

STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on THURSDAY 20th April 2023 at 7.30pm at Stenson Fields primary school.

Participants: - Cllrs C Fellows (Chair), I Baker, P Richardson and K Butterworth.

In attendance: - Steve Hawkrige (lengthsman) and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everybody

1. Apologies

Cllr GD Singh and DCllr D Shepherd (personal commitment); members acknowledged their reasons for absence. Cllr GD Singh expressed his desire to the clerk earlier today that he wishes to be co-opted onto the council at the May meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

Full written report can be viewed at appendix 2 at the end of the minutes.

3. South Derbyshire District Councillor's Annual Report

No district councillor attended and no report had been provided.

4. County Councillor's Annual Report

No county councillor attended although CCllr Neil Atkin had provided an annual report for Aston Division in the last meeting which can be viewed in the previous minutes.

5. Finance Report

Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's bank balance as of the 31st March 2023 was £5774.23 Council has asked for £32000 precept from SDDC for the forthcoming year. Copies of the clerk's financial statement can be seen below at appendix 1 and had had been circulated to councillors to view prior to the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm and proceeded immediately with the Ordinary Monthly Parish Council meeting.

SignedCllr C Fellows (Chairman)

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 20th April 2023 at 7.45pm at Stenson Fields primary school.

1744/23 **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

1745/23 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None

1746/23 **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

- One resident (Steve Hawkrige) and no police officers took part.
- CCllr Atkin and DCllr Shepherd were both absent this and the annual parish meeting earlier.
- Our lengthsman, Steve Hawkrige, gave his report at minute 1750/23 (c) below.

1747/23 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th March 2023.** These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the chairman.

1748/23 **To determine which items if any from Part 1 of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.** None.

1749/23 **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Action list - Several additions/ amendments were made to the Action List.
2. clerk reiterated that the internal budget was being conducted at present, hence end-year figures are shown as unaudited in the budget report, appendix 1.
3. owing to recent comments from SDDC stating that we need 4 members to attend a meeting to be quorate, November's meeting requires retrospective approval by members tonight, which was **agreed** (pp Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Richardson).
4. clerk wrote to HMRC twice recently to obtain a repayment of overpaid tax in January of £228.18 and await its reply. Since then, however, clerk received a demand for £61.44 originating from 2019 which clerk has explained several times to HMRC; we paid all tax & NI due in the periods it quotes as underpaid.

1750/23 **Matters for Decision or Discussion:**

- a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety. CSW, Speed Indicator Devices and ASB Grant. The chairman confirmed that Denby PC has collected the Community Speed Watch equipment; clerk to ensure that the bank account shows that payment has been made. The Speed Indicator Devices will be installed on the 4 allocated roads soon. Members that they will not take up the offer of an ASB Grant from the PCC at this time.

Clerk received the following from Highways regarding a speeding traffic survey (numbers of cars in brackets):

'As I am sure you are both aware we have recently received a number of communications relating to the historic issues around in particular Stenson Road but also Wragley Way, Grampian Way and Arleston Lane. Therefore you may recall that we made arrangements for a Speed survey to be conducted on these 4 roads in question. The survey works were carried out from Tuesday 4th April 2023 to Monday 10th April 2023, so it incorporated the bank holiday as well into the data and people moving around the area.

The following reference to the 85th percentile speed is defined as being the:

"speed at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point", or alternatively "another way to consider is that this is the speed at which only 15% of traffic exceed the posted limit on average."

Stenson Road – 40mph Speed Limit (7070)

The survey data indicates an 85th percentile of 43mph in both directions of travel, whilst this is slightly above the limit, it is deemed to be within the permitted tolerances for enforcement that the Police operate to, as the rule of 10%+2, would indicate that speeds at and above 46mph would be deemed enforceable. Therefore as we have indicated in the past the limit of 40mph for Stenson Road is totally justified and appropriate for this environment and road layout, as the evidence indicates that drivers find this an acceptable and realistic speed limit for this road. As I have touched on before lowering a speed limit to 30mph does not automatically achieve compliance.

Grampian Way – 30mph Speed Limit (8961)

The survey data indicates an 85th percentile of 33mph in both directions of travel, whilst again this is slightly above the limit, it is deemed to be within the permitted tolerances for enforcement that the Police operate to, as the rule of 10%+2, would indicate that speeds at and above 35mph would be deemed enforceable. Therefore the data indicates we don't have an identified speeding concern through this stretch of road.

Arleston Lane – 30mph Speed Limit (2314)

The survey data indicates an 85th percentile of 31mph in both directions of travel, whilst again this is slightly above the limit, it is deemed to be within the permitted tolerances for enforcement that the Police operate to, as the rule of 10%+2, would indicate that speeds at and above 35mph would be deemed enforceable. Therefore the data indicates we don't have an identified speeding concern through this stretch of road.

Wragley Way – 40mph Speed Limit (3277)

The survey data indicates an 85th percentile of 43mph in both directions of travel, whilst again this is slightly above the limit, it is deemed to be within the permitted tolerances for enforcement that the Police operate to, as the rule of 10%+2, would indicate that speeds at and above 46mph would be deemed enforceable. Therefore, the data indicates we don't have an identified speeding concern through this stretch of road.

Hence, you will see that the current speed limits for these roads is totally appropriate'.

- b) Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road. Nothing to report.

- c) Lengthsmen Scheme. Steve Hawkrigde reported the following:

1. the refuse freighter has left glass on roads which Steve reported to the Clean Team but it continues. Clerk to ask SDDC for the sweeper to visit and collect it.
2. a brown bin full of household waste has sat on the Goathland Road path for 3 or 4 months; some of the waste spills into the side of the adjoining hedge. Clerk to ask SDDC's environmental services to remove and possibly replace it with a black bin.
3. the parish notice board on Arleston Lane has its interior white pin surface crumbling. Jane has kindly offered to source new ones and replace.
4. The Ledbury Chase kickboard continues to suffer smashed bottles around its base; members agreed for the board to be removed so the clerk will ask SDDC.

The chairman again thanked Steve & Jane for their continued service and dedication.

d) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins etc). nothing further although generally these are included in the Action List. Steve asked the clerk to confirm Biffa's summer holiday collection dates.

e) SDDC's progress with the installation of 2 public benches on Wragley Way. None therefore clerk to chase SDDC.

f) To sign the SDDC concurrent functions grant form 2022/23. **Resolved:** the clerk explained the figures within it after which both chairman and clerk duly signed the form. It includes an underspend of £10228 carried over from the 2021/22 s136 grant which serves as a contribution towards the SID devices, and which SDDC permitted.

g) to consider arrangements for co-option of new members. As mentioned above GD Singh will be co-opted at the next meeting although council must be quorate at the outset for this to be valid therefore district council will provide one of its officers to attend the May meeting thereby forming a quorum. Clerk to confirm with SDDC and will provide an Action List to the officer prior to the meeting.

1751/23 PLANNING

To consider planning application:

DMPA/2023/0408 - The erection of a two-storey rear, front and side extension, detached garage and hardstanding at 12 Avon Close, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** no objection.

Decisions:

DMPA/2023/0098 - Certificate of lawfulness for proposed replacement porch at 8 Tickham Avenue, Stenson Fields. Approved.

DMPN/2023/0010 - Certificate of Lawfulness for existing internal garage conversion at 4 Mallow Close, Stenson Fields. The planning web portal shows a decision as having been made but no decision notice is evident.

1752/23 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment (via internet bank transfer) – to be approved:

| Reference | Payee- | Total £ |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 20 th April | J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 10 th March | 858.70 |
| 20 th April | J Irons – clerk's expenses February - March* | 42.20 |
| 20 th April | J HawkrIDGE - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 10 th March | 227.62 |
| 20 th April | S HawkrIDGE – Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 10 th March* | 249.71 |
| 20 th April | HMRC –employee's tax & NI March - April | 233.98 |
| 20 th April | DCC - clerk's pension return April | 276.80 |
| 20 th April | SDDC – dog bin emptying 2022/23 | 2912.81 |
| 20 th April | DM Payroll Services Ltd – payroll service 2023/24 | 200.00 |
| | TOTAL | 5001.82 |

*clerk's expenses comprise the following:

Shardlow to Stenson Fields & return (28 miles at 0.65p per mile)

on 20th April to attend the April APM

£ 18.20

Home allowance (£24 per 4-week)

£ 24.00

£ 42.20

Steve HawkrIDGE's expense comprise the following:

Glue dots & drawing pins

£ 9.50

Work trousers (2nd pair)

£12.99

£22.49

- (b) Income:
 Western Power wayleaves on 1st April £ 48.06
 Precept (first tranche) 2023/24 on 6th April £ 16736.00
- (c) bank interest on 31st March £ 55.30
- (d) Bank balance as at 31st March 2023 £ 5774.23
- (e) Finance Report 2022-23 (circulated to members before the meeting and shown below).

1753/23 **TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
 None. The chairman commented that as no IGV meetings have been held recently DCllr Shephard should pursue a resurrection of these.

1754/23 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk has circulated recent DALC newsletters and other correspondence from differing entities.

1755/23 **Agenda items for the next meeting.**

- Declaration of members' acceptance of office forms to be signed;
- Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety;
- Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road;
- Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins, etc);
- Lengthsmen Scheme;
- Annual review of the council's policies;
- Election of officers and Appointment of members to Committees & Sub Committees, working parties and/or external bodies.
- to approve the 2022/23 internal audit report.

1756/23 Finally, the chairman thanked outgoing councillor Ken Butterworth for his service during his c20-year tenure on the council; members expressed their agreement and best wishes to him for the future.

1757/23 **Date of next meeting** –The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held **on Thursday 25th May at 8pm** in Stenson Fields primary school.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

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

Appendices: Chairman's report & clerk's financial report 2023

Appendix 1 - clerk's financial report 2022/23

Expenditure.

Over the past financial year expenditure increased from ££45111 to £54236. Most notable items contributing to this increase from the previous year were Sports Mobile (£2070), PAYE (£2278), hard surfacing at Ledbury Chase (£5309), 4 new speed indicator devices (£12637) and VAT (944). By way of reminder, please remember that VAT costs

incurred are reimbursed by HMRC each year. We received £3563 from HMRC as reimbursement of vatable items expended in 21/22 and will receive £4507 for vatable costs incurred in 22/23; hence the £944 difference.

Some expenditure items were lower such as emptying of dog/ waste bins (£2106) and lengthsmens' costs (£96).

All other expenditure items were reasonably within budget.

As a result, at the start of this financial year Council now holds around £5774 in reserve.

Income.

Unaudited figures show a total balance brought forward from 2021/22 plus income totalling £60011, less expenditure of £54237 which equates to a balance going forward of £5774.

The most notable item of decreased income was SDDC's s.136 concurrent functions grant which showed an underspend of £10228 in 21/22 (£24385 allocated but only £14157 claimed). However, this underspend has been rolled over by SDDC to the year just ended (2022/23) as a contribution towards the SID's.

An item of increased income was due to the VAT reimbursement of £2339 (£3563 incurred and received 22/23 compared to £1224 incurred & received in 21/22).

The accounts have been submitted to the independent internal auditor and will be concluded soon, after which an external audit will be conducted.

Precept.

Council requested and received a slightly decreased level of precept from District Council of £28000. Due to some previous years' precepts having been maintained at a unsustainably low amount, council foresee this level of precept being kept. We continue to believe that parishioners should consider this as still representing good value for the service provided. The Precept of £28000 divided by 3863 parishioners = £7.25pa per parishioner. Figures are based on the latest update from SDDC of electoral residents in 2023. This is a reduction from 4147 showing in the 2018/19 electoral register.

The Government's regulation over a revised tax base (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) was introduced 10 years ago and the scheme continues. It is a replacement benefit system to help pensioners, disabled and low-income households. This provides a discount for such recipients that reduces the overall number of properties liable for Council Tax.

SF Council Tax base.

In this year's income (2023/24) council has asked SDDC for an increased level of precept of £32000; added to this the Government's Local Council Tax Support Grant award is £736.

Our CT base i.e. number of liable properties increased from 1489 to 1502 in the forthcoming year.

Appendix 2 - chairman's report 2023

See following page.