

STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the informal PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.15pm in Stenson Fields Primary School

Participants: - C Fellows (Chair) and I Baker.

In attendance: - DCllrs David Shepherd and Lakhvinder Singh, Steve Hawkridge (Lengthsman), one resident and J Irons (clerk).

Due to this meeting being inquorate minute numbers recorded below will be classed as **unofficial**.

1795/23 **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To receive DCllr Shepherd's report when he arrives (which was at 7.35pm).

1796/23 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** None.

1797/23 **To determine which items if any from Part 2 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.** None.

1798/23 **PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

Council welcomed Mr David Morris who has expressed interest in becoming a member and is attending tonight to observe as a guest. He asked whether the shelter-less bus stops on Wragley Way and Stenson Road may be moved to the opposite side of the road as children waiting there get wet when it rains. DCllr Singh will enquire at DCC.

The district councillors' reports appear as an appendix at the end of the council minutes on pages 4–8. Both councillors left at 8.10pm

1799/23 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The chairman attended the recent IGV meeting, notes of which can be viewed on DCllr Shepherd's report below.

1800/23 **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Clerk circulated an Action List over the progress of ongoing issues of which several items were amended, added or require following up.

2. since receiving a call from HMRC on 12th July regarding the ongoing unpaid tax & NI demand stemming from 2019/20, clerk received 2 letters claiming that we owe this amount (according to HMRC now standing at £62.10) plus the underpayment of £228.18 from May (which countered the overpayment of this amount by the clerk in January). Clerk has consistently offered to pay the interest only pertaining to these periods, amounting to c£11.

3. clerk placed an advert in the local Resources newsletter asking for new councillors and received replies from 2 respondents, one of whom is in attendance tonight.

1801/23 **Matters for Discussion:**

a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety.

The SIDs are now up and running, however the ones on Arleston Lane and Wragley Way will soon be moved to alternative lampposts.

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

c) Lengthsman Scheme. Steve Hawkridge gave the following report:

- Metal mannequins have been placed on Ledbury Chase play area and the kickboard will soon have graffiti removed and artwork painted on it. Steve asked SDDC whether some hard standing can be installed at the base of the kickboard, but this depends on budgets. Cable-ties will be attached to the tops of swings to help deter birds perching there.
- jittys and footpaths still require weed-killer application by district council despite Steve seeing the weed-killing vehicle in the area recently. DCllr Singh added that weed-killer applications are problematic at present

due to the use of Glyphosphate, which is toxic and has been banned in some EU countries. *DCllr Shepherd will enquire again.*

- Steve sent an email to DCllr Shepherd regarding hedge trimming that is needed on Stenson Road leading to the A50 bridge; and at the junction of Wragley Way and Stenson Road.
- He replaced both pieces of correx plastic on the noticeboard on Pilgrims Way.
- Potholes on 5-a-side pitch have still not been infilled; *clerk to remind SDDC.*
- He asked whether a bench could be placed on the green space between Pilgrims Way and Zetland Crescent. *Clerk will enquire at SDDC.*
- A resident enquired if a fenced dog-exercise area could be created in Stenson Fields. Members will consider and in the meantime *clerk to ask DALC whether other councils have done this.*
- The clothes bin near to the Chinese restaurant has not been removed although DCllr Shepherd and the clerk received a reply from SDDC saying that unless a resident complains then it must remain here.
- The waste bin on the 5-a-side area at Fox Close has been vandalised twice recently and had its inner bin removed and squashed; Steve called the Clean Team to ask for replacement.
- Construction traffic travels at around 60-70mph on Wragley Way early mornings on their way to the Deepdale Lane housing site. DCllr Singh kindly offered to report to CREST and the developer. *The chairman thanked both Jane & Steve for their service.*

d) Environmental issues (Biffa, trees, bulbs, bins, etc). Mostly covered in both the Action List and district councillors' report.

e) installation of 2 public seat benches on Wragley Way. SDDC has granted permission for one to be placed at Hambleton Drive and is in the process of ordering it. After Steve mentioned it above, members discussed the possibility of placing another on the green area between Pilgrims Way and Zetland Crescent. *Clerk to ask SDDC.*

f) update on the installation of SIDs. The devices on Wragley Way and Arleston Lane will soon be moved onto different lampposts. Highways have confirmed that its contractors can conduct this although they presently await cabling.

g) to discuss employing a private freighter/skip refuse service. Members **agreed** that the clerk should enquire with Biffa, Veolia, Peak Waste and Magfern services.

1802/23 PLANNING

To consider planning applications:

DMPA/2023/1005 - The erection of extensions and associated works at 4 Wilton Close, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** clerk to submit the comment that the rear window overlooks the neighbour's garden.

DMPA/ 2023/1033 - single storey side/rear extension at 7 Nevis Close, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** no objection.

DMPA/ 2023/1041 - The erection of a two-storey rear extension and the installation of a front window on the first floor at 31 Sallywood Close, Stenson Fields. **Resolved:** no objection.

Decisions

DMPA/2023/0722 - Creation of a new entrance and existing entrance blocked up at 3 Northfield, Stenson Fields. Approved subject to conditions.

DMPA/2023/0706 - Erection of a conservatory to the rear at 51 Glenmore Drive, Stenson Fields. Approved subject to conditions.

DMPA/2023/0768 - Erection of a two-storey side extension at 5 Goathland Road, Stenson Fields. Approved subject to conditions.

Pending decision.

The following Proposed Development was decided by SDDC Planning earlier this week; the parish council submitted its comments after May's meeting.

DMPA/2023/0415 - The retention of the existing vehicle storage area to the rear of the site, including an office building on Land adjacent to Stenson Fields Industrial Units, Stenson Road. It also encompasses sales & storage facilities, change of use and light engineering proposals. DCllr Shepherd said that this application has been **granted** although he is keen to see that the many conditions are met and enforced.

1803/23 Finance for payment

- (a) Accounts paid as per below in July, August & September by the clerk under his delegated powers (paid via internet bank transfer).

Reference	Payee-	Total £
25 th July	Resource Directory – advert for new councillors	68.00
27 th July	Catena Eng Services – checking of lamppost number 3154 for VAS.	87.12
	TOTAL	155.12
Reference	Payee-	Total £
17 th Aug	J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 28 th July	869.14
17 th Aug	J Irons – clerk's expenses July - August*	24.00
17 th Aug	J Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3 weeks to 28 ^h July	213.60
17 th Aug	S Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3+ weeks to 28 th July*	273.24
17 th Aug	HMRC – employees' tax & NI July - August	238.39
17 th Aug	DCC – clerk's pension return in August	283.78
	TOTAL	1902.15

Reference	Payee-	Total £
17 th Sept	J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 25 th August	869.14
17 th Sept	J Irons – clerk's expenses August - Sept*	42.20
17 th Sept	J Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3+ weeks to 25 th August*	272.67
17 th Sept	S Hawkrige - Lengthsman pay 3+ weeks to 25 th August*	267.36
17 th Sept	HMRC – employees' tax & NI August - September	248.59
17 th Sept	DCC – clerk's pension return in September	283.78
17 th Sept	Biffa - waste collection September - December	547.72
	TOTAL	2531.46
	Grand total	4588.73

*expenses comprise the following:

August :

Clerk's home allowance in August (£24 per 4-week) £ 24.00

Steve Hawkrige's expenses comprise the following:

2 x pairs secateurs £17.96
Notebook £1.50
Bin bags £1.99
Printer inks £37.99
£59.44

September:

Clerk's petrol Shardlow to Stenson Fields & return (28 miles at 0.65p per mile) on 21st September to attend the September meeting £ 18.20
Home allowance (£24 per 4-week) £ 24.00
Total £ 42.20

Steve Hawkrige's expenses comprise the following:

2 x work T-shirts £5.00
Bin bags for wheelie carts £17.91
Glue dots drawing pins £9.60
£32.51

Jane Hawkrige's expenses comprise the following:

Correx boards (noticeboards) £38.22

(b) Income: Bank interest on 31st July £248.39
Bank interest on 31st August £264.03

(c) Bank balance as at 17th September 2023 £61764.01

1804/23 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
None.

1805/23 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk had circulated recent DALC newsletters and updates and other items from county & district councils.

1806/23 **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;
- Action List;
- To discuss employing a private freighter/ skip refuse service;
- The chairman will not be attending the next meeting.

1807/23 **Date of next meeting** – due to once again being inquorate an informal meeting will be held at Stenson Fields Primary School on Thursday 19th October 2023 at 7.15pm.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

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

Appendix.

Online Report to Stenson Fields Parish Council, Stenson Ward - September 2023

Public Open Spaces – Maintenance Charges

When the estate on Stenson Road was built, as with all developments, a need for public open space was created. The open space provision, including play areas, was required by the Planning Officers at South Derbyshire District Council. In the past, when new developments were built, developers would negotiate a period of payment to support the management of the spaces, usually 10 years, after which, the cost of maintenance was then covered by the Council Tax paid by all residents. Developers are not obliged to transfer the land to the District Council and in this instance, decided to appoint Premier Estates to maintain the estate. The developers assure your councillors that those purchasing the homes were told that there would be a charge for maintenance, but some residents now complain about the amount they are expected to pay. Residents are understandably aggrieved by having to pay both the maintenance fees and council taxes. Unfortunately, there appears to be little redress that freeholders (those who own the house outright, including the ground beneath it) unlike leaseholders (who have a right to live in a building but do not own the bricks or the ground it is built on). Leaseholders have statutory rights regarding service charges and can challenge the service provided at a tribunal. Freeholders do not have equivalent rights. Your Councillors have discussed their concerns with the District Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Strategic Director (Service Delivery), both of whom have since left the Authority, the replacement Strategic Director has already been informed regarding your Councillors' concerns. They ask that:

South Derbyshire District Council should be offered the public open space (POS) in the first instance.

South Derbyshire District Council will require at least 10 years of maintenance payments when they adopt the POS.

South Derbyshire District Council to specify the standard of POS to ensure that it is in adoptable condition.

Unfortunately, this will not affect the situation on the new estate, but it may help house purchasers of the thousands of new houses planed for Stenson Ward.

Matters raised at the Repton Area Forum 7th September 2023, regarding County Council Concerns of Cllrs Shepherd Singh

Highway Issues

- Pilgrims Way - Potholes
- Wragley Way – Border of South Derbyshire and Derby City. The deteriorated area needs to be removed and a new surface laid.
- The roundabout on Grampian Way has potholes.
- Grampian Way at Kirkland Way has potholes.
- A sunken grate on Stenson Road, which has been repaired previously requires attention again.
- Canal Bridge – Sinfin Lane – Barrow on Trent – Foliage on the western side of the bridge restricting the view of vehicle approaching from Deep Dale Lane. Please cut back. (DCC investigated in 2022 ownership of the land after the River and Canal Trust denied responsibility but did not report on the outcome).
- Garry Close Resurfacing required FS-Case-50938/7957. *Could DCC give an indication as to when the resurfacing is likely to be done?*
- Tyndale Chase Resurfacing required FS-Case-09378840. *Could DCC give an indication as to when the resurfacing is likely to be done?*
- Hole in the hedge, Tyndale Chase on to Stenson Road
- Consider a Mini Roundabout at the junction of Stenson Road and Wragley Way and a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing on Stenson Road opposite Pilgrims Way. (*Stenson Road is notorious for car accidents. Speed is a factor but alcohol is a factor which no speed limit will affect*). Two physical restrictions will have an effect. A car lost control coming down the A50 bridge and crashed into the last house on Dulverton Ave. A mini roundabout would have force a reduction in speed. If no mini roundabout is constructed, please provide bollards.
- Raised at a previous Area Forum – see F954387, F854387. (Structure built over Service Strip – Service Strip is public highway – see DCC email 13/01/2022).
- The triangle at the junction of Buckford Lane and Twyford Road (A5132), parking cars in transit for sale.

Thank Derbyshire County Council's Highways for-

- Resurfacing Tulla Close
- Resurfacing the highway approaching the A50 Bridge in Stenson village

School Meals

1. An increase of 95p/meal is untenable. Whilst some children get free school meals, those just outside the cut-off point will be hard pressed to afford the extra. Reverse the increase please.
2. Please undertake a survey after 6 months and publish the figures for the number of children taking meals.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Boundary Review

Under no circumstances should Stenson Fields be separated and be served by two different County Councillors.

Infinity Garden Village Report

- Funding may be held up because of lack of progress which may take the project of the time allocated for “Levelling up” funding provision.
- The strategic update – the planning application may be held up by the highways infrastructure.
- Sports provision may be provided off site.
- Derbyshire Wildlife have concerns about the development.
- Primary School provision, it was pointed out that Ashcroft is under subscribed.
- The Secondary School, which was due to open in September 2025, is now scheduled to open later. Pupils will have to be attend the school on foot if the location of the school is three miles or less.
- Concerns about the increase in traffic were discussed, pedestrian crossings will be needed.
- The meeting was told by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group that the new Cavell Centre medical provision campaigned for by Stenson Ward Councillors were told that the NHS is under massive financial pressure and national funding is indefinitely paused.

Matters Raised with SDDC

1. Stenson Ward Councillors contacted the SDDC officers asking, please see below the text of an email received.
Can anything be done about the grass verge to the left of the exit of Wragley way and Stenson Road junction, you literally cannot see cars coming down the hill it is dangerous.
2. The balancing pond on the southern end of the Stenson Road estate is to be transferred to SDDC within the next two weeks. Cllr Singh and I have asked that the hedge around the balancing pond be cut to give a clear sight of traffic approaching from the A50 bridge. Parents whose children attend the Landau Forte College in Derby walk their children to the junction prior to crossing Stenson Road and escorting their children to the new bus stop on Wragley Way. Can you confirm that the hedge has been cut?
3. Residents have told me that the public open space to the north of Glenmore Drive/Witton Court has not been cut for some time, can you confirm that the POS is still on the schedule for maintenance and will be cut soon?
4. The trees on the POS adjacent to the properties on Glenmore Drive and Witton Court have grown over the fence, residents ask if SDDC is to maintain the trees to remove overhanging branches?

.....

Bus Fare to John Port School

Residents of Stenson Ward have raised the following concerns:

- The unannounced increase in bus fares to the school.
- The inadequacy of the bus service to the school.
- The allegation that some residents of Stenson Fields receive free transport to the school.

The increased fares

Parents tell us that the first indication of the increase was when the children alighted the bus and were told by the driver that the return fare had increased from £3.00 to £4.00, £20 per month is a significant amount. Not knowing that an increase was pending could have put the pupil in an embarrassing position, being unable to fund the increased fare if they were just given the pre-increased fare. Has a justification for the increase been issued by the company, is so, may I request a copy?

Inadequate Service Provision

Parents complain that the bus service is often inadequate as the buses have numerous mechanical problems which leave pupils waiting 20-30 minutes for a replacement to convey them to school. A similar situation occurs on the return journey, parents expecting their children will naturally be anxious when they are late home. Is there any plan to update the busses?

Free Transport from Stenson Fields

Cllr Singh and I have been informed that pupils attending the school and living in the Stenson Road estate receive free transport. Can you confirm if this is correct and if so, why is it only available to certain areas of Stenson Fields?

Response from Derbyshire County Council's Senior Transport Officer

The school bus from Stenson area to John Port Spencer Academy is a commercial service not on contract to the Authority therefore the Authority do not set the fares.

The operator has confirmed that notices were put up on the bus last week to make pupils aware and the revised fare started today. The operator confirmed that no pupils will be left behind this week who do not have enough bus fare in case they did not see the sign last week.

We are aware there were some issues last week with the bus and the operator has confirmed these have now been rectified and the service should be operating on time.

With regards to families being entitled to free home to school transport assistance it may be helpful to clarify the Council's statutory duty. As part of the annual admissions process each autumn for pupils transitioning from primary school, families can state a preference for up to three secondary schools. However, transport arrangements, and any associated costs, are a parental responsibility if they do not meet the statutory criteria for travel assistance. Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to provide free transport for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16 years) if they:

- *attend the normal area school, or a school which is closer than the normal area school, and*
- *live beyond the statutory walking distance from that school*

The statutory walking distance is two miles if below the age of 8 and three miles if aged between 8 and 16. The Act also introduced additional transport assistance for families with low incomes. Parents of students aged 11 to 16 year-olds who are entitled to free school meals, or who receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, are entitled to free school transport to any one of the three nearest suitable schools where the distance from home is between two and six miles. The Council's Home to School Transport is available to view at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/get2school and families who feel they may qualify can apply for assistance from the same link.

Twyford

Cllr Singh has been in correspondence with Derbyshire County Council regarding the erosion of the River Trent bank.