



SOHAM TOWN FORUM MINUTES OF 28 JULY 2011

Present: R Aitchison, C Bosworth, S & K Bussingham, M Castling, S East, Cllr C Fordham, P Gibbon, G Ginn, J Gipp, M Hardingham, L Johnston, M Killick, S Lidford, A Pallett, C Warner, T & J Webb, S Shorney, C Stein-Carr, T Clarke, H Tyler

Apologies M Parfitt, J Craven, Cllr J Palmer.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2011 were approved and signed.

Matters arising

As it was the last time R Aitchison will be taking the minutes, the Chair thanked her for her work over the past 4 years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. She thanked the Forum and indicated that she will still be attending meetings when she can. C Warner will take over with assistance when required from M Castling.

Concern has again been expressed about the new Scout and Guide hut and the area of hard standing. This has been reported to the planners and should be rectified in due course.

R Aitchison has requested a sum of £100 for plants and bulbs for the autumn season for Soham in Bloom. The plants have been ordered and will arrive during the week prior to the bank holiday. Volunteers will be needed to look after some rays of plants but these will not need to be in greenhouses. An additional amount of up to £20 will also be needed to purchase compost and seed trays. This was approved.

Further complaints have been received about horse droppings on pavements. It seems the owner of the horse has stables in Greenhills. PCSOs will be asked to investigate and ask him to exercise his horses on the road not the pavement.

Treasurer's report

Balance in bank	£236.79
Receipts bottle game	£25.00
Invoice still to pay	£30.93

Chairman's report

Chair has sent an email to ECDC from the Forum protesting about the possible implementation of parking charges in Soham. ECDC has said they are happy to receive any comments from groups or residents so please contact them to express your view. CC have approved permission for ECDC to start to charge for parking in their car parks in Littleport, Ely and Soham but at present these will only start in Ely for the present time.

Chair reported that in regard to community education Terry Collier has offered to do self defence classes for the Forum. There is a need to ensure that the correct insurances etc are in place and we need to check with Sport Hall that we are not duplicating any of their work.

Community Infrastructure – the Localism Bill

Abigail Taylor from ECDC Localism and Core Strategy team (Forward planning) gave a presentation about the new Localism Bill.

She explained that the new bill is not in force yet and all its details have not yet been published until Nov 2011.

Under the new bill ECDC will have to review its Core Strategy and this involves strategic policies, development control policies and town/village plans. Following these reviews further consultation with communities will take place.

Various questions were raised about infrastructure, education provision, transport links, protection of commons and other important green areas, sewage treatment works, Eastern gateway and flooding. A new water cycle survey is underway at present and Abigail has undertaken to return to another meeting to give the results of that.

Councillor 'meet and greet' event

R Aitchison has suggested that we ask all town and district councillors to meet the electors to provide them with an opportunity to ask questions and gain info about the work of the respective councils. This is not a political point scoring meeting! Forum Trustees agreed this was a good idea. There will initially be some questions put previously in writing and then a breakout session to enable everyone to talk to any councillors etc. L Johnston has agreed to chair this event and ensure that questions and discussions remain civil! Refreshments will be provided (Chatterbox of Simple Simon) and it is hoped there will be noticeboards showing the respective responsibilities of the two councils. This event will take place after the next Forum meeting – date to be advised. Chair hopes to have the art smallworks on display too and then these will be sold on line.

Fund Raising

Bottle game outside Budgens raised £25 but there are some bottles of alcohol left over which can be used for the Xmas event.

Car boot sales are ongoing and seem to be popular still. Next one 6 August 7.30am opening.

Antique Fair

St Andrews on Saturday 1 October from 10-3pm, free entrance. There will be antique stalls and the money for these will go to the Forum. Money from cake stall and car boot sales will go to HAS. During the afternoon valuations at £2 an item will be carried out inside by experts from Antiques Road Show and Rowleys Fine Art in Ely. Money raised by valuations will go to the Swimming Pool Fund.

Suggestions for future fund raising

Gardeners Question time in conjunction with Allotments association

There are a lot of young bands around – perhaps we could have an event for them or Soham Proms? Would need a trailer and a generator – Blue Shed? Could this be incorporated into the Olympics event?

Magazine and Website

9842 hits on the website. Most popular – news, most searched – car boot sales. The magazine is ongoing and it is intended to produce paper copies which will be available in designated places. Tourist information is being coordinated.

Community Organisations

Preservation Group The Open day in conjunction with English Heritage at the Downfields Windmill on 11 September 11-4pm is going ahead. The mill will be open and there will be some details of its history. There will be stalls etc and other things to do. Trustees will be meeting 1 August 7.30pm in the Pavilion and the next committee meeting the following week 8 August at the same time and place.

History Museum

The trustees are busy planning for alterations to the library annexe. There will be an interesting speaker on life in the 1940s on Thursday 4 August at 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall

Christmas Event

Next meeting Tuesday 2 August 7.15 at Budgens. Measurements have been taken for the lights for the rest of High St and also Churchgate St. Apparently there is a lunch at the Brook to raise money for the lights. For more info contact R Peacock.

Twinning

Celebration of the 5th Anniversary will take place at the Pumpkin Show when visitors from France (including the Mayor and his wife) will cut a celebration cake at approx 2.30pm. The French visitors will be sharing a fish and chip supper with members of the Pumpkin Show committee. Hosts will be required for the weekend of 23-25 September. Anyone prepared to have a French couple please let A Pallett know. Twinning will be having a stall at the Pumpkin show too.

SVC

29 September will be a Village College Open Evening for prospective parents when all aspects of the college will be on display. Interested members of the community are also welcome. This will be advertised in the paper. The college are setting up a new 'Friends of SVC' group. This is in the early stages at present.

AOB

Fiona Knowles who previously came to Soham to give a hilarious one women show 'Fur Coats and Magic Knickers' will be returning with another show to the Brook on 29 September at 8pm. Tickets £12 and £10.

Soham Lodge is now hoping to open in November 2011 to welcome elderly residents who suffer from dementia. Initially there will be space for 26 residents but this will rise to 40 approx. There have been a number of problems which have held this up but all is on track now. New manager will be installed in September and then they will be recruiting staff. They will hold a recruitment fair in Soham. They are looking for photos of old Soham for the walls. They would like to support Soham in Bloom and want to encourage community gardens in the home for residents to enjoy and take part in. Community volunteers would be welcome.

Next meeting 8th September 7.30pm, Pavilion

Meeting ended at approx 9.5pm