

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 AT 7.15pm AT STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, STENSON FIELDS**

Present: - Cllrs C Fellows (Chair), R Lisewski, K Butterworth, K Rogers, , P Richardson, I Baker and P Bonnell.  
In attendance: - DCllrs D Shepherd & Lakhvinder Singh, CClr N Atkin, Steve Hawkrige (lengthsman) and J Irons (clerk).

**PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

**1212/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr GS Dhillon (holiday): members approved his absence.

**1213/19 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

**1214/19 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None

**1215/19 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

- a) No residents were in attendance.
- b) One of our lengthsman in attendance, Steve Hawkrige, gave his report at minute 1220/19 (d) below.
- c) Police – Inspector Kate Bateman and PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite were present.

Several issues were discussed comprising the following:

- Substance misuse – laughing-gas canisters have been found near the school and the police are endeavouring to educate children about the dangers. Stop & search checks are conducted regularly.
- Members believe that burglaries are increasing. Inspector Bateman assured that these come in spates (2 incidents were reported in the last 3 months and an offender has been apprehended). The police work with the Derby City force and hence the 2 areas are continually covered and patrolled. That said Mercia’s Safer Neighbourhood Team is rural and as Stenson Fields is urban it has a closer affinity to Sinfin and Derby City. Members explained that residents are under the impression that no or little action is taken; however police must be told of crime and residents should be informed that they investigate. All incidents should be reported despite demand for remedial measures increasing.
- The police’s 101 crime reporting number has experienced technical difficulties lately but residents should persevere as demand for this is high. Presently the Mercia police website or Facebook site are better methods of reporting and police can only react if they are aware. However, the SNT Twitter site was last updated on July 8th and is currently undergoing further construction.
- Police recruitment and staffing is always under pressure. New officers are learning but do not have the experience of more seasoned officers so a learning curve is inevitable. Also student officers are being trained in new types of crime (domestic & sexual abuse, online fraud, human trafficking, drug abuse). Crimes holding the biggest risk are actively targeted in an attempt to protect the vulnerable and naturally the police must prioritise these. All crimes are reviewed and assessed each day and addressed over a 24-hour period. The SNT will be strengthened although no further police patrols at night will be undertaken.
- Speeding cars, vehicle damage and drink-drivers: residents and members are encouraged to report these to CREST; the officers’ team cannot respond to these complaints nor influence its operations. Inspector Bateman suggested that council invite a CREST manager to attend a council meeting. Monitoring this through Community Speed-Watch is advised; 6 volunteers are needed. Another suggestion was that of Speed Watch monitoring of areas other than Stenson Fields with our area being monitored by residents from other areas which would enhance anonymity.
- Members thought that individuals that raised issues at Safer Neighbourhood meetings were disappointed with the outcome. Furthermore, the format of the meeting is somewhat intimidating to some residents; if so they can submit questions beforehand (anonymously). The officers urged those individuals to pursue any matters of concern and report them again if they have not been dealt with.

- Drug misuse is less frequent here than other areas but still occur. Individuals reporting this may be in danger of repercussions from the offender; nevertheless unless the police are aware it cannot act.
- Cllr Lisewski asked if the Team could regularly attend the new Community Centre in order to show its presence; Kerry replied to say this is possible and reminded council that an event will be held at the Centre as part of Hate crime awareness week on 14<sup>th</sup> October (5.30 – 7.30pm). It includes crime prevention/bike marking and Derbyshire alert sign-ups alongside.
- Kate explained that residents are welcome to observe the police's Reactive Team's operations and 'walk the beat' with them.
- The chairman noted that, despite being fitted with LED lights to save money, local streetlights had been switched off or reduced in DCC's part-night street lighting initiative. Kate has asked Chris Smith (Communities Manager at South Derbyshire District Council) to look into and liaise with Highways.
- Kate assured Cllr Lisewski that a rape that took place on a Stenson Road footpath on 13<sup>th</sup> July resulted in an arrest.

The chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and input after which they left at 8.10pm.

#### **Cllr Neil Atkin's Report.**

1. Cllr Atkin has asked for more details on the consultation for new schools. It is unknown at present which contractor will deliver the secondary school at Infinity Park; no application has been received yet. The Chellaston Fields primary school has opened and an open day will be held soon. The Boulton Moor primary school has been delayed by one year.
2. Stenson village's postal address is changing from Stenson Road to Derby Road, hence post-codes here will change.

#### **DCllr Dave Shepherd's Report.**

South Derbyshire District Councillors' Report to Stenson Fields Parish Council - Thursday 19th September 2019  
Meeting with Police

Residents will remember South Derbyshire District Councillors Shepherd and Singh raised policing at the Repton Area Forum held in Stenson Fields School on 20th June. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner attended and spoke of the difficulty occasioned by the cuts in police numbers in Derbyshire in the past decade. Your councillors raised the increase in burglary and cars being broken into during the hours of darkness. To ensure that the fear of crime in Stenson Ward does not slip off the agenda, your councillors wrote twice to South Derbyshire District Council's Chief Executive Officer asking that another meeting with the Police Task Force be convened. The meeting was held on 10th September in the Civic Offices, Swadlincote. Since 36 councillors were entitled to attend the hour-long meeting, Stenson Ward Councillors wrote down their concerns and handed them to Chief Superintendent David Cox and Inspector Kate Bateman. See below for the text of the letter.

Thank you for meeting South Derbyshire District Councillors. Cllr Singh and I represent Stenson Ward which is in the north of South Derbyshire and abuts the Derby City Council Sinfyn Ward. We are receiving increasing complaints from residents regarding the policing of our area. We were recently notified by PCSO Wallington-Waite and the Safer Neighbourhoods Team's Sgt David Walker regarding the new staff. Stenson Ward is in the Mercia area which covers Willington, Findern, Repton, and surrounding areas as well as our ward. We appreciate that there are few police to cover such a large area and that police numbers have reduced in the recent past; however, residents are concerned that they rarely see the police in the ward. We are probably the largest area within the Mercia area and share many of the ASB problems experienced by the rest of the area. We have been plagued by cars being broken into in the hours of darkness and attempts to burgle homes. Derbyshire County Council reduced the hours in which street lighting is left on at night as a method of reducing the energy used. We all support this but there is a feeling that in some areas this has contributed to the fear of crime if not actual crime. Do the police have a view on this matter? Residents also complain that when they report crime, they are rarely contacted by the police with any update. Being so close to Derby City, can you confirm that the police nearest to an incident are expected to respond? This would mean that Derby police may come into Stenson Ward, does this actually happen? Is there a case for South Derby police and Derby City police to liaise closely regarding crime in Stenson Ward? We benefit from excellent PCSOs but they do not appear to have a base. Recently a new community centre has been built in the ward, would it be possible for your officers to use a room in the centre as a drop-in location? Obviously it would give police visibility in the area as well as providing toilets and a place to make a cup of tea. We hope that you will take our views into consideration.

### Bollards - Stenson Fields Open Space

Many years ago, residents complained to Stenson Ward councillors that anti-social individuals were driving cars over open spaces. This was dangerous to children playing and residents enjoying quiet recreation. Your councillors met with District Council officers and the provision of bollards was agreed. Unfortunately, after so many years certain bollards have deteriorated to the extent that they have rotted away. In order to maintain the open spaces, your councillors requested a meeting in the ward to review the problem. The meeting took place on 12th August starting at the northern end of Glenmore Drive. This is a particularly sensitive location since the open space is on occasion the subject of occupation by travellers. The bollards in this location are so rotted that the councillors were able to lift a bollard clear of the ground. See below for the result of the visit to the area.

- Rotten bollards in Stenson and the bollards on Glenmore Drive

Officers' Recommendation: The 120 – 150 existing timber bollards across both sites are rotten beyond repair. Most of them will need replacing in the next 2-4 years. The average timber bollard, supplied and fitted, costs approximately £200 per unit, while a concrete bollard (a longer term solution) is at least ten percent more expensive per unit. Obviously these costs would depend on the quantity ordered. The type of bollarding needs to be agreed. In planning terms, if the proposed bollards are 1 metre or less and along the highway edge it is deemed to be an enclosure and therefore not requiring planning permission.

No replacement plan has been tabled so your councillors will continue to press for the replacement of the bollards as soon as possible.

### Travellers on the Open Space to the North of Glenmore Drive

Your councillors met with a South Derbyshire District Council officer to discuss the securing of the open space. It is obvious that the lockable bollard currently used to prevent unauthorised access via the path alongside the Stenson Road hedge is totally inadequate. Your councillors suggested that a metal gate may help but this would not solve the issue of the pad lock being cut. They also suggested that installing a height restrictor may be a solution. It was agreed that this is the most practical and economical solution, costing £1400 - £1800 plus VAT. You councillors will continue to press for a solution to illegal occupation.

### Glass in the Play Area – Pilgrims Way

Residents complained about glass in the play area. It is hoped that glass was not deliberately broken in the play area. Your councillors arranged for signs to be located asking that no glass be taken into the area. Also, your councillors asked that the CCTV cameras be focused on the play area.

### Statutory Consultation – Proposed Public Protection Order – Lowes Lane

On many occasions, residents complain at the monthly Councillors' Advice Surgery about fly-tipping in this popular beauty spot. Land along Lowes Lane in Barrow upon Trent. Despite warning signs being used to encourage proper usage of the area, the problem has persisted. Even surveillance cameras have failed to discourage dumping. South Derbyshire District Council are proposing to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order. This means that only authorised vehicles will have access to part of the Lane. The access would be restricted by installing a gate. The consultation may be viewed on the South Derbyshire District Council website; residents have until 1st of November to respond.

### Miscellaneous Matters

#### Hedge/Foliage Issues

- Stenson Road – both sides – Cllrs Shepherd and Singh contacted South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council asking that the hedge be cut. It appears that both councils believe it is their responsibility to cut the hedge. We do not mind who cuts it as long as it is cut regularly.
- Footway – Nevis Close to School – Hedge requires cutting – Your councillors emailed Derbyshire County Council Highways department 1/8/19 & again 18/9/19; awaiting a response.
- Tregony Way – South Derbyshire District Council asked to cut, awaiting a response.
- Canal Bridge – Barrow-upon-Trent – Request for foliage on the western side of the Barrow-on-Trent canal bridge to be cut back sent to the River and Canal Trust. – Cut back done.
- The removal of the tree on Kirkland Way (western side prior to the junction with Glenmore Drive) – South Derbyshire District Council contacted. The council advised that enforcement action of a tree on private land encroaching on a public highway is the responsibility of Derbyshire Council Council. The District Council does not have powers to address this issue Derbyshire County Council to be contacted.

### Road Footway and Surface Issues

- Stenson Road Bridge – Surface breaking up before the traffic lights – Emailed Derbyshire County Council Highways Department, received the response “no defects meet DCC criteria for repair”.
- Stenson Road Bridge – Traffic lights to Grampian Way roundabout - Speed, request for rumble strips – Awaiting response from Derbyshire County Council Highways Department
- Beaufort Road/Wragley Way junction – Stenson Road end – Asked for road surface to be repaired. Response from Highways Hub 28/8/19 saying carriageway was repaired. Received an email from a resident complaining that the surface still unacceptable. Resent request with photos 17/9/19 to Derbyshire County Council Highways Department asking that they examine the junction again.
- Footway – Wheatland Close – Awaiting response from Derbyshire County Council Highways Department
- Hambledon Drive – footway breaking up – Derbyshire County Council Highways Department emailed saying that the problem has been resolved.
- Canal Bridge – Stenson Bubble - Sunken road surface reported to Derbyshire County Council Highways Department. Awaiting response
- Medical Centre
- Shelter Required – Contacted the Arleston Lane Surgery.
- No privacy when speaking to receptionist – Contacted the Arleston Lane Surgery

The chairman thanked the district councillors for their report.

1216/19 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY AND THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> July 2019.** These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the chairman.

1217/19 **TO DETERMINE WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE TAKEN WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED - None.**

### 1218/19 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The chairman announced that he had become Chair of the Finance Committee within the school governors group having previously been the Vice-Chair. He duly signed his ROI form for the council.

### 1219/19 **CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Conclusion of audit 2018/19 by the external auditor was received with no issues having been raised; it is now on the website.
2. Summer Play Scheme – see below at minute 1220/19 (i).
3. Reply from DCC over report of overgrown vegetation issue on Stenson Road, Stenson Fields (on the approach to the railway bridge) *I write further to your enquiry regarding the above and can confirm the section included on the Derbyshire County Council routine flail mowing schedule will be cut after the bird nesting season from September onwards. With regard to the hedge on the other side of the road, whilst there was no immediate highway safety concern following a site inspection on 29 July, 2019, a letter will be sent to the responsible landowner asking them to cut back the hedgerow as soon as possible, taking the bird nesting season into consideration. This matter will continue to be monitored by the Highway Inspector and further action will be taken if necessary.* That said members highlighted that this has now been done.
4. A crime prevention event will be held at the Community Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30 – 7.30pm as mentioned above. Clerk to ask Kerry for posters for display in the notice boards.

### 1220/19 **Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

- a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety. as mentioned above members raised the prospect of introducing a Speed-Watch scheme which requires 6 volunteers. Residents will be asked if they wish to participate and the clerk will produce a poster to advertise for such on notice boards. The B5023 at Duffield had its allowable speed limit reduced from 40mph to 30 mph recently; clerk to enquire with Highways over the criteria for this reduction (in an effort to enforce it on Stenson Road).
- b) Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road. Nothing further.
- c) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc) including Public Spaces Protection Order at Lowes Lane; Members **agreed** to make no comment on the latter. Cllr Bonnell asked whether dogs were allowed to run freely at Ledbury Chase; Cllr Lisewski suggested that he should report this to SDDC's dog warden.

d) Lengthsman Scheme: Steve Hawkridge commented on the following:

1. He reported the damaged notice board at Holderness Drive to the police on the 101 number and received a crime number. A possible relocation of the board was discussed.
2. The hedge on Stenson Road near the welcome sign is overgrown; clerk to tell Highways.
3. Steve has told DCllr Shepherd about the trees behind the school that needed cutting.
4. The conifer hedge on the path at Ledbury Chase was cut but the trimmings remain; clerk to ask Clean Team to collect and to send Steve the link to the CT website for quicker reporting.
5. The Biffa collection over the school holidays was a success.
6. Broken glass has been present in the area although this has now dissipated.
7. Posters to discourage dog waste are needed because those displayed in the past have disappeared; clerk to request of SDDC.
8. Residents have asked for goalposts and basket-ball facilities to be installed at Ledbury Chase which members have held in abeyance until results from play area upgrade poll are known.
9. New 90-litre waste bins are required at both Grampian Way and Wragley Way bus-stops. A councillor will send a map of the exact locations to the clerk who can then order these from SDDC.
10. The notice board window at Grampian Way now functions correctly.
11. Steve asked for a bespoke street-cart to replace the wheelie bin used to collect litter. He will search websites to find a suitable cart and send the link(s) to the clerk who will circulate to members.
12. He announced that both he and Jane will be away from 4<sup>th</sup> October for one week.
13. Cllr Lisewski highlighted that Samuel's contract of employment will end today as he is no longer available for lengthsman duties.

The chairman thanked both Steve & Jane for their continued dedication to their litter-picking service.

e) Revised NALC Model Financial Regulations 2019. **Resolved:** adopted.

f) Pedestrian crossing and speed reduction measures: members will assess this again once the Community Centre is fully open and operating.

g) Use of a Community Centre room in which to hold parish meetings, possible community groups and next year's summer activities at the Centre. **Resolved:** parish meetings to continue at the school. Groups are already aware that if any wish to hire a room for they should contact the clerk.

h) Damage to notice board. Clerk obtained a quote for its repair. **Resolved:** Steve considered that the damage is not so great as to warrant a full repair.

i) Efficacy of holding Summer Play schemes. **Resolved:** based on the attendance figures for this year's events council will continue to hold these for the foreseeable future. The free session offered by SDDC for half-term commencing on 28<sup>th</sup> October was accepted; clerk to confirm and ask whether the Adventure play equipment may be provided. Cllr Lisewski asked the Community Centre to request of the clerk any other activities it may wish to hold.

j) Consider painting Ledbury Chase play equipment. **Resolved:** chairman to ask the school of its views on hedge trimming, upgrading equipment etc. Clerk to produce a poster for display asking residents of any preferences they have over such improvements.

## 1221/19 PLANNING

### Applications:

To consider planning applications:-

CD9/0319/110 - DEMOLITION OF ASHLEA FARM AND RELATED BUILDINGS OFF DEEP DALE LANE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ALL MOVEMENT JUNCTION ON THE A50 AND CONNECTING LINK ROAD TO INFINITY PARK WAY, WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDING: STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS, FOOTWAYS/CYCLEWAYS, CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH MOUNDS, FLOOD COMPENSATION AREAS, ACOUSTIC FENCING AND LANDSCAPING. Comments and further response to be submitted by Friday 20th September. **Resolved:** clerk to reiterate the comments already submitted (on 18 June) tomorrow.

### Decisions.

9/2019/0558 - EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO FACILITATE THE USE OF THE INTEGRAL GARAGE FOR ANCILLARY OFFICE AND WELFARE FACILITIES AT 9 SILVERTON DRIVE STENSON FIELDS. Householder Permission Granted.



- Lengthsmen Scheme including quotes of new waste- carts;
- Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins, etc);
- Suggestions over upgrading/ painting the Ledbury Chase play equipment/ area (if any);
- Cllr Lisewski’s apologies for the next meeting.

**1226/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Parish Council meetings will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019, commencing at 7.15pm in the Stenson Fields Primary School.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed.....C Fellows (Chairman)

Date.....