

SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre, Sutton-on-Trent on Tuesday, 14th November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor M Allen
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor J Keeton
Councillor P Marshall
Councillor M Moody
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor S Tyrer

In Attendance County Councillor B Laughton and 11 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/061 Apologies for Absence
Received and accepted from Councillors Smith, Walker and District Councillor Michael

23/062 To receive and note any declarations of interest
There were none.

23/063 Public 10 Minute Forum
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm to allow for the public session.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the lamp post poppies that had been put up around the village for Remembrance Sunday.

A residents asked what plans the Parish Council has for the village hall and the Section 106 monies. The Chair advised that this was on the agenda for consideration later.

A resident referred to the GNR Solar Park and expressed concern at the implications this would have on flooding.

The Chair confirmed that this was on the agenda for consideration later. The Clerk advised that there was only one document currently requiring a response by the Parish Council and that was to an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

The Chair thanked residents for their input and reconvened the meeting at 7.40pm.

23/064 To receive and approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 10th October 2023
Subject to an amendment to reflect the correct venue, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/065 District Councillor Report
No report was presented as Cllr Michael had given her apologies.

23/066 Newark & Sherwood District Council
There were no matters to consider.

23/067 To consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of County Councillor Laughton
Councillor Laughton referred to the recent Planning Committee decision to refuse permission for two solar farms on the outskirts of Cauntton. In terms of the GNR proposal, Cllr Laughton had spoken to the Flood Department at Nottinghamshire County Council to make them aware of the application.

To consider the recent flooding and the adoption of a Community Flood Plan

The Chair referred to the recent flooding which had affected a number of homes in the village, particularly on Mill Close and Grassthorpe Road.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.43pm to allow residents to participate in the discussion.

Councillor Laughton advised that 10 villages in his area experienced flooding, with over 90 properties having water in their home. There were 650 properties affected throughout the County.

As there were over 5 properties that were flooded in Sutton-on-Trent, a Section 19 investigation would take place. This means that Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council will come into the community and undertake research into why flooding occurred, working in partnership with the Internal Drainage Board, Severn Trent Water, the Parish Council and flood victims. The aim would be to try and prevent flooding from happening again. In previous flood events, there had only been four Section 19s, whereas there were 29 from this event alone, which gave an indication of the scale of the problem. Cllr Laughton had requested additional resources be allocated at the County Council to help with the investigations. The County Council had the power to hold land owners to account if they had been found in breach of their riparian ownership responsibilities.

A resident referred to the amount of water that was coming into the Cuckstool Dyke from further upstream. The Internal Drainage Board were aware that there needed to be some work done in this area, but the Environment Agency had made it difficult for the Board as they would not allow dykes to be cleaned out like they had been previously. Organisations needed to speak to residents in the village that had local knowledge.

It was acknowledged that the pumps had worked well, but had begun to falter when the water reached the same level.

It was considered that there were a number of issues the Parish Council needed to lobby on and raise with District Councillor Michael. These were:

- The non-maintenance of dykes throughout and around the village
- The infill of dykes which meant water had no direction through the village to the River
- To establish the policy of the Environment Agency in relation to the clearance of dykes
- To establish the current position with the attenuation ponds north of the A1

The Chair thanked residents for their input and reconvened the meeting.

It was AGREED that District Councillor Michael be asked to provide an update to the December meeting on the present position with the attenuation pond being pursued by the Internal Drainage Board.

Planning

(a)

Applications

23/01414/OUT – Land at The Meerings, Sutton-on-Trent - Outline Application for a residential development of up to two dwellings all matters reserved except access

Members received and noted the amended application. It was not considered that there were any changes that would alter the decision taken at the September meeting not to support this application. It was AGREED that the previous objections be resubmitted to the Planning Officer.

Decision Notice

There were no decision notices to receive.

Tree Works

Members noted the following tree works:

23/01341/TWCA – Sunny View, 2 Grassthorpe Road, Sutton-on-Trent - Fell 2no conifer trees Crown lift 1no sycamore tree by 2m and crown thin to a mx. 30% Fell 5no ash trees – NO OBJECTION

23/01886/TWCA – Bank House, 29 Main Street, Sutton-on-Trent - Yews T1 and T2 - Crown lift to 2.5m over footpath and 5.2m over road from ground level, Crown thin by 10%. Lime T3 - Crown lift to 2.5m over footpath and 5.2m over road from ground level, Crown thin by 10%, clear around light column T4 Cherry/small Yew/Acer Crown lift to provide 5.2m clearance from ground level

23/01887/TWCA – Sutton-on-Trent Primary School, Church Street, Sutton-on-Trent - Fell Group of Conifers Reduce Beech hedge surrounding sub-station to a height of 2m Fell front row of small over crowded trees (Cherry, Monkey Puzzle, Sycamore, Oak) Crown lift remaining trees to give clearance of 2.5m from ground level

23/01889/TPO – 15A Palmer Road, Sutton-on-Trent - Undertake works to trees protected by TPO N335 identified as T1: Crown lift to 2m above ground level Crown clean - deadwood and crown thin by 10% Tidy stubs from previous work

23/070

Financials

a) To record receipts:

There were none.

b) To approve invoices for payment:

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – October 2023 - £284.25
- HMRC PAYE – October 2023 - £71
- Freddie Allen Gardens & Landscapes - £1,326
- Sage Accounts - £9.60
- Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib Battery - £357
- Notts Association of Local Councils – Allotment Training - £15 (shared cost)

c) Financial Report as at 31st October 2023

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 31st October with a balance of £80,680.41 in the current account and £103,144.61 in the deposit account

d) To note the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award backdated to 1st April 2023

Members received and noted details of the pay award, backdated to 1st April 2023. The Clerk's back pay would now be calculated and paid.

e) To consider renewal of the Council's Membership of the Rural Community Action Network

Members AGREED to renew the Council's Membership of the Rural Community Action Network at a cost of £95 plus VAT.

23/071

Parish Council Matters

To receive the minutes of the Muskham, Cauntton and Sutton-on-Trent Safer Neighbourhood Group – July 2023

Members received and noted the minutes of the July meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Group. The next meeting would be held in January 2024.

To receive details of the proposed Great North Solar Park and consider the Council's response
The Chair referred to details received regarding proposals for a Solar Park along the Great North Road. Given the size of the development, which covered some 6,920 acres and stretched up to Laxton, across to North Muskham and down to Weston, the application would be considered by the Secretary of State for Energy. Correspondence had been received from the Planning Inspectorate asking the Parish Council to respond to the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report that the developer had submitted. There was a statutory deadline for response of 7th December 2023, which could not be extended.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8.38pm to allow residents to participate in the discussion.

A resident explained that the developer will undertake all public consultations on the proposal, not the Government nor the District Council. It was vitally important that local people participated in the process.

The Chair thanked the resident for their explanation and reconvened the meeting at 8.45pm.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk circulate details of the link to the Scoping Report on social media and create a specific page on the Parish Council's website. Responses would need to be received by 30th November for them to be incorporated in the Parish Council's response to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Clerk advised that Norwell Parish Council were co-ordinating a group of all parishes affected by the proposals, with a view to a joint meeting being arranged shortly. There may be a requirement to engage a planning consultant to assist with the process, with costs to be shared across authorities.

23/072

To receive updates and agree actions:

a) Playing Field

Councillor Allen referred to the report circulated to Members outlining the action taken so far, following on from the site meeting. The specification had been issued to four contractors. A report would be brought back to a future meeting when responses had been received from all four contractors.

The Chair thanked Members for their input into this project and for determining a way forward.

b) Cemetery

To receive an update on progress on the purchase of Cemetery software

It was AGREED that this matter be deferred to the December meeting to enable the Clerk to obtain additional information from the companies involved.

c) Highways

Members noted that there had recently been resurfacing work undertaken at Station Road and works were planned for Barrel Hill Road. The Clerk confirmed that no notification of the works had been received from Via. This would be raised with Officers.

d) Community Speed Watch

There were no matters to report.

e) Public Footpaths

The Chair noted that the footpath between Snell Close and Sternthorpe Close had been resurfaced at short notice recently by Newark & Sherwood District Council.

f) Churchyard

There were no matters to report.

Cllr Blanchard thanked everyone involved in putting the poppies up at Church.

g) Village Hall

Members noted the report from the Chair circulated prior to the meeting, together with correspondence received from a resident.

The Parish Council continues to be committed to the current proposal of delivering a new village hall and fully engaged with the village hall working group accordingly. Given the scale of the S.106 monies derived from the Strawberry Fields development and current shortfall on the proposed village hall, for good governance and to enable the Parish Council to fully understand their position with regard to allocation of the S.106 monies, which are time limited, a motion was proposed. This motion to enquire formally with N&SDC as to whether a deed of variation, if ever appropriate, would be possible to allow the S.106 monies to continue to be used for village hall/community purposes, but not specifically connected to the allocated village hall site.

The Parish Council has confirmed with N&SDC that such application would not prejudice the allocation of funds in its current format and to the village hall project as proposed. This has been confirmed. The Parish Council was keen to stress that no deviation is being made from current village hall proposals on their behalf and this is purely a technical enquiry to enable the Parish Council to fully understand and be informed on how S.106 monies can be allocated should they ever be asked to consider other proposals in the future as the project continues to evolve and move forward.

The motion was unanimously supported.

h) Sports Club

Cllr Blanchard advised that the Sports Club would commence works within the next fortnight.

i) Library Support Group

There were no matters to report.

j) War Memorial

The Clerk confirmed that a Section 115 form had been submitted to Via for the proposed position at the school.

An updated report would be brought to a future meeting.

k) Any Other Reports

Cllr Blanchard reported that the damaged Village Gateway Sign had been moved to Hutchinson Engineering for repair.

The Chair thanked Members for their reports.

23/073

Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

There were no matters to consider.

23/074

Correspondence

There was none to consider.

23/075

To receive items for notification

There were none.

Close: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Community Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED.