

SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre, Sutton-on-Trent on Tuesday, 9th January 2024 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 A Smith
Councillor S Tyers

In Attendance County Councillor B Laughton, District Councillor Mrs Michael (arr 8.26pm) and five members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/091 Apologies for Absence

Received and accepted from Councillors Moody and Sloan

23/092 To receive and note any declarations of interest

There were none.

23/093 Public 10 Minute Forum

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm to allow for the public session.

No questions were raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

23/094 To receive and approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 12th December 2023

Subject to an amendment to Minute No 23/083 to change Rose Hill Drive to Rose Farm Drive and Minute No 28/082 to change Councillor Sutton to Councillor Smith, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/095 District Councillor Report

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.32pm for Cllr Mrs Michaels report.

Cllr Mrs Michael confirmed that, with effect from 6th January, the previous grants available for residents who had experienced flooding in to their properties was back in place. There was also a farming recovery grant if uninsurable loss had been experience of up to £25,000.

The Safer Neighbourhood Group would next be held on Thursday, 18th January at 5.30pm at South Muskham Village Hall.

The District Council were looking at bringing the CCTV service back in-house, but there was a significant cost associated to that. The 2024-25 budget had not yet been set but there could potentially be a 7.5% increase in rents and a substantial rise in council tax.

The application for The Rhymes would be considered at Planning Committee on 18th January.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs Michael for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.33pm.

23/096

Newark & Sherwood District Council

Public Space Protection Order Consultation

The Clerk referred to the consultation currently open with Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding Public Space Protection Orders. It was AGREED that the Clerk respond regarding Sternthorpe Close play area remaining as a dog exclusion zone.

23/097

To consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of County Councillor Laughton

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.34pm to allow Cllr Laughton to present his report.

Councillor Laughton first congratulated the community on the way it had come together during the recent Storm Henk flood event. The efforts of the Parish Council in updating and informing the community via the WhatsApp group was an exemplary use of excellent communication.

Dealing with a fluvial flood not a pluvial flood this time. The pluvial flood had seen six times more properties affected by flooding.

It was considered that the Environment Agency would need to get involved in these types of events, rather than just fluvial. It was the Environment Agency that held the funding for flood defences to protect communities. There were a number of issues that needed to be addressed.

The County Council will have a balanced budget for 2024 and 2025.

The Chair raised some concerns around the resources available to deal with the Section 19 investigations as a result of Storm Babet and now Storm Henk as the team will be under considerable pressure, but it was vital for those investigations to be as robust as possible.

Councillor Marshall considered that a contributory factor in both events had been the lack of maintenance of drains, ditches and dykes. As an example, drains were just sucked out from the highway and not completely cleaned. There was a concern that if there was another storm the impact would be just the same.

It was noted that the pumps had failed, and worrying to note that the telemetry system was showing that they were working. There could not be a reliance on technology as the effect would have been catastrophic if residents weren't monitoring the pumps. This would be raised with the IDB.

In terms of the clearing of ditches and dykes, it was considered that wildlife was being prioritised above the flooding of property.

Councillor Laughton referred to the impact of the flooding on the road infrastructure. Due to the amount of potholes and damage permission had been given to using Viafix for a short period of time.

A plan was in place for the drain at Grassthorpe Road/Crow Park Avenue and it was hoped this could be implemented shortly.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.50pm to allow input from residents.

A resident referred to the damage to the flood bank and flood wall at the back of Ingram Lane. The footpath remained flooded and needed to be closed. The Clerk confirmed this would be reported to the Rights of Way team. In the meantime, the Chair confirmed signage would be put up advising residents it was flooded.

The Chair advised that during the Storm Henk event emergency meetings had been arranged by the District Council via teams. Both the Chair and Clerk had attended and had been able to feedback live information to the District Council.

Councillor Laughton confirmed that the issue of enhanced flooding from the solar panels had been raised with the flood team at the County Council.

A resident referred to the flooding at Mill Close, which had seen 14 properties flooded. In 2007 the water came in overnight and was 8" deep, this time it was 14" deep. The IDB were responsible for the Cuckstool dyke from Great North Road to the pumping station. A Freedom of Information request had been submitted to the IDB, with a response received, regarding the last 5 years of maintenance. This showed that, on an annual basis, the proposed works on the dyke were 'weedcutting & handclearing. Handwork at p/s'. The IDB used to flail the sides of the dyke and scrape out the channel, and leave it to build up in the adjacent field. A request for that to be removed had taken 18 months to achieve.

A resident made reference to a pipe alongside Palmer Road that was the responsibility of the IDB but they did not appear to be aware of it.

Councillor Mrs Michael would request an update from the IDB and report back to the next meeting.

Councillor Marshall thanked Councillor Laughton for the work undertaken by Via in siding up the footpath between Palmer Road and Main Street and asked if the same work could be undertaken between Palmer Road and Hemplands Lane. The Clerk would log this with Via.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and residents for their participation and reconvened the meeting at 8.17pm.

23/098

To consider the recent flooding and the first draft of a Community Flood Plan

The Clerk advised that a draft emergency plan produced for another parish, that included flooding, had been submitted to the County Council for review. That could be adapted for adoption at Sutton.

The Chair referred to the increased level of communication the Parish Council had initiated during Storm Henk, which had enabled quick and effective sharing of information from other agencies.

Further volunteers had come forward to act as flood wardens and training would be requested through the County Council.

23/099 Planning

(a)

Applications

There were no applications to consider.

Decision Notice

There were none to receive.

Tree Works

Members noted the following tree works:

23/02132/TWCA – The Old England Hotel, High Street, Sutton-on-Trent – Trees on easter boundary
Fell 1 No dead Ash tree, Fell 2 No Cherry Tree, Crown lift remaining tree line to 3m from ground level
– NO OBJECTION

23/100

Financials

a) To record receipts:

The following receipts were recorded:

- Lincolnshire Co-Op Funeral Services - £200 – Cemetery Fees
- E Gill & Sons - £202 – Cemetery Fees
- Sutton-on-Trent Sports Club - £800 – Donation to Grass Cutting
- Mr Ward - £428.80 – Donation for Memorial Bench

b) To approve invoices for payment:

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – December 2023 - £304.05
- HMRC PAYE – December 2023 - £111.20
- Sage Accounts - £9.60
- Scripti Ltd – Scanning of Cemetery Records - £1,560

c) Financial Report as at 31st December 2023

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 31st December with a balance of £77,275.85 in the current account and £103,517.90 in the deposit account.

d) To consider a budget for the 2024/25 Financial Year and set a Precept

The Clerk referred to the budget report circulated and the projected spend to 31st March 2024.

After discussion, it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Keeton, that a Precept of £28,000 be set which would be a 3.9% rise, less than inflation. This was unanimously AGREED. The cost to a Band D property would rise from £47.79 to £49.63.

23/101

Parish Council Matters

There were no matters to consider.

23/102

To receive updates and agree actions:

a) Playing Field

To receive an update on the proposals for the Sternthorpe Close playing field

The Chair advised that the Clerk was in the process of determining what agreement was in place between the Parish Council and the District Council for the management of Sternthorpe Close. In the meantime, Councillor Allen was continuing to secure quotations for the work previously considered.

b) Cemetery

Completion of Digitalisation of Cemetery Records

The Clerk confirmed that all records, including maps, had been scanned in and all original records returned.

c) Highways

The Clerk was asked to request an update on the yellow lines at Strawberry Fields.

d) Community Speed Watch

There were no matters to report.

e) Public Footpaths

Councillor Hadley noted that the footpath from Palmer Road to the Great North Road had been cleaned

f) Churchyard

There were no matters to report.

Councillor Marshall referred to a resident who had been seen to be exercising their dog around the Churchyard. In the Unity report, the Clerk was asked to remind residents of the importance of cleaning up after their dogs and to not exercise them in the Churchyard.

g) Village Hall

The Clerk was asked to progress the drawing down of the land.

- h) Sports Club
There were no matters to report.
- i) Library Support Group
There were no matters to report.
- j) War Memorial
There were no matters to report.
- k) Any Other Reports
There were no other reports.

The Chair thanked Members for their reports.

23/103 **Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils**
There were no matters to consider.

23/104 **Correspondence**
The Clerk referred to information received from the District Council regarding the Planning Committee on 18th January 2024. It was AGREED that Councillor Tyers attend on behalf of the Parish Council to speak to the application on The Rhymes.

The Clerk advised that confirmation had been received that the 2024 Annual Grass Letting Auction of the Sutton & Normanton Gaits had been confirmed for Wednesday, 7th February at 6.30pm in the Methodist Chapel.

23/105 **To receive items for notification**
There were none.

Close: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 13th February 2024 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.