

STENSON FIELDS PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the informal PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7.15pm in Stenson Fields Primary School

Participants: - Cllrs I Baker (Chair) and P Richardson.

In attendance: - CCllr Neil Atkin, DCllrs Lakhvinder Singh and David Shepherd, Steve Hawkridge (Lengthsman), two residents and J Irons (clerk).

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

1822/23 **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To receive DCllr Shepherd's report when/ if he arrives.

1823/23 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** None.

1824/23 **To determine which items if any from Part 2 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.** None.

1825/23 **PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

CCllr Neil Atkin.

1. cracks in pavements and kerbs either side of the A50 bridge are severe; DCllr Singh has reported these several times but no repair has been conducted. Cllr Richardson noted that water run-off from nearby fields cause flooding of the gulleys; DCllr Singh will ask for these to be cleared.

2. the grant money for purchase of the seat bench at Hambledon Drive will reach our bank account soon.

3. he has asked for an update from the Rivers & Canal Trust regarding the damaged Canal bridges in Aston Division and Stenson Ward as to when work will commence to undertake the repairs. There are two bridges at Barrow, the first being the road bridge at the junction of Sinfin Lane / Deepdale Lane. The second one is just along the Canal before the Ragley Boat stop which is in danger of collapsing as there is a hole in the centre of the wall which is falling away.

The bridge wall at Stenson Bubble needs a substantial repair after being hit by a taxi earlier in the year.

4. the Aston electoral update outlining monies spent in the area will be circulated soon.

5. a meeting/ exhibition to explain the 27-acre INNOVA energy storage development near the Stenson Bubble was held on Monday 13th November, the general response from the public was good albeit the location appeared to be unfavourable. Besides CCllr Atkin, Cllrs Baker, Richardson and Shepherd were also present.

Although the development is not within the Stenson Fields Parish boundaries, the traffic will have an impact on us, and the PC should take the opportunity to advise on the traffic plan.

Willington power station had been approached as a location, but it was not interested in selling its land. Since then, Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler has been contacted asking whether a compulsory purchase order could be considered. The project involves having 14-metre-high buildings while the field it sits upon will need to be torn up and hard-standing laid. The A5132 leading to the site may be closed for several weeks and would have to be strengthened (due to being subject to transport of heavy materials, batteries etc). In addition, light pollution will result from lighting around the site, which will be extensively lit through the night and perhaps beyond. CCllr Atkin suggests that we await the planning application to view before making comments.

Cllrs Baker, Richardson, and Shepherd asked INNOVA to arrange a presentation at January's meeting to the PC and residents.

One resident present complained of the poor condition of the pavement at the shops on Pilgrims Way. CCllr Atkin believed an enforced repair may be arranged, while DCllr Singh offered to find out the ownership of the shops. CCllr Atkin left at 8.30pm.

DCllr Lakhvinder Singh.

1. proposed new bus shelter on Wragley Way (housing side), near to Briset Close. DCllr Singh has made enquiries at both district and county councils which are ongoing.

2. DCllr Singh has once again spoken to the resident living near to the SID device on Wragley Way who expressed his displeasure at its brightness. Members decided that the device's lighting should be directed further into the road and away from the residence. Clerk to enquire at Highways and write to the resident.
3. the recent road closure on Stenson Road railway bridge on 15th & 16th November resulted in traffic congestion here, up to Goodsmoor Road and Grampian Way/ Sinfin Lane. The City council seemed to be at fault because it failed to notify the community of the closure. Members thought there was a lack of communication between City and district councils. DCllr Singh kindly offered to speak to a City council traffic clerk.

One resident present asked whether Remembrance Day poppies can be placed on lampposts next year. Council has considered this in the past and will consider it again.

1826/23 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** None

1827/23 **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. Clerk asked the website contractor to install measures that would reduce scam emails through the website contact facility. She has since added some new spam filter rules to the settings which should help to catch more spam that was getting through. This seems to have had the desired effect.
3. NJC has reached an agreement with government to increase the hourly rate for clerks by £1 per hour, backdated to 1st April 2023. This may be paid in next month's salary depending on council's approval.
4. clerk presented the Summer Play Scheme attendance figures, which at 342 is fewer than last year (441). Clerk to request that next year we book dates that avoid August bank holiday week.

1828/23 DCllr Shepherd arrived at 8.10pm.

1. medical provision continues to be an issue for residents having to attend the Littleover surgery; DCllr Shepherd will write to the CCG asking for improvements to the Arleston Lane surgery. Also, a new Cavell Centre (a pilot programme to bring all health and social care services together in one building with the co-location of GP practices and other health services such as pharmacies, dental clinics and mental health support) has been delayed.
2. at the recent IGV meeting DCllr Shepherd asked for more information on secondary school and medical facilities.
3. he will meet Arriva soon to ask whether the 5a service can be extended to the ADSA centre as well as raising bus shelter and signage issues.
4. he thought the INNOVA project to be good in principle although is concerned about heavy lorry transport through Barrow and on local roads.
5. the balancing pond at Saxon Gate has been adopted by SDDC. However, DCllr Shepherd wishes to have the developer cut hedges and address all outstanding ROSPA issues to be fixed before the adoption.
6. the Stenson Fields business park on Stenson Road planning application has been agreed.
7. he has asked Planning to investigate the moving of a resident's fence at Dulverton Avenue.

The chairman thanked both district councillors for their report after which they left at 8.40pm.

1829/23 **Matters for Discussion:**

- a) Police Issues/Speed Limits/Road Safety. Nothing further.
- b) Saxon Gate at Newton Village Development, Stenson Road. Nothing further.
- c) Lengthsmen Scheme. Steve Hawkrigde gave the following report:
 - Suggested Biffa collections before Christmas are 18th & 22nd December, after which the next will be 8th January; *clerk has informed Biffa.*
 - Trees at the top of Quantock Close are overgrown and encroaching on telephone wires. *Cllr Atkin will pursue.*
 - graffiti has been cleaned from the kickboard at Ledbury Chase play area although is still present in bus shelters, bins, and media boxes. It has been removed but soon reappears. Steve and Jane either clean or report this as they encounter it.

- The junction of Wragley Way and Stenson Road still needs trimming of overgrown grass and it is nearly impossible to see oncoming traffic. *The district councillors have discussed this with Highways and DCllr Shepherd will do so again.*
- The clothes recycling bin remains near to the Chinese take-away; *SDDC has previously stated that unless residents complain there is little to be done.*
- Pavement either side of the A50 bridge is cracked; covered above, *CCLlr Atkin will investigate.*
- The waste bin near the 5-a-side pitch at Fox Close has been vandalised twice and still needs replacing. *Clerk stated SDDC is aware and await new bins.*
- The area behind the school is used for drug smoking and lighting along here does not work. *Both DCllr Singh and the clerk reported to SNT for them to patrol; clerk to ask again.*
- Waste on the pavement leading to the Bubble Inn has now been cleared and the road swept.

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 above.

e) installation of 2 public seat benches. SDDC installed one on Hambledon Drive and is assessing the green area between Pilgrims Way and Zetland Crescent as a possible location for another.

f) update on the installation of SIDs; further to the above, members **agreed** that the Arleston Lane SID can remain in place provided the tree obscuring its signage is trimmed; clerk to ask SDDC.

g) to discuss employing a private freighter/skip refuse service. Clerk received a reply from SDDC over the volume of waste that was collected when it ran the service. He will now ask contractors whether they can provide this service.

h) Bus shelter on Wragley Way; covered above.

i) to consider a fenced dog-exercise area. The chairman suggested that interested residents submit a proposal on areas and designs; Steve to ask them.

j) outcome of the meeting held on 13th November over the proposed Stenson Lane energy storage development; covered above.

k) Budget update. Clerk had previously circulated an updated budget to members which was discussed.

1830/23 PLANNING

To consider planning applications:

To discuss the moving of a resident's fence at Dulverton Avenue; covered above. This is a similar situation to a house on Trent Close, the resident of which moved a fence which then encroached on POS land. On that occasion district council made the resident move the fence.

Decisions

DMPA/ 2023/7039 - The erection of a two-storey front, rear and side extension, detached garage and hardstanding at 12 Avon Close, Stenson Fields. Approved subject to conditions.

1831/23 Finance for payment

- (a) Accounts paid as per below in November by the clerk under his delegated powers (paid via internet bank transfer).

Reference	Payee-	Total £
15 th Nov	J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 20 th October	869.14
15 th Nov	J Irons – clerk's expenses October - November*	42.20
15 th Nov	J Hawkridge - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 16 th October	222.02
15 th Nov	S Hawkridge - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 16 th October	222.22
15 th Nov	HMRC – employees' tax & NI October – November	242.39
15 th Nov	DCC – clerk's pension return in November	283.78
15 th Nov	SDDC – new seat bench at Hambledon Drive	1687.00
	TOTAL	3568.75

*expenses comprise the following:

November:

Clerk's petrol Shardlow to Stenson Fields & return (28 miles at 0.65p per mile) on 16th November to attend the November meeting

£ 18.20

Home allowance (£24 per 4-week)	<u>£ 24.00</u>
Total	<u>£ 42.20</u>

(b)	Income: Bank interest on 31 st October	£247.80
(c)	Bank balance as at 9 th November 2023	£57,395.18

1832/23 **TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
None.

1833/23 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** Clerk had circulated recent DALC newsletters and updates and other items from county & district councils.

1834/23 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;
- Possible co-option of one or two new members;
- Possible employing of a private freighter/ skip refuse service;
- Update on a new bus shelter on Wragley Way;
- Update on the SIDs on Wragley Way and Arleston Lane;
- fenced dog-exercise area;
- to discuss and possibly agree next year's precept amount to be requested from SDDC;
- to agree (or not) July's minutes and subsequent financial transactions/ items.

1835/23 **Date of next meeting** – the next formal meeting (assuming council is quorate) will be held at Stenson Fields Primary School on Thursday 21st December 2023 at 7.15pm.

The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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