

**Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council**  
**Notes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**at the Methodist Community Centre at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor M Allen  
Councillor B Blanchard  
Councillor M Grayson  
Councillor S Hadley  
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)  
Councillor P Marshall  
Councillor M Moody  
Councillor S Sloan  
Councillor S Tyers  
Councillor Mrs K Walker

**Members of the Public:** 1 member of the public

**1 Apologies for absence**

Received and accepted from Councillor Keeton, District Councillor Mrs Michael and County Councillor Laughton.

**2 Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2024 were received and noted.

**3 Chairman's Report 2024/25**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**4 Other Reports**

**i) District Councillor**

The Clerk read the report provided by District Councillor Mrs Michael.

The Council had previously been successful in achieving £45m for Newark Town Fund and the Levelling Up Fund I for Newark Town projects and the Newark 'Southern Link Road'. The Council now became successful with its bid for Levelling Up Fund III, securing £20m. This will be allocated 75%/25% in favour of Ollerton projects.

Glass recycling is now fully operational, although there have been complaints with noise from early hours collections.

CCTV monitoring is to move away from Sherwood Lodge and brought back in-house to be located at Newark Beacon Business Park. This comes at a significant cost to the Council as extra staff are required to monitor cameras.

There have been changes at planning meetings allowing applicants representatives to address committee. Previously, only Parish Council and the local Member could speak. The Council has lost several senior planners having been head hunted by Government to work as Appeal Inspectors.

Accommodation has been found for 200 Afghan military supporters at Beckingham Camp, and 50 asylum seekers in Ollerton. The Council's Housing Department has been under pressure because of a requirement regarding the settlement of offenders when leaving prison.

The ruling party on the Council were forced to accept amendments to their proposed increases for Council rents/Council tax this year meaning Council rents increased by 2.1% instead of 3.7%, and Council tax increased by 1.94% instead of 2.99%.

Local Government Reform proposals could see District/Borough/County Councils disappear into two new Unitary authorities by 2028. Each Council's preferred options went to Government in March. The Government will decide which is the preferred option by November 2025, with elections held in 2028. For Newark & Sherwood, it was likely that the same ward boundaries would be implemented as County Council wards, but having two members. Each Unitary should be 500,000 electorate. It was yet to be decided by Government if more powers would be delegated to Parish Councils.

Finally, District Councillor Mrs Michael extended her thanks to the Chairman and Clerk for making her role workable and thanks to all Parish Councillors for the work they did for the village.

**ii) County Councillor**

Due to lack of time, County Councillor Laughton's report was given during the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

**iii) Any Other Reports**

Library Support Group

Councillor Walker reported that the library continued to be run by the wonderful volunteers who give their time to open the library three sessions a week.

Constant effort is made to increase the football, for example during two library sessions a Glass Fusion course was held.

The Methodist coffee morning is run alongside the Saturday session providing a social and warm meeting area.

The book club continues meeting each month with some ten members, an increase from last year's eight. New members are always welcome.

The primary school make use of the facilities when time allows and encourages the children to join the library and come along with their families.

The volunteers have recently successfully received training for the new computer system. Fire training and manual handling courses have also been attended by the volunteers.

Thanks were extended to Mrs Wardell who organised the library volunteer rota, the volunteers, everyone who supports the library and to the Methodist Church who allow the library to use the hall.

**5 Any Other Matters Relating to the Parish**

In terms of openness a resident asked if the Parish Council could be more open in publishing reports with the agenda.

The Chair accepted and noted this.

A resident expressed a personal concern regarding the village hall development and the village not benefitting from the value of the land.

The Chair acknowledged the points made. The Chair reminded Members that the Parish Council were not party to the Section 106 agreement. There had been assurances given by Charles Church that they would not request the return of the Section 106 monies. Discussions were ongoing.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.05pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_