

SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre, Sutton-on-Trent on Tuesday, 12th December 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor M Allen
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor M Moody
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor S Tyrer

In Attendance County Councillor B Loughton, District Councillor Mrs Michael (arr 8.26pm) and one member of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/076 Apologies for Absence
Received and accepted from Councillors Keeton and Marshall

23/077 To receive and note any declarations of interest
There were none.

23/078 Public 10 Minute Forum
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm to allow for the public session.

A resident was pleased to note that all the contact details for members of the Parish Council were now available on the website.

A resident referred to previous enquiries raised regarding FP5 and the installation of yellow lines at the Strawberry Fields development. The Clerk advised that both matters had been referred to the relevant departments at the County Council but no updates had yet been received. Chaser emails would be sent.

The Chair thanked the resident for their input and reconvened the meeting at 7.33pm.

23/079 To receive and approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 14th November 2023
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/080 District Councillor Report
This item would be taken when District Councillor Mrs Michael arrived.

23/081 Newark & Sherwood District Council
To consider correspondence received regarding the recent Storm Babet Flood Event
Members noted correspondence received from the Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer at Newark & Sherwood District Council. After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk request sandbags and aqua sacs as offered. In terms of places of safety, the District Council to be advised that the first place would be the Methodist Community Centre, followed by the Church (as the highest point), then the Sports Club (depending on Grassthorpe Road not being flooded) and the District Council's Community Centre on Snell Close.

23/082 To consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of County Councillor Loughton
This item would be taken when Councillor Loughton arrived.

23/083

To consider the recent flooding and the adoption of a Community Flood Plan

The Chair advised that a resident had come forward and volunteered to lead on flooding. This would be together with Councillor Sloan.

It was noted that, along with Mill Close and Grassthorpe Road, water had also been close to properties in Rose Hill Drive and Great North Road.

Discussion took place around establishing a WhatsApp group as a way of communicating swiftly with residents in the event of flooding. This was AGREED.

Councillor Sloan referred to the online training recently completed for Flood Wardens. The presentation would be circulated to Members for information. After discussion, it was AGREED that all Councillors names be added as Flood Wardens and for training. The Clerk would apply for any equipment that the scheme was able to provide.

Grassthorpe Road drain to be again logged with Via and a site meeting to be requested.

23/082 (Cont)

To consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of County Councillor Laughton

With the arrival of Councillor Laughton, the Chair suspended the meeting at 7.54pm for his report.

Councillor Laughton advised that the County Council were looking to make changes to the delivery of service that would ensure a balanced budget over the next two years.

The County Council had ratified the Mayoral process, which meant official notification would be sent to the Secretary of State to go through the Parliamentary process. A Mayoral election would be held in May 2024.

From year 3, the Mayoralty will be spending £650m a year, which will come from Central Government. £350m of this would be on integrated transport alone. The Police & Crime Commissioner role will eventually be absorbed into the Mayoral role.

Councillor Laughton advised that a request had been made for properties flooded on Grassthorpe Road to be subject to a Section 19 review.

Councillor Smith referred to the problems with the drain on Grassthorpe Road. Previous correspondence on this matter had been shared with Councillor Laughton. After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk request a site meeting with relevant officers at Via and the County Council, to include Councillors Sutton and Moody.

The Chair referred to the condition of the roads on the Crow Park Avenue estate. The Clerk confirmed these had been logged on the portal previously.

Councillor Laughton was asked to establish the present position with the yellow lining on Strawberry Fields and with FP5.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 8.10pm.

23/084

Planning

(a)

Applications

There were no applications to consider.

Decision Notice

23/01414/OUT – Land at The Meerings, Sutton-on-Trent - Outline Application for a residential development of up to two dwellings all matters reserved except access

Members received and noted the decision notice refusing permission for the development as outlined.

Tree Works

Members noted the following tree works:

23/01886/TWCA – Bank House, 29 Main Street, Sutton-on-Trent - Yews T1 and T2 - Crown lift to 2.5m over footpath and 5.2m over road from ground level, Crown thin by 10%. Lime T3 - Crown lift to 2.5m over footpath and 5.2m over road from ground level, Crown thin by 10%, clear around light column T4 Cherry/small Yew/Acer Crown lift to provide 5.2m clearance from ground level – NO OBJECTION

23/01889/TPO – 15A Palmer Road, Sutton-on-Trent - Undertake works to trees protected by TPO N335 identified as T1: Crown lift to 2m above ground level Crown clean - deadwood and crown thin by 10% Tidy stubs from previous work – NO OBJECTION

Planning Appeals

23/00789/FUL – Land off Old Great North Road - Erection of 1 No. five bedroom house with a detached garage and associated parking including tree and hedgerow removal

Members noted that there were no comments on the planning portal from the Parish Council on the original application. After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Blanchard that a submission be made to the planning inspector in support of the proposal. It was considered that if this matter had been before the Parish Council it would have been supported as it was a single property, provided any design was appropriate for the Conservation Area. This was unanimously AGREED.

Tamworth House, Palmer Road, Sutton-on-Trent – Single storey rear extension

Members noted the submission of an appeal following the refusal of planning permission. This application had been supported when before the Parish Council so it was not considered any further correspondence needed to be submitted.

23/080 Cont District Councillor Report

The Chair suspended the meeting at 8.22pm for District Councillor Mrs Michael to present her report.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that Planning Enforcement had served a breach of condition notice about the Charles Church development regarding flood alleviation work on Strawberry Fields. The Clerk would ask for a copy of the notice and, when received, would discuss with the Planning Officer to establish whether this breach affected the timeline of the Section 106 funding.

The kerbside glass recycling scheme had been put back into 2024.

Councillor Mrs Michael referred to the recent flood event. Across Nottinghamshire, many areas had 100ml, some 150ml. There had been over a month of rain in 4 days. The County Council had 1,143 reports of internal flooding and had 28 Section 19s to review.

A meeting of the Internal Drainage Board had recently been held where it was reported that the IDBs Chief Surveyor and Director had visited the village during the flooding so were aware of the position and they had spoken with residents during the event. A meeting would now be arranged with the land owner regarding the flood alleviation scheme in the hope that this could be progressed.

The Drainage Board were reviewing their technical systems as they were aware that there had been a failure of the pumps recently.

A Community Recovery Grant was available through Newark & Sherwood District Council. An amount of £500 was available for any household who had water ingress, with the recipient being the occupier and not the landlord (if rented). There was also a Council Tax rebate scheme for those that were unable to return to their homes due to flooding.

For businesses, there was a 100% rates relief available for a minimum of 3 months if water had entered premises and a business recovery grant of up to £2.5k per business.

There was also a property flood resilience scheme available with a grant of £5k inc VAT available.

As of 8th December, 256 applications had been received and payments of £105k paid out to 210. There had been 13 applications to the business recovery scheme, with three payments made.

The District Council will be contacting residents that had been affected by flooded to direct them to the grants. The deadline for applications is 31st January 2024.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that the Internal Drainage Board were aware that more work was required and were currently investigating this. Additional funding would have to be sought if any extra work was identified.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Michael for her report and reconvened the meeting at 8.39pm.

23/085

Financials

a) To record receipts:

There were none.

b) To approve invoices for payment:

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – November 2023 - £304.05
- HMRC PAYE – November 2023 - £304.05
- Clerk's Backpay – Apr to Nov 23 - £111.20
- Freddie Allen Gardens & Landscapes – Planting of Whips - £900
- Sage Accounts - £9.60
- Specialist Forestry Services – Churchyard Tree Works - £1,140
- TDP Ltd – Memorial Bench - £514.56
- Internal Audit Fee - £49.10
- RCAN – Membership Fee - £114

c) Financial Report as at 30th November 2023

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 30th November with a balance of £76,034.90 in the current account and £103,398.80 in the deposit account.

d) To consider budget priorities in advance of the January 2024 meeting

The Clerk advised that Members would need to consider setting the Precept for the 2024/25 financial year at the 9th January meeting. In advance of this, Members were asked to consider if there were any priorities they would like including and, if so, to advise the Clerk in order that research could be undertaken into the potential impact on the Council's finances.

23/086

Parish Council Matters

- a) To ratify the Parish Council's response to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for the Great North Road Solar Park
Members received and ratified the Parish Council's response which had been submitted in line with the deadline of 7th December 2023. A further joint meeting of the affected parishes would be arranged in January 2024.

Thanks were extended to Councillor Keeton and the Clerk for putting the response together.

- b) To receive the Trentside Parishes minutes from 30th October 2023
Members received and noted the minutes without comment. The Clerk advised that the meeting scheduled for 11th December had been cancelled until the New Year.

23/087

To receive updates and agree actions:

- a) Playing Field

To receive an update on the proposals for the Sternthorpe Close playing field

Councillor Allen referred to the report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

After discussion, Members agreed that the fencing should run along the top of the bank and that it should be hoop top with a plain galvanised finish. Members also agreed that the option to create a linked play area with all equipment on one play surface, with a pathway from the main path down the side of the field, was preferred.

A maximum budget of £30,000 was agreed with Councillor Allen to start negotiations with contractors.

The Clerk outlined the Parish Council's financial position, detailing an amount of £128,943 as ear marked reserves, which left general reserves of £50,490.

- b) Cemetery

To receive an update on progress on the purchase of Cemetery software

This item to be deferred for consideration at the January meeting.

- c) Highways

Members noted that the balance of works on Main Street would be undertaken in February 2024. All other matters had been covered earlier on the agenda.

- d) Community Speed Watch

There were no matters to report.

- e) Public Footpaths

Councillor Hadley noted that the footpath from Palmer Road to the Great North Road had been cleaned and cut back.

Councillor Moody reported that the footbridge on the Holmes, previously reported, had been repaired.

- f) Churchyard

The Clerk advised that the tree works previously agreed and applied for had been completed.

- g) Village Hall

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would be required to meet the legal costs of the District Council for the Deed of Variation, in addition to its own legal costs. After discussion, it was AGREED that a sum of £2,000 be set aside to cover legal costs.

- h) Sports Club

There were no matters to report.

- i) Library Support Group

There were no matters to report.

j) War Memorial

The Clerk advised that a response to queries raised regarding the Section 115 was awaited.

k) Any Other Reports

Councillor Blanchard confirmed that the village gateway sign on Grassthorpe Road was back in place. Thanks were extended to Hutchinson Engineering Services for their generous support in repairing the sign and putting it back in place.

The Chair thanked Members for their reports.

23/088 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

There were no matters to consider.

23/089 Correspondence

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received regarding an application for tree works at Sutton-on-Trent Primary School. This would be included on the January agenda.

Contact had been received from a resident of Old Great North Road regarding drains and flooding on the highway. The Clerk confirmed this had been logged with Via.

23/090 To receive items for notification

There were none.

Close: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th January 2024 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.