

Southorpe Parish Council (SPC)

**Minutes of meeting held at Ufford Village Hall at 1900 hours
on Wednesday 8th November 2023**

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

Parish Clerk: Alison Hurford (AH)

Member of Public: Adrian Billing
Archie Dennis
Paul Fieldhouse
Jake & Joan Riddell

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 13th September 2023

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th September were accepted as a true record with a slight amendment/correction to item 13.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 AH reported that she had submitted an application for funding to the Fogarty Trust for two new variable speed signs, one to be placed at each entrance to the village, for a total of £5,400 plus £89.99 for delivery, but to date had not had a reply or acknowledgement despite several emails asking for confirmation of receipt or to the query as to when the Trustees met.

4.2 CB reported that a plastic guard had been put around the crab-apple tree and that the tree was looking very healthy. Item discharged.

4.3 CB is continuing to liaise with Peterborough City Council to get the vegetation debris cleared from the footpath on Walcot Road (from the railway bridge past Southorpe Terrace).

4.4 A group will be assembled to prepare and paint the phone box in the near future although an application has been made to the CLF (Community Leadership Fund managed by PCC) for £350 to assist with this, we are waiting to hear if our application has been successful.

4.5 CB reported that the village firework event was a success with a fair amount of residents attending. £170 was made on the raffle and this will go towards the fireworks for next year. CB expressed thanks to Archie Dennis for the loan of the generator and to all villagers that contributed to making the event such a success. VH expressed thanks to CB for organising this event. Item discharged.

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) – awaiting decision

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

6. Ward Update

6.1 SL reported that along with ACB, he attended the recent ward meeting on 4th October. This was a short meeting in preparation for the wider traffic meeting that was subsequently held on the 19th October at PCC's offices hosted by Adrian Chapman, the Deputy Chief of Executive of PCC and James Collingridge, Head of Highways and Transport at Peterborough City Council.

7. Finance

7.1 Current Finance

VH gave an update of the current status of the Council's finances, see below:

SOUTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Accounts for the period 13 September to 7 November 2023

Deposit Account

Balance at 12 September 2023	£1,600.62
Transfer	-£200.00
Balance at 07 November 2023	<u>£1,400.62</u>

Business Current Account

Balance at 12 September 2023	£488.53
PCC Precept 2nd Instalment	£1,517.50
Transfer	£200.00
Bank Charges	-£8.00
Insurance	-£196.00
PCVS Payroll Service	-£36.00
Clerk Net Paye	-£240.00
PAYE	-£121.20
Clerk Expenses	-£8.10
British Legion Signs	-£33.54
	<u>£1,563.19</u>

7.2 Precept for 2024/25

2024/25 Budget Proposal	
Insurance	£196
Ufford Village Hall	£120
Payroll preparation	£144
Bank charges	£96
Squarespace Renewal	£150
Capalc membership	£160
Community Heartbeat Defibrillator	£162
Clerk expenses	£250
Clerk salary with 3% increase	£1,483
PAYE	£480
Barnack Burial Ground	£300
Other including social and recreation ground maintenance	£500
	<u>£4,041</u>
Precept 2023/2024	£3,035
10% Increase	£3,338.50
Contribution by SPC	£399

It was proposed by SL and seconded by VH to increase the precept by 10% for 2024/25. VH will submit the relevant forms to PCC to reflect the motion.

8. Environmental

8.1 CB to investigate if there is any funding still available from the John Clare project that could be applied for and potentially used to enhance the village e.g. Wild flowers along the verge sides and enhancing the village field.

9. Traffic

9.1 Dualling of the A47

PC attended a meeting on the 21st of September.

The purpose of the meeting with landowners and parish councils was to provide an overview of the traffic management plans for the duration of the two-year construction project and to consult with local authorities (parish councils) and landowner's likely to be affected whilst the works are being undertaken on issues that might be addressed in advance of finalising a detailed and definitive traffic management plan.

At some points in the construction the traffic will be managed with two-way flow to include 30mph speed limits; average speed cameras; CCTV cameras; double white lining; on-site 24-hour recovery service; some night closures with diversions in place.

The overall project plan is still being finalised and preliminary archaeological works have started which are likely to continue until the new year. It seems likely that 'construction' phase will probably start in spring 2024 (at the earliest).

Most people agreed that any issues on the A47 would inevitably impact on local villages with people looking for short cuts. Roadworks will also extend onto the A1 going south from Starbucks to the Wansford junction.

At the meeting, PC explained Southorpe's position and asked that something should be done to restrict access on to Sutton Heath Road from the A47 and in particular stopping right turns on the A47. By restricting right turns into Sutton Heath Road from the A47 west it would at least make that a less attractive option and hopefully reduce the volume of traffic which might otherwise be tempted to bypass the A1, particularly those going north and come through Southorpe.

9.2 Barnack Ward Traffic meeting

SL and ACB attended the Ward meeting hosted by PCC at Sandpiper House with Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy at Peterborough City Council, David Over Councillor for Barnack Ward along with other Parish Chairs and Councillors to continue the discussions with regards to reducing the speed limit both in the villages and between the local villages in the Barnack Ward. The plan is that the other villages in the Ward, particularly Bainton & Ashton, Ufford and Barnack are keen to reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH in their respective villages. Additionally, all Parishes are keen to see a reduction in the speed limit from the current 60mph to either 50 or 40 MPH between the villages to help reduce speeding motorists, deter those who wish to use the villages as a rat-run between Stamford and Peterborough and improve road safety. There seems to be momentum and traction for these plans to progress and Peterborough City Council are keen to help. A further meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23 November. The issue of funding these initiatives has yet to be discussed should they progress.

9.3 Speeding motorists through the village

SL gave some background to this matter and concerns around both speeding motorists and road safety concerns. The principal concern is that of speeding of traffic through the village. It is felt that this will likely increase following the completion of the dualling of the A47, south of the village and the new St Martin's Park housing estate (190 new homes will be built) on the old Cummins factory site opposite Burghley House, Stamford, north of the village. There is little doubt that these two scheduled developments will raise traffic volumes and result in an increase in speeding motorists. At a meeting back in March of this year hosted by Galliford Try, attended by SL and ACB on behalf of Southorpe PC, plans of the final route were displayed and issues surrounding the programme were raised by those in attendance. At this meeting the representatives of the Highways Agency advised that affected villages could apply for up to £10,000 of funding toward road safety improvements. As a responsible Council SPC started investigating how we might obtain some funding to help reduce traffic volumes and speeding motorists through the village and thus improve road safety and preserve the quiet nature of the village. On further investigations it transpired that the current funding window had been closed and therefore no funding was available. The next round of funding does not open until 2025.

SPC were not satisfied with this response and were directed to PCC highways to explore what options might work to help reduce speeding motorists through the village and consequently deter those who use or might use the village as a rat-run. In early September, Peter Tebb, from Peterborough City Council Highways Department visited the village and submitted his provisional thoughts on the matter which was

shared with villagers for comments and feedback in the previous minutes following the meeting of 13th September.

SL clarified that the Council was adopting a clear strategy and process to arrive at a solution which would be supported by the majority of the residents of Southorpe. The process is a four stage approach:

1. Identify the problem: i.e., does the village have a problem with speeding motorists driving through the village and is this a danger to road safety. SL asked all present at the meeting to show (by raising their hands) if they believed they agreed with this statement. There was a unanimous show of hands from those in attendance.
2. Look at possible solutions (this is the current status of the work in this area): The initial possible solutions as outlined by Peter Tebb's signage options is the start of this consultation process. SPC are very keen to get residents' opinions to these outline suggestions, and to date these have been received directly to the Clerk via emails and comments posted on the village WhatsApp group. SPC also acknowledges the results of the short survey conducted by Andrew Mogridge and whilst it is in no way conclusive and had limited reach across all residents in the village it is never-the-less helpful and insightful. SPC would like to thank everyone that has taken the trouble to respond to date. All these responses will now be carefully considered by the Council ahead of deciding what happens next with further consultation across the Parish if required.
3. Funding: Whatever the outcome to stage 2 and before anything can be implemented funding to achieve this will need to be sourced. SPC does not have available funds to meet these types of costly capital expenditures. It is likely that PCC and other agencies would be asked to assist.
4. Implementation: to implement the programme of works approved.

During the discussion a number of issues were raised:

- It was felt that it needs to be unattractive for people to use Southorpe as a short cut.
- It was questioned as to whether the current 20 mph is enforceable, and it was confirmed that it is enforceable but only by the police.
- Is the data from the speed monitor of any use? Yes but the current system is old and some of the data is not 100% reliable.
- Could SPC borrow a speed camera from Bainton & Ashton to obtain some reliable data to support future recommendations.
- Is there any funding available from CPCA (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority)? This is to be investigated.
- Could a count of cars through the village be done? This was felt unlikely.

Next Steps:

James Collingridge, Head of PCC Highways and Transport will attend Southorpe on Monday 13 November and meet with ACB and PC to look at the road network within Southorpe Parish and discuss possible improvements in road signage and other traffic management issues.

SPC would look to regroup and consider carefully the comments received to date and explore other options as well as those already made by PCC to pull together a detailed proposal.

If it is considered appropriate than SPC will look to do a detailed survey of all residents of Southorpe to help conclude matters.

In the meantime, SPC will work with other Ward Parish Councils to progress speed limits in the neighbouring villages and between the villages in the Ward.

These matters would be updated at the next SPC meeting in January.

- 10. Parish Liaison Meeting** – no one is available to attend this meeting. At the next meeting it will be discussed as to whether SPC needs a representative on this committee.

Burghley Triathlon - PC has received communication from Paul at Pacesetter Events asking if there would be any objections to Main Street and Sutton Heath Road being closed from 6.30 am until 11.30 am on Sunday 12th May 2024. There will still be access for residents. AH to reply saying there were no objections, but they would have to apply to Peterborough City Council and the Police for the relevant permissions. **Action: AH**

- 11. Date of next meeting**

Weds 10th January at Ufford Village Hall, Ufford 7.00 pm

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm