

STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING held on THURSDAY 18th March 2021 at 7.15pm

Owing to the continuing extenuating circumstances surrounding Coronavirus this meeting was held via a Microsoft Teams 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 and GD Singh.
In attendance: - Cllr Neil Atkin, Steve Hawkridge (lengthsman) and J Irons (clerk).

1434/20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr K Butterworth (unwell). DCllr Dave Shepherd had conveyed to Cllr Lisewski previously that in his absence he would send a report (see below).

1435/20 **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

1436/20 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None

1437/20 **PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

- No residents or police officers took part.
- One of our lengthsman in attendance, Steve Hawkridge, gave his report at minute 1442/20 (c) below.
- Cllr Atkin gave his report as follows.

1. DCC enter the Purdah period in May due to its and district council's elections being held therefore no public comments/ canvassing by elected members is allowed after 26th March. Hence, he may be absent the next meeting.
2. Cllr Atkin is disappointed that resurfacing of the main road in Stenson village had been done but infilling of some potholes had been omitted. The contractors stopped short of Cllr Atkin's house.
3. DCC will terminate its use of the remote facility Skype and will continue only with MS Teams in future.
4. County council believes the governments' plans for a 'Freeport' offers a major investment programme that will affect many parish councils (especially Eggington). Weston will probably be affected in that freight trains are destined to travel through the village instead of Derby. Several agencies, including SDDC and EMA, will be involved and the project may include an investment at the A50 junction. Swarkestone bridge may become part of the funding application programme. A new junction at the Toyota Motor Plant roundabout is required to provide a traffic link to both this company and JCB.
5. EMA is second only to London as the busiest for air transport of freight traffic. Numerous complaints regarding noise from night-flights over Stenson Fields have been lodged and are being dealt with. Cllr Atkin sits on the airport's Independent Consultative Committee and said a consultation regarding night-flying is ongoing; eventually, flying at night may be banned. The CAA is considering banning noisier aircraft including the Antonov. However, this plane has a prime role in carrying engines for Rolls Royce. Cllr Atkin will know more in the summer and will keep us informed.

Cllr Baker asked about a planning application at Willington; Cllr Atkin explained that an application concerning land next to Toyota/ Severn Trent site had been refused but it may become included in the Freeport scheme, which is to be developed as a commercial/industrial centre as mentioned above.

Cllr Lisewski highlighted the poor road surface/ pothole on the roundabout at the top of Grampian Way; Cllr Richardson added that he reported this for repair 5 weeks ago. Clerk to send Cllr Atkin the details for him to pursue. Cllr Lisewski noticed that the SDDC council demand omits the parish council element. Clerk to notify both the SDDC finance department and DCllr Shepherd.

Infinity Garden Village - New A50 Junction

Local press reports informed Stenson Ward residents that Derby City Council were to discuss and approve the proposed roundabouts which will provide access to the A50 Trunk Road and Derbyshire County Council will approve the layout shortly after. As a member of the Infinity Garden Liaison Group, Cllr Shepherd emailed South Derbyshire District Council's Head of Planning and Strategic Housing to complain that no member of the liaison committee was aware of this and that this was unacceptable. Whilst a report came before SDDC in 2019, a development of this nature should have been relayed to members, specifically to the councillors representing Stenson Ward. The Head of Planning responded with the following:

The junction onto the A50 is a policy requirement which is necessary for the delivery of the IGV development. The Development Framework Document explains in more detail how this is to be undertaken and includes an ambition to discourage the use of Deep Dale Lane south of the A50 but it cannot include any requirement for a green way as this only ability to achieve this is within the IGV site and not to the south of the A50.

In addition to the work through the IGV Liaison Group, the application was also reported to the SDDC Planning Committee in 2019 and no objections in principle were raised, subject to several mitigations.

As members of the minority group on South Derbyshire District Council, Stenson Ward councillors opposed the Infinity Garden Village proposal from day one but were outvoted. The reason for our opposition was the effect on the infrastructure resulting from the development of a further 1200 dwellings identified in the Expression of Interest, this is in addition to the 2000 homes agreed under the Local Plan - part 1. As a member of the liaison group, Cllr Shepherd has a copy of the Development Framework Document, v2.2 (Draft) dated February 2018 which does not have the information referred to above and has asked for Members of the Infinity Garden Liaison Group be provided with the latest copies.

Derby City and County councillors have voted to approve the scheme.

South Derbyshire District Council – Council Tax will increase by 1.5% but it could have been lower.

The South Derbyshire Council Tax which residents are required to pay for 2021/2022 was set at an increase of 1.5% at the meeting of the full council held on 1st March 2021. The Group Cllrs Shepherd and Singh are members of asked that no increase in Council Tax be made but it was clear that the two other Groups would outvote it. Cllrs Shepherd and Singh and members of their Group compromised on 1%. Unfortunately, the Independent Group proposed 1.5% which was accepted on a recorded vote, Cllrs Shepherd and Singh and all their Group voted against the increase. There are residents who have been on furlough for months and will find any increase a financial burden. South Derbyshire District Council has good reserves which could stand a lower increase, whilst Stenson Ward councillors recognise that there is uncertainty regarding future Government funding, the pandemic has caused problems for families, we missed an opportunity to mitigate financial pressure for residents.

Infinity Garden Village (IGV) Liaison Group 3rd March – Report

Cllr David Shepherd had requested that representatives of Derbyshire County Council Education Department and (DCCED) Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) attend the March meeting. Residents and councillors have questions to ask regarding the Primary and Secondary school provision and why the CCG opposes the Stenson Ward SDDC councillors, Shepherd and Singh's request that a medical facility be established on the development site south of Wragley Way. Stenson Ward councillors believe that the 2000 houses envisaged by the SDDC Local Plan – part 1 and a further 1200 under the IGV proposal requires a medical facility on the site.

- Education - Secondary School – The DCCED representative said the new secondary school which will be located on Infinity Park Way but is not likely to be established until at least 2023 and could be later. Stenson Ward councillors Shepherd and Singh have made the case for the secondary school to be within walking distance of the site of the houses built south of Wragley Way not miles away on Infinity Park Way. The DCCED representative was asked by Cllr Shepherd if free travel will be available for pupils who travel more than three miles to the school, this was confirmed. He also asked if the normal area had been defined (the area from which the pupils will be drawn). He was told that consultation regarding the normal area will take place. The Derbyshire County Councillor for Melbourne is quoted as saying that the new secondary school “should help to secure that our children from Ticknall and Melbourne can be confident of school places”. Is this the reason for the location of the secondary school so far away from Wragley Way since those children are currently bussed to Chellaston school?

- Education – Primary School – It was reported that the primary school will be funded by Section 106 money.
- Medical Facility – Once again, a representative from the Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group failed to attend the IGV Liaison Group meeting.

East Midlands Freeport – What Effect will it have on Stenson Ward?

It is claimed that the choice of the East Midlands will generate 60,000 new jobs which is to be welcomed. The Freeport will benefit from the ability to import goods without having to pay import duties. The bid was based on three sites, East Midlands Airport, Ratcliffe Power Station and the “Intermodal Park” near to the Toyota site. Whilst the initiative to create jobs is to be greatly welcomed, what will the transport needs and traffic flows created by the Freeport have on Stenson Ward?

Cllrs Shepherd and Singh ask for a Covid-Vaccination Venue near Stenson Ward?

Your Stenson Ward, Cllrs David Shepherd and Lakhvinder Singh wrote to the Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 24th February asking that the high infection rate in Stenson Fields be treated as a high priority. See the correspondence below in italics:

Stenson Fields has the highest Covid -19 infection rate in Derby. We recognise the pressure that the NHS is under and wish to record our thanks to all the NHS workers and volunteers who have responded so well. As councillors for Stenson Ward, Cllr Lakhvinder Singh and I are shocked to learn that to this unprecedented situation. We expressed our concern to the Chief Executive of South Derbyshire regarding the lack of vaccination facilities for our residents and was informed that the Arena at Pride Park would be utilised. It now appears that, despite the impressive vaccination process, more localised solutions must be considered. Areas in Derby which formerly were hot-spots have now been surpassed by Stenson Fields and other parts of South Derbyshire. We ask the NHS to undertake the measures which resulted in the much-needed reduction in those areas to be introduced in Stenson Fields, to consider fast tracking residents who are currently outside the target population, and local vaccination centres to be utilised. Cllr Singh and I consider that Stenson Ward is poorly served regarding medical facilities; we have been in contact with Derbyshire NHS CCG regarding allocating a medical centre to serve the current residents of Stenson and Sinfin Wards and the additional demand which will result for the 3000 dwellings planned for south of Wragley Way. The current infection rate in Stenson Fields could well be mitigated by such a facility in any future pandemic.

Cllrs David Shepherd and Lakhvinder Singh – end.

1438/20 After overcoming technical difficulties Cllr Rogers joined the meeting at 7.48pm.

1439/20 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1^{8th} February 2021.** 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.

1440/20 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

The chairman had been unwell recently and therefore missed a school governors’ meeting, the IGV meeting and the remote planning meeting held on 10th March.

1441/20 CLERK’S REPORT

1. We still await the bank’s completion of our application to use internet banking; due to the long delay the clerk today sent an ultimatum stating that we will close the account if this is not progressed in the next 7-14 days.
2. Residents’ Census 2021 details should be submitted on 21st March or soon afterwards.
3. Stenson Fields Christian Fellowship asked whether it could hold an Easter Scavenger hunt around Stenson Fields and requested permission to hide Easter eggs around the locality. Residents/families find them on their walks then enter a prize giveaway raffle once they send us their secret code. They will be encouraged to keep hold of their eggs until the competition is over. Once Easter weekend is over, they will collect the remaining eggs that have not been found. Members agreed to allow this to be held subject to participants observing present Covid regulations.
4. Without any further action from the government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7th May. NALC is working with several national bodies to press the government to extend these regulations beyond this date and will continue to stress the urgency and importance of this issue. However, currently government has no plans to extend these regulations and so there is a possibility of returning to face-to-face meetings from 7th May. NALC’s position remains that all local councils should continue to meet remotely while the regulations

are in force. It may transpire that we can continue to hold remote meetings after this date at our discretion rather than any decision being imposed on us. Hence, we await the government's ruling.

5. Biffa will increase its haulage rate for waste collection from £1.81 to £1.92 per m³; this has fallen from £2.19 per m³ 2 years ago. The increase takes effect on 27th March.

1442/20 **Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety.

Cllr Lisewski believes that there is lack of acceptance and action from Highways over speeding traffic and the need for a pedestrian crossing on Stenson Road. His recent meeting in February with county council's Traffic and Safety team only reinforced their aversion to reducing the speed limit on Stenson Road (because most drivers travel at around 30mph) and to installing a pedestrian crossing here (which would cost c£50k). The chairman noted that council will persist in lobbying for a crossing and will keep pressure on the police to monitor the area for speeding. The T&S team also commented on VAS signs:

'Requests for VAS are assessed against a set of criteria to establish whether there is justification for the introduction of a sign. As part of this assessment, we would normally only consider locating VAS displaying a speed limit at sites which have a history of a minimum of 6 injury collisions within a 1km length over the last three years, and where speed has been a contributory factor in some, if not all of these collisions. If a site does not meet the criteria a new VAS or changing an existing one would not be approved'.

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

Cllr Lisewski thought that the balancing pond level had normalised although is still not at last year's level which indicates that remedial work is necessary. Meanwhile Cllr Baker added that it will need dredging again for which the developers are responsible until SDDC take ownership. Clerk to inform DCllr Shepherd.

c) Lengthsmen Scheme.

- Grass and weeds are rife in gutters; clerk to inform SDDC and ask for more regular attention to these this year.
- Steve reported large, discarded boxes and c15 black bags of waste in ditches at the southern end of Stenson Road. He was told by the Clean Team that these are too dangerous to collect. A suggestion that volunteers might collect this waste met with disapproval because of H&S liability issues. CCllr Atkin congratulated our lengthsmen over their stirring efforts in litter collection.
- Residents have asked Steve & Jane to collect litter that amasses on the side of the Stenson Road railway bridge that has no footway. However, as this poses too much of a risk this cannot be done.
- Cllr Baker rued that a glut of dog waste has appeared on Wragley Way. Steve has asked SDDC for a dog warden patrol, but they need details of days and times when the owners allow their pets to foul, otherwise they cannot investigate. Steve and Jane will continue to highlight this waste with marker pen.
- He asked the clerk for a list of upcoming meetings to display on notice boards; the clerk replied these can be found on our website.

The chairman thanked Steve for his report and both he and Jane for their litter-collecting service.

d) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc).

Cllr Rogers relayed a message from Cllr Butterworth requesting a litter bin at the north end of Arleston Lane. Members will consider this.

e) to consider installation of either fencing or play equipment at Ledbury Chase play area. Members voted on their preference for a perimeter fence which was **declined**. Discussion then revolved around the possibility of smaller more localised items of fencing surrounding individual pieces of play equipment. **Resolved:** CCllr Atkin to arrange a remote meeting with SDDC officers to discuss.

1443/20 **To consider planning application:**

DMPA/2021/0031 - The conversion of garage into living accommodation at 3 Hambledon Drive, Stenson Fields.

Resolved: no objection.

Decision:

DMPA/2020/1445 - The erection of extensions at 11 Merrybower Close, Stenson Fields. **Approved subject to conditions.**

Consultation enquiries with SDDC:

2 felled silver birch trees near to Tedworth Avenue.

Nac-Shak fast food outlet's unauthorised signs and a food business allegedly operating without planning consent. The Nac-Shak issue is ongoing, and we await district's decision over replacing the trees, which were among various items raised within the following meeting.

Members discussed the meeting held with SDDC's head of planning on 10th March.

1444/20 **Finance**

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

Cheque No	Payee-	Total £
002373	J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 12 th February	823.49
002373	J Irons – clerk's expenses January - February (including clerk's March pension return [£216.72] to be paid online on 19 th March*	253.92
002374	J Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 12 th February	195.51
002375	S Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 12 th February	195.51
002376	HMRC –J Irons' NI January – February	49.08
002377	DALC – subscription 2021/22	815.32
002378	Biffa – waste collection April – June 2021	410.90
	TOTAL	2743.73

*clerk's expenses comprise the following:

<i>Shardlow to Stenson Fields & return</i>	<i>£ 18.20</i>
<i>Home allowance (£24 per 4-weekly)</i>	<i>£ 24.00</i>
<i>Clerk's pension rtn in Feb paid online on 19th February</i>	<i>£216.72</i>
<i>Less overpayment taken in error last month</i>	<i>£ (5.00)</i>
	<i>£253.92</i>

(b) Income – none

(c) Current Account Bank balance as at 26th February £ 2958.79

(d) as permitted under Financial Rules the clerk visited Cllrs Fellows and Baker on 19th March to obtain signatures on cheques.

1445/20 **TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Rogers announced that a PPG meeting had been held the previous day and awaits information arising from it. A vaccination centre will be created at the Sinfin chemists (Wilsons Pharmacy). The chairman thanked Cllr Rogers for his report.

Cllr Lisewski voiced his dismay with the chairmanship of the IGV meeting adding that the chair did not allow free speech on some items. Also, the CCG sent notice of non-attendance 24 hours before the meeting without citing any reasons. This rankled because Cllr Lisewski expected to hear its views on provision of local medical facilities.

Some members were somewhat surprised at Cllr Atkin's suggestion that the new secondary school was primarily to serve the villages, such as Findern, Melbourne and Aston would not be for Stenson Fields.

1446/20 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk had circulated recent DALC newsletters and Coronavirus updates received through DALC's Zoom meetings and DCC news bulletins.

1447/20 **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;
- Outcome of remote meeting with SDDC regarding Ledbury Chase fencing/ play equipment (if held).

1448/20 **Date of next meeting** – The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the same format on Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7.15pm, via the Microsoft Teams conference-call facility.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input after which he closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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