

SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Methodist Community Centre
on Tuesday, 11th January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor I Hutchinson
Councillor R Jones
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor Mrs K Walker

In Attendance 3 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Michael

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed them to the meeting.

21/113 To receive and approve apologies for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors P Marshall, J Mear and County Councillor Laughton.

21/114 To receive and note any declarations of interest
There were no Declarations of Interest

21/115 Public 10 Minute Forum
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm to allow for the public session.

A resident raised a question about the funding of the new Village Hall. They hoped there would be progress with the project during 2022, and asked whether the Parish Council would consider establishing a charity so that the maximum benefit could be gained from donations by individuals through Gift Aid and businesses through Corporation Tax.

The Chair responded that the Parish Council would consider all avenues for funding at the appropriate time.

There were no other questions so the Chair reconvened the meeting at 7.33pm.

21/116 To receive and approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 21st December 2021.
The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

21/117 To receive reports from County and District Councillors:
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.34pm to allow District Councillor Mrs Michael to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that the latest update from the NHS was that with effect from 7th January more than 83.9% had received 2 COVID-19 vaccinations, and 60.5% had received a further booster.

The next meeting of the of the IDB was scheduled for 27th January. It was expected that there would be an update given on funding.

The Safer Neighbourhood Group would be held on 13th January at South Muskham Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Michael asked if there were any issues that needed to be raised, as the Clerk had given apologies.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Michael for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.36pm

21/118

Planning

Decision Notices

21/02416/TWCA – Bridge House, High Street, Sutton-on-Trent - T1 Silver Birch - Fell dead tree alongside road. T2 Hazel - Overall crown reduction to 3 metres

Members noted the decision notice granting permission for the tree works as outlined.

21/119

Financials

a) To record receipts: - there were none.

b) Accounts for payment: - there were none. .

c) To approve changes to the Parish Council's Banking Mandate

The Clerk advised that the changes needed to the Parish Council's Banking Mandate required to be formally agreed by Members.

The Chair proposed that Maurice Jordan and Sandra Akerman be removed from all the Council's banking mandates with the NatWest and Scottish Widows.

It was further proposed that, if not already present, Councillors James Keeton, Paul Hibberd, Richard Jones, Paul Marshall and Jayne Saunders be added to all the Council's banking mandates with the NatWest and Scottish Widows.

This was unanimously AGREED.

d) To consider the 2022-23 Budget and to set a Precept for the 2022-23 financial year

The Clerk referred to documents circulated to Members outlining spend to date in the 2021-22 financial year, and a projected budget for 2022-23.

It was noted that the precept had not been increased since the 2018-19 financial year. Inflation was currently running at 4.2% and was likely to continue to rise.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Hadley that a 5% increase be applied to the precept. This would increase the precept from £25,421 to £26,692, giving a Band D tax rate of £48.

This was unanimously AGREED.

e) To note the conclusion of the period for the provision for the exercise of public rights for the 2020-21 financial accounts and to note the Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020-21.

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from PKF Littlejohn regarding the external audit report.

There had been no further challenge to the 2020-21 accounts and the External Auditor had now signed the accounts off. The Clerk would progress the final requirements in terms of the notice of the conclusion of audit.

21/120

Parish Council Matters

a) Notification of Essential Works A1 – 17th January to 25th May 2022

Members noted the correspondence from National Highways outlining essential drainage maintenance on the A1 between Sutton on Trent and Blyth.

The works will relieve the drainage blockages caused by debris including silts, leaves and roots which can cause the surface water to back up the system, through the drainage chambers and onto the carriageway.

Work was due to start on Monday 17 January 2022 and was expected to be completed by Wednesday 25 May 2022. Works will take place between 8pm to 6am, Monday to Friday. Single lane closures will be in place.

b) To note the arrangements for the advertising of a Casual Vacancy

After discussion it was AGREED that the closing date for the Casual Vacancy be extended to 7th February 2022.

c) Update report from Clerk

The Clerk advised that investigations into the inspection of the play area indicated that Wicksteed Leisure had undertaken this previously. The last inspection had been in November 2019. The cost for an inspection would be £60 plus VAT. Members AGREED that an inspection be booked as soon as possible.

An invitation had been extended to the IDB to attend the March meeting of the Parish Council.

21/121

To receive updates and agree actions:

a) Playing Field

The Sternthorpe Close play area had been covered under Minute No 21/120(c). Persimmon had confirmed they were speaking to their designers regarding the Strawberry Field play area.

b) Cemetery

Councillor Sloan advised that the water butts had been installed. Two branches had been removed from the tree at the entrance, it was fairly stable at the moment. The pest control company had been on site for rabbit control. The Clerk confirmed that no invoice had yet been received.

c) Highways

The Chair highlighted the potholes on Main Street, near the junction with Carlton Lane and also the surface at the junction of Ossington Lane and the Great North Road at Carlton-on-Trent. The Clerk to log on the highways portal.

d) Community Speed Watch

There were no issues to report.

e) Public Footpaths

It was noted that a dropped kerb had been installed at Nursery Lane, and Rights of Way had advised that work was planned to improve the surface. This would be undertaken later this week and would involve preparation of the existing stone surface and applying a top dressing of tarmac.

The Clerk was asked to raise concerns about the condition of the bridge at the end of FP6.

f) Churchyard

There were no issues to report.

g) Nurseries Hall

Councillor Jones advised there were no decisions that needed to be taken by Members this month. However, there were some matters that Members needed to be aware of before the February meeting.

- i) the Environment Agency have concluded that Persimmon Homes have not undertaken the work necessary regarding the flooding risk and reducing the level of the land. A pragmatic solution was being sought but if this was not acceptable to the Environment Agency, Persimmon will have to reduce the level of the land. It will, therefore, be some time before the site is suitable to accept.
- ii) regarding the 8 year period, and transfer of money, the argument put to NSDC is that because the Parish Council can't accept the transfer of land as it is not fit for purpose. Therefore, the Parish Council are prevented from having the benefit of the land for the full 8 years and the time period should not start until the land is transferred. This is being considered by NSDC, and has been with the Planning and Legal Departments since September, with no response as yet despite reminders. Councillor Jones considered that the Parish Council would have to assume that the 8 year period commenced from the stage at which the money was transferred from Persimmon Homes to Newark & Sherwood District Council, which was 18 months ago.
- iii) The Working Group had not had the opportunity to consider the cost estimate as yet. The original estimate was for £700,000, but this was now at £885,000. If there was a requirement to pay VAT on the £885,000 this would take the total cost to £1,062,000.

The question Members will have to consider is whether this would be achievable.

More information will be brought to the February meeting to Members consideration.

h) Sports Club

Information relating to the Queen's Canopy had been circulated to Members. 50% of the trees had already been sold. The Chair asked that 5 trees be reserved for the Parish Council, for consideration by Members at the February meeting.

The external Defibrillator cabinet would not be received until March so the unit would not be accessible by the public until then.

i) Library Support Group

The Clerk and Councillor Mrs Walker had reviewed the documentation regarding the SLA prior to the meeting. It had been agreed that further clarification was required, which the Clerk would seek from the County Council.

Councillor Mrs Walker advised that the group were trying to open on a Friday. The support of the school would be key in extending opening. The Chair to raise with the School.

j) Social Media & Website

The Clerk confirmed that she now had access to the Facebook page.

k) War Memorial

There were no issues to report.

l) Any Other Reports

Councillor Blanchard referred to an approach made by the Festival Committee asking about plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was AGREED that the Clerk would liaise with organisations within the village and bring a report back to the February meeting.

Councillor Blanchard suggested that a memorial seat could perhaps be considered at the junction of Main Street/High Street, and a commemorative medal for children at the school.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that the County Council were going to allow road closures for events, and Newark & Sherwood District Council were looking to provide funds which Parish Council's could apply for.

The Chair thanked Members for their reports.

21/122 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

a) Partnership with Breakthrough Communications

Information had been circulated to Members. The Clerk would seek a full list to be distributed to Members.

21/123 Correspondence

There were no items to note.

21/124 To receive items for notification

There were none.

There were no items for discussion.

Close: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.21pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 15th February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Community Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED.