

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19th December 2019 AT 7.15pm AT STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, STENSON FIELDS

Present: - Cllrs C Fellows (Chair), P Bonnell, K Rogers, K Butterworth, P Richardson and GS Dhillon.
In attendance: - DCllr D Shepherd, Steve Hawkridge (lengthsman) and J Irons (clerk).

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

1258/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr R Lisewski (unwell), I Baker (holiday) and DCllr Lakhvinder Singh; members approved their absences

1259/19 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS: members agreed to accept DCllr Shepherd's report when he arrived.

1260/19 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS: None

1261/19 PUBLIC SPEAKING

- a) No residents were in attendance.
- b) One of our lengthsman in attendance, Steve Hawkridge, gave his report at minute 1267/19 (d) below.
- c) Police – none were present

1262/19 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st November 2019.
These were approved and accepted as a true record (pp Cllr Bonnell, seconded Cllr Rogers) after which they were signed by the chairman.

1263/19 TO DETERMINE WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE TAKEN WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED - None.

1264/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS Nothing to report.

1265/19 CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Clerk spoke to HMRC again over the alleged underpayments. HMRC is now investigating the latest amount of £69.69 although has since received a final demand for this sum.
2. Laptop screen problems. Clerk collected a screen monitor from the chairman but was unable to use it. Clerk has now borrowed a monitor from Elvaston PC which will suffice for the interim. Cllr Rogers kindly offered to provide a personal laptop to the clerk for council use.
3. SDDC will increase the concurrent functions grant next year by £6892 to reflect the increase in properties across the district since the last review. The basis of the allocation will change from Band D properties to the *total number of properties*.

1266/19 Cllr Shepherd arrived at 7.25pm to give his report.

DCllr Shepherd noted that the road hole on Arleston Lane is getting worse and recently met Cllr Butterworth to inspect.

Deepdale Lane has experienced traffic damage and DCllr Shepherd has asked the City Council for barriers to be placed at the canal to prevent further deterioration. Also, the ditches on this lane continue to be in a dangerous state and cause car damage which DCllr Shepherd has also asked the City Council to address. The chairman asked whether signage can be placed at the canal near the Bubble Inn for safety reasons; DCllr Shepherd has requested this of Highways in the past but has been refused. However, each year he asks C&RT to trim the hedges around it to help visibility in general.

DCllr Lakhvinder Singh has formed a petition complaining of the immense road hole at the junction of Beaufort Road and Wragley Way. DCllr Shepherd said that this has been repaired 6 times on various occasions but it is getting worse. It needs a permanent repair, preferably resurfacing, instead of a temporary infill. Clerk to ask CCllr Atkin for an urgent solution to the problem.

DCllr Shepherd met the developers at Saxon Gate on 11th December to discuss the lack of maintenance of the estate. Plans of the site were viewed and the developers have been instructed to start such works. Some of this has begun; trees have been mulched and the fence adjoining the railway line has been repaired. Standing water on paths is soon to be addressed. Different contractors will conduct these works which will hopefully not result in any delay. A lengthsman scheme is needed therefore DCllr Shepherd will ask SDDC of any funding that may be available for such. He is opposed to the 100 new homes to be built on Deepdale Lane and is sceptical that the required 30% intended for affordable housing will be met. That said DCllr Shepherd will ask SDDC's strategic housing officer to robustly request this of the developer adding that this area has no council housing at all. Flood alleviation ponds are to be included here with a traffic roundabout probably included to gain access from Wragley Way. DCllr Shepherd once again voiced his dismay over the lack of a medical centre at the Infinity Garden Village where 1850 new homes are planned and which will certainly need one.

The chairman thanked the district councillor for his report wishing him well for the festive period after which he left at 8.10pm.

1267/19 **Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety.

Clerk received a reply to his letter of 6th December outlining council's concerns over policing from Inspector Kate Bateman. She insists that the area is patrolled regularly which includes involvement and liaison with the City force. She wishes to know who the complainants of their service are. That said Inspector Bateman argues that crime can only be investigated if victims report it. A recent crime prevention event at the new Community Centre saw no public attendance which was disappointing. She also encouraged complainants to contact the police if they are dissatisfied with the service.

She stated that there are a variety of methods for reporting crime and incidents to police in addition to the 101 system. *Emergencies and crimes in progress via 999. The standard non-emergency alternatives are:*

Facebook – send us a private message to /DerbyshireConstabulary

Twitter – direct message our contact centre on @DerPolContact

Website – complete the online contact form [derbyshire.police.uk/Contact-Us](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/Contact-Us).

<http://www.derbyshire.police.uk>

The Constabulary is embarking on a telephony replacement project in the Spring which will enable easier communication.

At 8.25pm Cllr Butterworth left the room to phone the police to ask whether they had visited 2 individuals who recently reported incidents following-up these issues but they had not. Clerk to respond to the letter and make it plain that there appears little follow-up of reported incidents.

A new officer has taken charge of the Speed-Watch scheme training; clerk awaits his reply stating suitable compatible dates on which members can undertake a training session.

Clerk asked Highways again whether it will introduce measures on Stenson Road to reduce traffic speed and awaits a reply.

b) Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road. Discussed earlier.

c) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc). Regarding complaints about roaming dogs and their waste on Goathland Park, SDDC was due to send a dog warden to speak to errant dog owners. They may have done so and this practice may have abated although Cllr Bonnell has not checked recently so will monitor.

Clerk received the Goathland Road inspection report which noted 5 faults and which all relate to the suspension members on swings. Zurich Insurance recommended changing the rigid swing of suspension members to flexible ones. Clerk asked whether such changes/ repairs will be undertaken; SDDC replied saying *'To change the suspension would mean having to swap the rigid suspension members with flexible members which is something we have opted not to do as it encourages children to wrap the swings around the top bar and makes it difficult to undo and could possibly cause harm to other members of the public. Therefore we will not be changing the suspension members on the swings for the above reason'*.

Clerk asked SDDC whether it would replace the dead tree at the Glencroft Drive end of Glendon Road. Its reply states *'SDDC is considering a joint bid in applying for grant funding that the Government has made available for large land owners. It might be expedient for the Council to look at replacing this tree at that time. I will keep you informed with*

progress of the bid application, as there could be an opportunity to significantly increase the tree population within the District’.

d) Lengthsman Scheme. Steve Hawkrige noted the following:

- He asked the clerk for next year’s meeting dates for posting on the notice boards;
- The notice board behind the school at Holderness Drive has a crack in it although not serious enough to warrant a repair;
- He and Jane painted the Grampian Way notice board (in green);
- His waste collection of Stenson Road alone created 4 bags of rubbish.

The chairman again thanked both Steve & Jane for their waste collection efforts and to Steve for his reports.

e) Suggestions over upgrading/ painting the Ledbury Chase play equipment/ area (if any). **Resolved:** nothing further.

f) Pedestrian crossing and speed reduction measures/ uptake of the Speed Watch campaign; covered earlier.

g) To review the recent risk assessment for the new street cart. **Resolved:** accepted; in the meantime clerk to order a safety brake for the cart.

h) To review the updated asset register and grievance/ disciplinary procedure. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

i) To consider a financial contribution to the recent Community Centre Christmas Fayre. **Resolved:** council to donate £100 under s137 to this cause with any further requests for donations to be considered on their merits. Also, clerk to ask SDDC for notices advertising the Centre for display on notice boards.

j) To consider the Armed Forces Covenant. **Resolved:** Members **agreed** to consider sign the Armed Forces Covenant which commits council’s support of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families.

k) Budget review. **Resolved:** Members agreed the final budget for the present year 2019/20 and precept request from SDDC in principle and will ratify in the next meeting. The forecast for 2020/21 will be considered at a later date.

l) To consider next year’s Summer Play Scheme. **Resolved:** clerk to decide similar dates and events to last year and to add an extra Adventure session.

1268/19 PLANNING

Applications: None received.

1269/19 FINANCE

a) Accounts for payment as follows were approved and signed:

Cheque No	Payee	Total £
002291	J Irons – Clerk’s salary 4 weeks to 22 nd November	603.24
002291	J Irons – clerk’s expenses (see attached sheet) October - November	36.20
002292	J Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3 weeks to 15 th November	244.84
002293	S Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3 weeks to 15 th November	262.20
002294	HMRC –employee’s tax & NI November - December	64.10
002295	DCC – clerk’s pension return to 22 nd December	159.08
002296	chairman allowance 2019-2020	128.00
002297	Biffa Waste - collection December to March 2020 (91 days)	340.39
	TOTAL	1838.05

(b) **Income** – bank interest on 31st October £6.69

(c) **Bank balances as at 26th November 2019** £ 11441.33 (current account);
£ 5585.36 (reserve account).

1270/19 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rogers has received the minutes of the last meeting but has not perused them yet. He will update council in the next meeting.

1271/19 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk has circulated recent DALC newsletters; nothing else of note has been received.

1272/19 **Agenda items for the next meeting.**

- Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety (including Speed-Watch training);
- Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road;
- Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins, etc);
- Lengthsmen Scheme;
- Suggestions over upgrading/ painting the Ledbury Chase play equipment/ area (if any);
- To ratify the budget and to sign the Form A precept request;
- DCC's Social Care provision;
- To raise a cheque for the Community Centre Christmas Fayre under s137.

1273/19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 16th January 2020, commencing at 7.15pm in the Stenson Fields Primary School.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input, wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year break and closed the meeting at 9.18pm.

Signed.....C Fellows (Chairman)

Date.....