

*STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL*  
**PARISH COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING held on THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 7.15pm**

Owing to the continuing extenuating circumstances surrounding 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. Parish Council meetings 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, K Rogers, K Butterworth and GD Singh.

In attendance: - Steve Hawkrige (lengthsman), DCllr D Shepherd, CCllr N Atkin and J Irons (clerk).

1405/20      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**      None

1406/20      **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:**      None

1407/20      **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:**      None

1408/20      **PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

- No residents or police officers took part.
- One of our lengthsman in attendance, Steve Hawkrige, gave his report at minute 1413/20 (c) below.

Stenson Ward South Derbyshire District Councillors' Report to Stenson Fields Parish Council

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Labour Councillors become the Majority Group on South Derbyshire Council**

The majority group on South Derbyshire District Council has for some years been Conservative. Recently there has been some dissent within the Conservative Group which has resulted in five of their councillors leaving the group and forming an Independent Group and another councillor has joined the Labour Group. At the SDDC full council meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January the Labour Group were able to appoint the Leader of the Council and the Chairs of Committees. There are now 15 Labour councillors, 12 Conservatives, 5 Independents and 1 non-grouped councillor with 3 by-elections pending. The new Leader of the Council, Councillor Kevin Richards said *"I want to say what an enormous privilege and honour it is to be trusted with the position of Leader of South Derbyshire District Council and I am deeply conscious of the responsibility and expectations needed for such office. I thank you most sincerely. We have a duty to adhere to the Councillors Code of Conduct and to uphold Nolan's 7 Principles of Public Life and it is our groups joint belief that these basic requirements are sacrosanct and at the core of our workings within public life. This Council of elected members is the supreme body and answerable to the electorate and not Officers or Parliamentarians. We will work together in harmony to achieve the best possible outcomes for all."*

**Stenson Ward Councillors Question Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group Officer Regarding the Provision of Medical Facilities in Stenson Ward**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, a representative from Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) addressed the SDDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding "Challenges facing GP Surgeries". Stenson Ward Councillors Shepherd and Singh are campaigning to ensure that a medical centre be provided within walking distance of Stenson Fields in view of the 2000 homes planned for south of Wragley Way and a further 1200 identified by the Infinity Garden Village process. Residents currently attached to the Hollybrook Surgery have to take a £20 taxi ride to attend, we are determined to convince the CCG that there is a need for and an opportunity to build a facility on the development site replacing the inadequate Arleston Lane Surgery. We pointed out that the development will produce a great deal of money for the NHS which should be spent where it is generated.

### **Fly-Tipping – Lowes Lane, Deepdale Lane and Moore Lane and Bin Collection**

Once again, these areas are being used by anti-social individuals for dumping of post-Christmas rubbish. Stenson Ward councillors contacted SDDC and requested that it be moved. Any resident may contact the SDDC “Clean Team” and report fly-tipping.

### **Flooded Footways and Horse Riding – Stenson Road Estate**

Residents continue to complain regarding people using the footways for horse riding which damages the footway and causes pedestrians to walk on the sodden grass. “No Horse Riding” signs have been requested from the developers again. The SDDC Enforcement Officer is planning a visit to inspect aspects of the estate soon;

Cllrs Shepherd and Singh have asked to join the officer.

### **Felling of Two Silver Birch Trees – Wragley Way**

Councillors Shepherd and Singh have received complaints from residents regarding the loss of trees in Stenson Fields. Permission to cut down two trees was not given by South Derbyshire District Council; unfortunately, a miscommunication occurred when the wrong department was contacted regarding a request to fell. The matter was followed up with the resident. A similar miscommunication is being addressed, appropriate officers will meet to consider and progress communication and protection requirements as well as replanting options.

### **Motion to Full SDDC Council regarding Pension Credits**

Councillors have a responsibility to ensure that the less fortunate in society do not fall into poverty. Labour Group Leader, Cllr Kevin Richards moved the following motion:

*This council notes:*

- *1.3 million pensioner households nationally are missing out on pension credit benefit that they are entitled to.*
- *£3 billion is returned to the treasury because many pensioners are not aware or do not claim the Pension Credit, a benefit that they are entitled to.*
- *Pension Credits are a lifesaver for the least well-off pensioners and provide vital help with council tax and dental bills.*
- *Pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit are also exempt from paying their TV licence.*
- *The government has ceased funding over 75's TV Licences. Since August 2020 the BBC is now charging over 75's for their licence.*
- *For over a million of the oldest people in our country, television is their main form of company.*
- *This change will harm millions of older people who rely on their TV and the most vulnerable will be forced to cut back on essentials to make ends meet or lose out on TV altogether.*
- *Removing older people's access to TV would be an unthinkable cruel blow when many are already facing huge challenges.*
- *Half of all over 75s are living with a disability or an enduring illness, and many rely on their TV for companionship and entertainment and for those who don't have the internet, TV lets them stay up to date with what's happening in the world.*
- *Loneliness is already a problem in the UK – new figures show two thirds of people rely on the TV for company in lieu of real social interactions.*
- *Removing the free TV licence for Over 75s in the middle of a pandemic is particularly cruel. Many older people have been left isolated and frightened by lockdown and it is vital that they have access to the news and public health announcements.*

*Therefore, this Council resolves to:*

*“Start a local public information campaign targeting retired and above working age residents of the District, in order to encourage them to submit eligible claims for Pension Credit and signpost them to organisations that can advise and assist.*

**The motion was passed.**

### **Cllrs David Shepherd & Lakhvinder Singh – SDDC Councillors – Stenson Ward**

Members contributed several comments over horses damaging the footways, and silver birch trees replacement at Wragley Way (near Tedworth Avenue). Cllr Baker remarked that the building of 50 more houses on Deepdale Lane (see below), besides the c1200 at IGV, will lead to more traffic in the area and believes a traffic survey should be conducted.

Cllr Rogers noted that SDDC's collection of green bins was late although DCllr Shepherd replied to say there has been no change in the rota and these will be collected along with black bins. CClr Atkin added that since Christmas the team is behind on collections because of double workload, but they will be emptied eventually. Cllr Lisewski commented that there has been an increase in the amount of rubbish to be recycled but the view of SDDC's chief executive, as gleaned from the Area Forum, is that it does not constitute a high priority issue considering Covid-related problems. That said, he was upset that residents were not informed.

#### **Derbyshire County Council report – CClr Neil Atkin.**

1. CClr Atkin offered to arrange a meeting between council and the Highways officer and police regarding speeding issues in our area. Members **agreed** and will discuss a suitable daytime date.
2. County council's cabinet approved a budget for the forthcoming year, which can be viewed on its website. Council Tax bands were excluded although these will be discussed by cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
3. The canal towpath that stretches from Arleston Lane to the Ragley Boatstop pub and beyond is closed while Canal & River Trust repair and drain it. Pumps have been deployed on the closed section.
4. Due to the recent volume of rainfall roads at Stenson, Twyford and Findern have closed.
5. The Highways department has laid off staff resulting in projects being shelved, and some information being lost. It will soon send a letter to parishes asking for suggestions on repairs (such as to pavements, street furniture etc but excluding potholes). Council should send any ideas of prospective works to CClr Atkin for him to pursue. Highways' budget for such repairs amounts to £20m each year although this has been topped-up by government by an additional £20m this year.
6. CClr Atkin found that council's booking of 2 or 3 separate Zoom sessions in one evening unacceptable and wished to see any such login details listed on the agenda. However, before members commented or discussed it with him the Zoom connection was lost (as noted in the next minute below).

1409/20            The remote Zoom connection failed at 7.40pm thereby removing all participants. On resumption all resumed their attendance at various intervals apart from CClr Atkin and Cllr GD Singh. Cllr Lisewski agreed with CClr Atkin's displeasure and urged members to consider adopting the Microsoft Teams remote facility which was **agreed**. Clerk to set-up a test of MT in the next 2 weeks. He also thought that a stricter format within future meetings be adopted.

1410/20            **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020.** After a minor amendment these were approved and accepted as a true record and will be signed by the chairman at the next available opportunity.

#### **1411/20            CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The chairman asked the clerk to make a small amendment to the previous minutes as mentioned above. He regretted to announce the passing of Jack Harvey, a former lengthsman, who died peacefully in his sleep just after Christmas. The chairman attended Jack's funeral yesterday and suggested that a plaque be fitted in his memory to the bench that commemorates his wife, Pam, to which members **agreed**.

#### **1412/20            CLERK'S REPORT**

1. We still await the bank's completion of our application to use internet banking.
2. clerk received SDDC's fire risk assessment carried out on the new community centre which he circulated to members. A couple of items need to be addressed which the clerk has enquired about and awaits its reply.

#### **1413/20            Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety.

Cllr Lisewski attended the remote online Repton Area Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> January and raised the following points. *On behalf of Stenson Fields Parish Council, I would like to raise the following points.*

*1 Thanks to CREST for attending locations in Stenson Fields. Three visits resulted in 70 motorists being caught above the speed limit. Fastest recorded 52 mph in 30 mph limit. This confirms the council's concerns about speeding in our area and hope continued presence will continue. We hope to form a community speed watch group as soon as conditions allow this.*

*2 Meeting with the PCSOs on visit to Stenson Fields, the council would like to thank the SNT and PCSOs for the positive way in which they engaged with residents and school pupils and parents. We recognise that with the current pandemic priorities will have changed. We would like to see more of the SNT as we continue to see pockets of ASB and vandalism.*

*3 The Parish Council continues to request a crossing point and reduction in speed limit from 40 to 30mph. A series of serious accidents, unfortunately including one fatality. We understand that there were factors involved where the speed limit was not a factor.*

*4 As above following recent accidents there is a perception that Councillors are not doing enough to pursue the installation of a crossing and speed limit reduction. Whilst the Parish Council understands the reasons given for not taking any action, we do not agree with the explanations given and will continue to voice our residents' concerns. However, we seek the SNT's help in informing residents and to explain to them why no action is being taken. Attached is our SFPC letter/posting.*

In point 4 above Cllr Lisewski refers to the letter now to be posted on the website to help inform residents. He also mentioned an issue raised by Steve (our lengthsman) that there are many empty wine and vodka bottles on the rural side of Wragley Way. The SNT accepted this as an action to follow up.

Cllr Richardson highlighted the appearance of potholes on Wragley Way, Stenson Road and Deepdale Lane. He noted that hedge-trimming on Stenson Road that the clerk reported last month has not been done; this may be a topic to add to Cllr Atkin's list of road improvements.

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

c) Lengthsman Scheme.

Steve Hawkridge noted that bags of domestic waste clutter the litter bins. He requested 2 new litter pickers/grabbers. SDDC can provide these at £20 which was **agreed**; clerk to order. Cllr Bonnell complained of bags of dog-waste have been discarded near the balancing pond and at the junction of Beaufort Road and Zetland Crescent. Biffa has not emptied both ours nor the school's bins for 2 weeks and they now overflow. The school receptionist phoned them but without success. Clerk rang Biffa to be told that the 2 missed collections were due to a nightshift service. Clerk had this changed to Tuesday daytime collections and will ensure that the 2 missed dates deducted from Biffa's next invoice. That said, Biffa collected the waste yesterday. Clerk to request a time-slot of between 8am – 12 noon and to provide Biffa with Steve's contact details.

He and Jane complained to SDDC about bin collectors allowing cardboard to blow across the road while being deposited in refuse lorries; district council will investigate. Steve added that glass is also left in the road; DCllr Shepherd will follow up.

Clerk asked SDDC (twice) to replace the Goathland Park waste bin lid which is still missing; Its reply stated that they will look at replacing the whole bin as it cannot get just a lid.

The chairman thanked Steve for his report and both he and Jane for their continuing excellent service.

d) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc). nothing further.

e) Update on SDDC permission (or otherwise) regarding Ledbury Chase fencing/ play equipment, tree issue at Tedworth Avenue and registration of this and other open land (if any). Clerk twice contacted the Cultural Services Manager at SDDC who attended the Ledbury Chase site visit but received no reply; therefore, DCllr Shepherd will kindly follow up.

f) Outcome of the Repton Area Forum to be held remotely on 19th January 2021; see above.

g) to sign the Form A precept request for 2021-22. The chairman and clerk will duly sign the form on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

#### **1414/20 To consider planning applications:**

DMPA/2020/1279 - Retrospective application for the infill area under front canopy and convert garage into bedroom with wet room at 9 Fox Close, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** no objection.

DMPA/2020/0935 - The conversion of the garage into living accommodation at 6 Glendon Road, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** no objection.

CD9/0319/110 at Land between Deep Dale Lane and Infinity Park Way, Sinfin. Proposal: 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. Consultation from a neighbouring planning authority on application ref. 21/00039/RES seeking permission for the residential development of up to 50 dwellings including infrastructure and associated works - approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission Code No. 02/15/00211 in respect of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on Land South Of Watten Close And East Of Deep Dale Lane, Derby, DE24 3HG. **Resolved;** Members are concerned that as the accessibility is via Deep Dale Lane, the highways department appear to make no comment regarding the narrowness of the road at the point of ingress/access and as such no details of any road improvements. Also, we ask whether a traffic survey has been conducted. Clerk to submit the comment.

**Decision:**

DMPA/2020/1148 - The erection of an extension and the creation of an additional parking space at 2 Hunters Croft, Stenson Fields. **Approved subject to conditions.**

DMPA/2020/1264 - The erection of a two-storey front and side extension at 24 Templar Close, Stenson Fields. **Approved subject to conditions.**

**Consultation enquiries** with SDDC:

2 felled silver birch trees near to Tedworth Avenue. We await the comments of the Cultural Services Manager as mentioned above.

Nac Shak fast food outlet's unauthorised signs and a food business allegedly operating without planning consent. We await the findings of the planning officer presently investigating.

Clerk wrote to Steffan Saunders, new head of planning at district council, before Christmas of our chagrin over missing/ late notifications on its planning portal. As there was no reply clerk to write again.

1415/20 **Finance**

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

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee-</b>	<b>Total £</b>
002364	J Irons – Clerk’s salary 4 weeks to 18 <sup>th</sup> December	823.49
002364	J Irons – clerk’s expenses December - January (including clerk’s pension return [£216.72] to be paid online on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January*	327.97
002365	J Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 18 <sup>th</sup> December	198.38
002366	S Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 18 <sup>th</sup> December (including expenses) *	213.88
002367	HMRC –J Irons’ NI December – January	49.08
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1612.80</b>

\*clerk’s expenses comprise the following:

<i>Shardlow to Stenson Fields &amp; return</i>	<i>£ 18.20</i>
<i>Home allowance (£24 per 4-weekly)</i>	<i>£ 24.00</i>
<i>3 x black printer inks (11<sup>th</sup> Jan)</i>	<i>£ 45.65</i>
<i>3 books x 12 2nd class postage stamps (15th Dec)</i>	<i>£ 23.40</i>
<i>Clerk’s pension return in December paid online personally</i>	<i><u>£216.72</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>£327.97</i>

Steve Hawkrige’s pay cheque comprises the following:

<i>Wage during the period shown</i>	<i>£198.38</i>
<i>Brushes, gloves &amp; laminating pouches</i>	<i><u>£ 15.50</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>£213.88</i>

(b) Income – none

(c) Current Account Bank balance as at 24<sup>th</sup> December £ 6578.43

(d) as permitted under Financial Rules the clerk visited Cllrs Fellows and Baker on 22<sup>nd</sup> January to obtain signatures on cheques.

1416/20 **TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Rogers explained that a PPG meeting was not held in December, but a remote meeting will take place tomorrow night, the minutes of which will follow. Most discussion and notifications at present obviously revolve around Covid-19 and vaccination issues. The chairman thanked Cllr Rogers for his report.

1417/20 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk had circulated recent DALC newsletters and Coronavirus updates received through DALC’s Zoom meetings and DCC news bulletins.

1418/20 **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 Highways’ letter regarding road improvements (if received);
- Update on SDDC permission (or otherwise) regarding Ledbury Chase fencing/ play eqpt, tree issue at Tedworth Avenue and registration of this and other open land (if any);
- To arrange a memorial plaque to Jack Harvey.

1419/20 **Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held in the same format on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.15pm, via either the Zoom (or more preferably Microsoft Teams) conference-call facility.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input after which he closed the meeting at 8.51pm.

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