up the side of Boundary House across to Farrendon.

SL stated that SPC are keen to hear the views of residents with regards the proposals partly to help SPC shape their responses to PCC following an initial questionnaire sent to SPC on the three 'call for sites'. SL also confirmed that both he and PC would be attending a meeting with PCC on the 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Local Plan and 'Call for Sites' further along with all other Parish Councils.

SL opened up the floor to members of the public for their comments:

Archie Dennis: The landowner of the sites, confirmed, on several occasions, that he nor the Walcott Estate have submitted an application to develop the sites listed above. Indeed he confirmed that the first they knew of anything was when the SPC news letter dropped through his letterbox just before Christmas. He is unaware who has proposed the sites at this stage.

Irene Walsh: will provide the SPC with a Site Criteria Document which PCC will use to establish the suitability of the sites.

Vanessa Edwards: Vanessa read out her reasons for objections, see appendix 2

Dan Wilson: stated that his garden regularly has raw sewage from the drains and questions whether the infrastructure can cope with any more houses. He is also concerned about the amount of traffic these developments would create.

Kat Smith: queried as to when the identify of the proposed developer would be known. SL confirmed he did not know but expected this to come out at some stage particularly if any of the sites proposed were eventually adopted within the LP. He is confirmed that SPC had written to PCC to seek this information but were advised that at present they were not releasing such details due to a privacy notice. SL was unsure what this means. Kat also offered the services of a friend who is a Planner, should we need any help with our objection. SL thanked Kat for this offer but at this early stage we were ok but would note this for the future.

David Over: suggested that the dualling of the A47 could potentially make Southorpe an attractive option for development. He also stated that traffic, highways, and sewage were not, in themselves, planning objections. He suggested that residents write direct to their MP to make their views known.

Jake Riddell: asked if an update will be given on the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and attended by SL and PC. SL confirmed they would do this and that an update would be placed on the Council website.

Anne Corder: asked if a landowner doesn't want to sell, can they be forced? SL confirmed it was his understanding that no one could be forced to sell their land unless under a compulsory order

John Bradshaw (Chair of Wittering PC): confirmed that Wittering PC will be objecting to all the sites suggested within Wittering PC.

SL asked for a show of hands for those in favour of the sites to be developed. Only Archie Dennis raised his hand stating he had a potential conflict of interest.

SL then asked each of the Councillors for their views and all confirmed they were firmly opposed to any development on the three sites.

Next steps SPC would finalise their responses to PCC's initial questionnaire in respect of the three 'call for sites' and submit these by 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> March at Ufford Village Hall, Ufford 7.00 pm

Meeting closed at 8.42 pm