

STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING held on THURSDAY 21st May 2020 at 7.15pm

Owing to the extenuating circumstances surrounding the coronavirus this meeting was held via a Zoom video-link in accordance with **The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**. Hence, Stenson Fields Parish Council is authorised to hold virtual meetings online. It is therefore intended that future Parish Council meetings will continue to take place online using video-conferencing.

Those members that participated formed a quorum comprising:

Participants: - Cllrs C Fellows (Chair), R Lisewski, I Baker, P Bonnell, P Richardson and K Rogers.
In attendance: - Steve Hawkrige (lengthsman) and J Irons (clerk).

1304/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllrs K Butterworth (online technical difficulties), G Dhillon Singh; and DCllr D Shepherd (online technical difficulties). Members approved their absences.

1305/20 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Members agreed to accept DCllr Shepherd to the meeting if he was able to connect to Zoom; however he did not although had sent apologies in this event. DCllr Shepherd had kindly sent a report to the clerk earlier today which the clerk circulated and which appears below.

1306/20 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS: None

1307/20 PUBLIC SPEAKING

- No residents or police officers took part.
- In his absence DCllr Shepherd sent the clerk a report prior to the meeting (see below).
- One of our lengthsman in attendance, Steve Hawkrige, gave his report at minute 1311/20 (c) below.

South Derbyshire District Councillors' Report to Stenson Fields Parish Council - Thursday 21st May 2020

Alarm at Stenson Fields Community Centre

Cllr Singh and I received reports of the alarm at the Stenson Fields Community Centre sounding at 11.30 pm on Tuesday evening. The key holder was informed and attended the Community Centre who checked outside and inside and found that no attempt to enter the building had been made. It appears that the system has malfunctioned. There have also been reports that the alarm has sounded on other occasions in the early hours of the morning. South Derbyshire District Council's Cultural Service Manager has asked the service department to investigate the matter. Cllrs Singh and Shepherd thank the Chair of the Friends of Stenson Fields Community Centre for his vigilance regarding this matter.

Reports of Rodents and Protected Wildlife – Balancing Pond on the Stenson Road Development

Cllr Singh has raised residents' concerns regarding a report of rodents in the vicinity of the balancing pond. The rat treatment is being undertaken by a third-party pest control contractor on behalf of the landowner. A resident contacted Cllr Shepherd suggesting that voles could be living in the bank of the pond and may be caught in the traps. Voles are a protected species in the UK and as such must not be harmed. The Head of Environmental Services was asked to investigate the matter to ensure the safety of any voles which may live in the balancing pond banks. Fortunately, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has confirmed that there are no voles in the balancing pond banks.

Fly-Tipping – Open Space to the North of Witton Court & Glenmore Drive

Fly-tipping is illegally dumped rubbish. Residents of Witton Court and Glenmore Drive contacted Cllrs Singh and Shepherd complaining that Wooden panelling had been dumped on the open space in the early hours of the morning. Your councillors contacted the South Derbyshire's "Clean Team". The Clean Team removes dog fouling, syringes, litter,

flyposting, graffiti, hazardous materials and, of course, fly-tipping. South Derbyshire District Council take fly-tipping very seriously and will issue £400 penalty notices or prosecute anyone caught fly-tipping waste. Your Stenson Ward Councillors support the council in any action they take against fly-tippers. Unfortunately, the Saturday freighter service, which is located at the rear of Stenson Fields Pub on dates which may be found on the Council website, has been suspended until further notice due to the Covid – 19 emergency. The Bretby Household Waste Recycling Centre operated by Derbyshire County Council has now opened. See the item Bretby Household Waste Recycling Centre Reopening below. Resident may request the Clean Team online or by emailing waste.cleansing@south-derbys.gov.uk.

Bretby Household Waste Recycling Centre Reopening

In the current emergency, the decision was taken to close waste recycling sites which has caused some concerns to residents unable to get rid of rubbish they would usually take to the Bretby Household Waste Recycling Centre. Please refer to the South Derbyshire District Council's home website (www.southderbyshire.gov.uk); you will see a link to "Derbyshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre to reopen". It reopened on Monday but there are conditions for those wishing to use the centre.

See below for a passage from the report:

The Bretby Household Waste Recycling Centre at Park Road, Newhall will reopen to the public from Monday 18 May with new social distancing measures in place to protect residents and staff.

The centre, operated by Derbyshire County Council, will use a new access system. Vehicles will be allowed into recycling centres on certain days depending on whether the last number on their number plate is odd or even.

Vehicles with 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 as the last number will be allowed in on even numbered dates in the month and those with 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be allowed in on odd numbered dates in the month.

Cllrs Singh and Shepherd urge residents to read the full article on the website as it contains the further conditions.

Grass Cutting Buckthorn Close

The residents of the development on Stenson Road are happy with their new homes, unfortunately the maintenance of the estate has been a matter of concern to residents since the estate was built. The developers decided to retain ownership of the open spaces instead of transferring them to South Derbyshire District Council. Your councillors have met many times with the developers and maintenance is always discussed. A new maintenance team has been appointed so it is hoped that matters will improve. However, occasionally a matter appears to have remained unresolved since it was raised by your councillors. The grass cutting in Buckthorn Close is such a case, it has been discussed but remains unresolved. Cllrs Singh and Shepherd contacted the developers who have promised to have the current team inspect this area of Buckthorn Drive and arrange for the grass to be cut and ensure it remains on the list of areas to mow until formal handover to the new maintenance team is completed.

Derbyshire Chief Constable Retires

The following statement has been issued:

After 32 years in policing Chief Constable Peter Goodman has announced his retirement.

Mr Goodman, who has been chief constable for the last three years, is due to retire at the end of July after serving 13 years in Derbyshire as part of the chief officer team.

He said: "It has been my privilege and pleasure to lead Derbyshire Constabulary and I am very proud to have been part of such a hardworking and dedicated organisation.

I have seen many changes during my career, in particular the change in crime trends. Technology now plays a large part in crime and I have been lucky enough to be involved in the work that is happening nationally to tackle this as the national lead for cyber crime and serious and organised crime. I am extremely proud of the work that officers and staff do day-in-day-out, most of it going unsung. The dedication to keeping the communities of Derbyshire safe is second to none by all members of the force and I know that this will continue."

Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa said: "Peter has made a significant contribution to policing and the public over the course of his 32-year career and during the last three years we have enjoyed a good working relationship serving the people of Derbyshire.

"It has been my privilege to work with such a professional and inspirational chief constable in order to protect the vulnerable in our communities, prevent crime and preserve Derbyshire's reputation as a safe place to live, work or visit. I wish him good luck, health and every happiness for the future."

Councillors Singh and Shepherd thank the Chief Constable who has done an excellent job in the face of cuts to the police budget. We echo the sentiment expressed by Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, PCC Hardyal Dhindsa.

Virtual Councillors' Meetings - ICT Equipment Reconfiguration

South Derbyshire District Council has undertaken a considerable ICT investment programme over the last two years which has led to all office-based employees being transferred to Office 365 and the deployment of secure Windows 10 laptops. This work was due to conclude approximately 31st March 2020 with the transfer of elected Members to the new infrastructure.

Obviously, Council Meetings have not been held during the current Covid-19 response due to the requirement for social distancing as it is essential that councillors continue in their community work so electronic methods are being investigated.

Medical Provision – Sinfin and Stenson Wards

Residents may have seen the report in the local press in February regarding medical provision in Stenson Ward, suggesting that the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group is “unlikely” to locate a new medical centre in our area. Your Stenson Ward District Councillors and Sinfin Ward colleagues have joined together to ensure that adequate facilities are provided, especially with the thousands of homes planned for the area south of Wragley Way. As soon as the Covid-19 emergency is over, both sets of councillors will request a meeting with the CCG to once again make the case for our area to be given improved medical facilities.

South Derbys District Council - Stenson Ward Councillors' Advice Surgery & - Walk Around Stenson Fields

The Councillors' Advice Surgeries and walks around Stenson Fields will recommence when the Covid-19 emergency is over.

Cllrs David Shepherd & Lakhvinder Singh - South Derbyshire District Councillors – Stenson Ward

1308/20 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th April 2020.** These were approved and accepted as a true record and will be signed by the chairman at the next available opportunity.

1309/20 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The chairman had obviously not attended any meetings recently but had wondered whether IGV meetings might be held remotely although this would prove difficult considering the number of participants.

1310/20 **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Clerk asked SDDC about the cost of dog/waste bins which seemed more expensive than advised. It's reply stated *'if it was dog bins ordered then it would have been £488.80 but you wanted the black round free standing bins which are litter/dog bins (which are approx. £550.47)'*.
2. Clerk asked SDDC whether it is inspecting the gym equipment and goalmouth matting as well as the play equipment at Fox Close. It's reply stated *'We are not sure what new pieces of equipment you are referring to but if it is the outdoor gym then, yes, it is being inspected. If you mean other new equipment please send me details and we will add them to the site list. Regarding the goalmouths, we do not inspect pitches routinely, and this pitch, I understand, is under PC management, not SDDC's'*. Hence, clerk asked for the latest report on the fitness structures. Members **agreed** to clerk asking SDDC to inspect the matting because we purchased it and so SDDC should inspect (as per the gym equipment). Also, clerk to ask SDDC to clarify the lockdown restrictions concerning the park and gym/ play equipment.
3. Clerk awaits statements from the bank showing interest paid in year 2019/20 after which he can submit the accounts for internal audit. Once completed the books can be submitted for external audit although this delay is not urgent because the external audit submission deadline has been postponed by 2 months to September 2020 (due to the coronavirus disruption).
4. The resident at 12 Goathland Road requested permission for branches of a tree on the park that overhang her property to be trimmed and would hire a qualified tree surgeon to cut these if necessary. Clerk sent the enquiry to the tree officer at district council on 18th May who replied confirming that he will inspect and advise accordingly.
5. All local town, parish or community councils must now meet accessibility criteria; it is especially important that our website does not discriminate against users with disabilities. From 23 September 2020 (for existing websites) or 23 September 2019 (for new websites) there is a legal requirement for all public sector bodies

to comply with the accessibility requirement, unless doing so would impose a disproportionate burden. Any documents to be published to the web in PDF format must now be saved in a PDF/A format.

Clerk has checked various historic pdf documents on our site and found them to be compliant. He will ensure that future pdf files will also do so. Other criteria include:

- Using default text colours that show up well against the background colour;
- That every feature can still be used when viewed at 200% text size and that content flows into a single column when it's increased by 400%;
- Make sure you site is correctly programmed for screen readers;
- Use valid HTML to enable assistive technologies to interpret content;
- Write in plain English, using short sentences;
- Use straightforward language and simple words and explain any complicated words or phrases;
- Providing an explanation of any acronyms used.

1311/20 **Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety.

Members rued that accidents seem rife at present. The latest involved an overturned car on Grampian Way which could have been the result of the driver swerving to avoid the exposed manhole cover at the central refuge near Glenroft Drive. Cllr Richardson reported the latter in February however it has not been repaired. Cllr Baker offered to report this on the 'Fixmystreet' website while the clerk will ask the police if it will release any further details of the collision. Clerk to also ask for more speed checks, especially on Grampian Way. Steve Hawksworth added that a speed check was conducted about 2 weeks ago on Wragley Way.

b) Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road. Covered above in DCllr Shepherd's report.

c) Lengthsmen Scheme. Steve Hawkridge noted fly-tipping on Stenson Road near the Bubble Inn and reported it to the Clean Team. Despite being furloughed both he and Jane have recently made a tentative return to litter collection twice per week as this can be conducted in a solitary fashion and at a distance from others. The chairman thanked them for this and asked Steve if both he and Jane would like to **formally return to work**. Steve **agreed** therefore both will do so for which members gave their appreciation.

d) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc). Cllr Lisewski was pleased to announce that SDDC had resumed grass-cutting in the area. Cllr Rogers noted overgrown roots and foliage from a tree at the junction of Derwent Drive and Arleston Lane which impedes the vision of drivers. Clerk to report to SDDC Tree Officer. Cllr Baker was concerned that the recycling facility at Raynesway insists on a telephone booking appointment system which may involve expressing the resident's home address thereby deeming them excluded because of residing outside the City. Cllr Richardson explained that by booking an appointment online an address is not required thereby allowing those outside the City to visit.

e) Suggestions over upgrading/ painting the Ledbury Chase play equipment (if any). **Resolved:** held over. In the meantime the chairman will ask the school's secretary to raise this with teachers and pupils to glean any ideas on the topic.

f) to approve the 2019/20 internal audit report (if completed). This has not yet been submitted because clerk awaits bank statements as noted above.

g) to agree (or not) that in the absence of the APCM all existing roles within committees (including chairman & vice-chairman) remain as the status quo. **Resolved:** agreed.

1312/20 **PLANNING**

To consider planning applications:

DMPA/2020/0284 – the erection of extensions at 16 Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields. This was received from SDDC last month, since when members submitted comments to the clerk which were sent to SDDC on 4th May; see decision below.

Decisions.

DMPA/2020/0276 - The demolition of existing garage and the erection of a two-bed bungalow at 2 Hunters Croft,

Stenson Fields. **Delegated Officer recommended refusal.**

DMPA/2020/0284 - The erection of extensions at 16 Pilgrims Way, Stenson Fields. **Delegated Officer recommended approval.**

DMPA/2020/0297 - Conversion of garage into a storeroom at 71, Merevale Way, Stenson Fields. **Granted.**

DMPA/2020/0301 - Continued use of land and buildings for the storage and display of cars for sale, with ancillary workshop and offices at Car Quay Ltd, Stenson Marina, Barrow on Trent. **Granted.**

1313/20 members adjourned at 8pm for 5 minutes **to 'clap for our carers'**.

1314/20 **Finance**

(a) Accounts for Payment – cheques to be approved and signed

Cheque No	Payee	Total £
002323	J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 10 th April	803.69
002323	J Irons – clerk's expenses (see attached sheet) March - April (including clerk's pension return [£210.89] in May to be paid online on 22 nd May)	247.09
002324	J Hawkridge - Lengthsman pay 3 weeks to 23 rd March	507.03
002325	S Hawkridge - Lengthsman pay 3 weeks 23 rd March	476.33
002326	HMRC –employee's tax & NI in March	147.29
002327	DCC – room hire 2019/20	555.10
	TOTAL	2736.53

(b) Income

Bank interest 2020/21 (both accounts)

£ TBA

Concurrent Functions Grant 2019/20

£ 16546.00 (date of payment TBA)

(c) Bank balances as at 31st March 2020 current £ 3160.24

Reserve TBA (c 5588)

(d) as permitted under Financial Rules the clerk visited Cllrs Fellows and Baker on 22nd May to obtain signatures on cheques.

1315/20 **TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Rogers highlighted that the Sinfin surgery is closed and is trying to determine when it will reopen. The Holybrook surgery is available for making appointments and appeared well-organised when Cllr Rogers visited recently. Clerk to ask DCllr Shepherd if he knows or will enquire about the reopening of the Sinfin surgery.

1316/20 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk had circulated recent DALC newsletters and Coronavirus updates received through DALC's Zoom meetings.

1317/20 **Agenda items for the next meeting.**

- Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety;
- 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 (if any).

1318/20 **Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held in the same format on Thursday 18th June 2020 at 7pm through the Zoom conference-call facility.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

Signed.....C Fellows (Chairman) Date.....