

Soham Town Forum Minutes of 20/10/2011

Present

M Castling, C Bosworth, D Barber, C Sennitt, C Fordham, J Reader, P Nash,
K & S Bussingham, M Parfitt, R Aitchison, C Stein-Carr, S Lidford, P Gibbon,
M Warner

The Vice Chairman Matt Killick opened the meeting at 19.30 hrs

Apologies

A Pallet, M Hardingham, R Peacock, L Johnston

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September signed as a true record of events.

Matters arising

Car Parking at St Andrews

P. Manley, a member of the Board of Governors for St Andrews

Junior School gave a short presentation as to the reasons for a barrier being closed morning and afternoon preventing cars entering the school premises for the drop off and collection of pupils. He stressed the welfare of the pupils was the overriding concern. A health and safety audit conducted 2 years ago had recommended the course of action now taken. Despite letters being sent to parents in the intervening period advising them of the correct behaviour and parking the problem has persisted resulting in the barrier being closed.

The course of action taken was described by Mr Simon Hammer as being draconian and was only pushing the problem onto the public highway. A short debate then ensued as to the right and wrongs from both perspective view. General comments were made as to the poor parking in general in Soham and as to how this would restrict the emergency services.

Treasures Report

The Bank balance is £282.80 inclusive of the £150.00 made at the Antiques Fair.

Vice Chairman Report / Correspondence

It was agreed to renew the subscription to Community Matters. There were no further matters.

Easter Gateway

After much discussion it was considered that the proposed questionnaire for public consultation was premature due to no firm proposal as to the layout being proposed. It was agreed to keep the matter under review.

Meet the Councillors

There was good turnout of the town's councillors but poor support from the public. However it's was deemed to be a success and should be repeated next year.

It was questioned as to why Councillor Powely did not take part and it was indicated that he would have nothing to do with Forum business due to past history.

A further proposal was made by Rosemary Aitchison that the Forum should consider organising an event for newcomers to Soham as to the facilities, activities and organisations available to them.

Fund Raising

An overview was given by the Vice Chairman on the Antiques Fair. As an event it was well presented but poorly supported by the public.

The following proceeds have been dispersed_-:

H,S.A.	£25.00
Swimming Pool Fund	£50.00
Soham Town Forum	£150.00

It was the Vice Chairman's wish to record a vote of thanks to Liz Johnston for her hard work.

Future event

Queens Diamond Jubilee

A number of suggestions were made: -

- 1) It could be combined with a youth hockey match taking place at the same time at the Sports Hall.
- 2) The battle of the bands could be held at the same time.

- 3) A celebration of all thing British in conjunction with the schools.

The Christmas lights will be erected on November 19th with the switching on by Chris Burgess on 26th November.

A.O.B.

- 1) Refurbishment of the War Memorial

Discussion are on going between S.T.C., charities and the British Legion.

P. Gibbon requested R. Reader to give a quotation to STC for cleaning.

- 2) Flower Boxes

Locations need to be found for the flower boxes (Collins).

- 3) Lodeside Mural

A letter of apology has been received from Karen Taylor for the loss of the mural.

- 4) Christmas Party

It was suggested that the Chatter Box could be a suitable venue.

Next meeting December 1st.

The meeting closed at 21.10hrs