

Minutes of Smisby Parish Annual Council Meeting 14th November 2023

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Taft (Chairman), Sullivan and Dickens, Clerk Caroline Crowder

Members of the public and other organisations: 4 members of the public.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Councillors Cuming and Brooke, County Councillor Muller, District Councillors Haines and Lowe offered their apologies.

2. To receive declarations of Interest on items on the agenda (under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring an interest you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is "personal" or "prejudicial").

None.

3. To determine which items if any on the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

None.

4. Chairman's communications (if any)

- i. The Chairman asked if the Councillors present had attended a Councillor Essentials training course with DALC. Councillor Dickens had and Councillor Sullivan wished to attend.
- ii. He wished to encourage the community to report issues directly to DCC and SDDC. The Clerk advised all links are on the Parish Council website, <https://www.smisby.org.uk/pc-useful-links>
- iii. As the flooding issues in the parish are now under control, he advised he would no longer be attending the flood liaison meeting.
- iv. Christmas carols are on 25th November at 18:00 in the church.

5. Clerk's report

- i. Clerk is on annual leave 4th-8th, 27th-29th December.
- ii. Pay rise has now been agreed, backpay will go into December payment.

6. Opportunity for public questions and comment (10 minutes)

Alix from Remedi, gave a brief presentation on the Derbyshire Immediate Justice Scheme and their restorative justice service, for cases of anti-social behaviour. The scheme is to provide low level offenders the opportunity to (voluntarily) take part in reparative activities, such as community clean-ups, supporting community gardens / charity shops / foodbanks, or directly repairing the harm caused within the affected community. Suitable candidates for the scheme are put forward by Police and Local Authorities and offenders are supervised by a case worker. The intention is to (a) 'nudge' offenders away from performing acts of anti-social behaviour and (b) to help victims of such behaviour to feel that justice is being served.

Remedi wish to promote their work within local communities, identify potential placements opportunities and receive community feedback / suggestions for the scheme.

7. Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meetings held on 12th September 2023
Resolved, all Councillors approved the minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true and accurate record.

8. Parochial Charity, District and County Councillors Communications

- i. District Councillor Haines, advised that the mapping portal has not been updated.
- ii. County Councillor Muller, advised that work is continuing over damage caused by the recent storm. He advised that DCC are implementing measures to control the budget issues recently announced. The new combined authority had key legislation approved by Westminster.
- iii. Rob Hounslow from the Parochial Charity advised that the Christmas hampers are being put, the qualifying age is 60, this is the biggest list to date. They have contributed to the pavement work that has recently been undertaken by the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked them for the support. They are still working on moving over to a charitable organisation. They are still looking for land to try and protect Smisby parish. Continuing to support welfare needs in the village. They always welcome ideas into them for ways they can contribute. They had noticed that the cutting of the football pitch does not seem to have done correctly. The Chairman advised that he agreed and that the Council had been in communication with the contractor. He reported to Rob Hounslow that the moles have returned.

9. Publishing of Council Responses

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to this.

10. Tree and Benches

SDDC have advised that they will be removing the damaged tree and replacing it with a single stemmed, standard size, Fagus Sylvatica Purpurea, at the same location. The Chairman advised that tape, cordoning-off the pinfold, needed replacing. Clerk to notify SDDC.

11. Playground Inspection and Repairs

No items currently above very low risk. The Chairman noted that there is moss and algae on the equipment. Clerk to ask SDDC if they can remove as part of the minor maintenance agreement. He also noted that the bin needs to be replaced, the Clerk is to look into this.

12. Jubilee Field Grounds Maintenance

The Chairman has been carrying out frequent checks of the field and found that the grass has not been cut correctly. Complaints have been received by the Councillors and also from the Parochial Charity as they don't believe the football pitch has been cut correctly. The Clerk advised they had spoken to the contractors who believe they are only two cuts behind the schedule. Ideas for the future use of the field have been asked for previously via the newsletter with no response.

13. Highways

There have been quite a few repairs recently. Councillors Taft and Dickens continue to report issues.

14. Speed Watch

More volunteers are needed, anybody interested can contact the Clerk.

15. Portable Noise Monitor

Nothing to report.

16. Newsletter

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the newsletter being in a digital format, with a maximum of 10 paper copies to go into the phone box, minimum of three newsletters per year. Clerk to ask the two sponsors if they wish to continue to advertise for £50 per year, starting from 1st April 2024.

17. Policies

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the updates in the privacy policy and the new retention policy.

18. To discuss and agree any response to any current Planning Applications

No comments.

19. Dates of future meetings

9th January 2023; 12th March 2024 and 14th May 2024.

20. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the payments

Date	Method of Payment	to whom paid	Particulars of payment	Total £	VAT £	Already paid under Clerk and Chairman Delegate Authority
04/10/2023	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (September 23)	285.85		Y
04/10/2023	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and maintenance	65.35	10.53	Y
04/10/2023	Bank transfer	Royal British Legion Poppy Shop	Poppy wreath	21.88	3.67	Y
04/10/2023	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and tax	128.40		Y
14/11/2023	Bank transfer	H Salt	Langhmen	60.00		
14/11/2023	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection	66.68	10.93	
14/11/2023	Bank transfer	SJL Landscapes	Grounds maintenance			
14/11/2023	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (October 23)	250.65		
14/11/2023	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and swing replacement	399.18	66.63	

21. Payments Received

- i. 05/10/2023 From the Parochial Charity £4,180.00 Grant towards pavement repairs

22. Communications received since last meeting need updating

- i. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 9; Newsletter x 9
ii. DALC: Newsletter x 3; DET Funding Scheme 2023; Training Session - Conduct in Meetings & Employee Relations - 24 Oct 10 am; Clerks Pay Award 2023/24
iii. DCC: Newsletter x 6; Town and Parish Councils Presentation Pack

- iv. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 2; South Derbyshire Community Grant Fund Update; South Derbyshire District Council Flood Liaison Meeting; Active South Derbyshire Newsletter Autumn 2023
- v. South Derbyshire CVS: Funding Bulletin x 2; Health and Wellbeing Bulletin; Invite to AGEM
- vi. District Councillor Haines: Free Tree Scheme; Active Communities Newsletter
- vii. District Councillor Lowe: Home Upgrade Grant x 2; Highcroft Smisby
- viii. County Councillor Muller: District Review
- ix. Police: Fireworks Night; September Newsletter
- x. SJL Landscapes: Complaint; Smisby Visits
- xi. Colleen Hempson: EMA Parish Forum - 13th November 11.00-13.15
- xii. Chris Wait and Associates: Pistern Hills Farm Woodland
- xiii. Parish Newsletter Feedback x 2
- xiv. Martin Buckley SDDC: Beech Trees x 2

The Chair thanked the Parish Councillors for attending and declared the meeting closed. The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January at 19:30, following the finance committee meeting which commences at 18:30 in Smisby Village Hall.

Signed:  Date: 9th Jan '24