

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting 12th November 2024

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

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillor Lowe and 3 members of the public.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

County Councillor Muller and District Councillor Haines.

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)

Councillor Taft advised that, as there were no longer active flood concerns within Smisby village, he would not be attending the next Flood Liaison Meeting on Thursday 21st Nov. Councillor Cuming said that there are some blocked drains on Forties Lane, he will report these to DCC for further action.

The Christmas Carol Service will be held on the Sat 30th Nov at 5:30 pm and this will be immediately followed by the Parish Christmas Party in the Village Hall. There are still a few places remaining for anyone who has not yet registered for the Christmas Party.

Councillor Taft attended the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th Nov and presented a poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Cuming also presented one on behalf of SDDC. Councillor Taft wished to thank all those who had been involved in cleaning the War Memorial and decorating the village, in readiness for Remembrance Day.

Councillor Taft feels that the Village War Memorial requires a professional clean and re-preservation. He will write to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to seek their guidance on how best to arrange this.

Last year’s wreaths had been removed by a parishioner and he thanked them for their work on maintaining the memorial. It was discussed when the optimum time would be to remove the wreaths after Remembrance Day. Guidance from the Royal British Legion suggests that poppies are best removed after a few weeks and not later than early New Year so, in line with this guidance, it was felt that they should be removed with the Christmas Tree, when it is taken down in January. Councillor Taft will ask for parish community feedback, in the next newsletter, which is due out before Christmas.

It was also discussed about adding more names to the memorial, all second world war names are listed in the memorial inside the church, and it is understood that other names, which could be included, are listed on parish memorials elsewhere, so no action necessary.

5. Clerk's report

i. Finance Meeting

The Clerk suggested for this to be held at 18:45 before the next meeting on 14th January 2025. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed.**

ii. Pay Award

This has now been agreed for this year, backpay will go into the clerk's next salary payment.

iii. Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting

The clerk encouraged all to submit comments as individuals or Councillors.

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the Clerk submitting a response for the Council as a whole.

iv. Changes to National Insurance

No effect as clerk's salary is less than the £5,000 threshold.

v. Clerk Annual Leave

5th – 12th and 29th – 31st December 2024

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

A member of the public reported that a footpaths sign needs re-erecting. Councillor Cuming advised that he has reported this twice, and Councillor Taft once. He will report it again and include the sign by the Tap House too. Councillor Brooke advised that the footpath across the field is no longer useable as the farmer has ploughed it, he will report this to DCC.

Another member of the public asked what the plans for the Jubilee Field were. Councillor Taft advised that SPC have been asking for ideas through the newsletter for many years. Councillor Sullivan agreed to lead a working party and Councillor Taft will ask people to contact her directly if they wish to be involved or have ideas. Councillor Dickens suggested that an anonymous ideas box could be placed in the village hall during the Christmas Party and people could use a form to express their thoughts. She agreed to compile and print the forms.

7. Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2024

Resolved, all Councillors approved the minutes and the signed them as a true and accurate record.

8. Parochial Charity Communication

Councillor and Trustee Dickens advised that the Charity are carrying on with the CIO consultation. They are undergoing their biannual review with Rathbones in December. They are giving out grants to students. They have recently had an application to support a person who is to go to South America to help build homes, they have agreed to support this.

9. District and County Councillors Communications

District Councillor Lowe thanked Councillor Cuming for laying of the SDDC wreath. The next area forum for the Repton area is scheduled for 21st January 2025 in Newton Solney village hall.

10. South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan Part 1 Consultation

Resolved, Councillor Cuming agreed to review and respond on behalf of the Parish Council

11. Derbyshire County Council Draft Council Plan 2025-29 Consultation

The timeframe for consultation has now closed.

12. Data Protection Policy

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to adopt this policy

13. Sexual and General Harassment Policy and Procedure
Resolved, all Councillors agreed to adopt this policy

14. Aircraft Noise Nuisance

Councillor Cuming provided some background on the four-year noise action plan that the airport adopted about a year ago. The Parish Council do write to the airport when they feel that an aircraft may have breached these rules. They do not seem to have any rules in place for repeat offenders, he has drafted a response to them. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed for him to submit the response on the Council's behalf.** He also agreed to set up some briefing sessions for the parish community to let them know what the public consultation covers and how they can respond to it. It was suggested that he invite a representative from the airport to attend.

15. Pinfold Ownership and Restoration Plan

Councillor Brooke advised that he had looked into the pinfold land and although its ownership is unregistered, it falls under the responsibility of the Highways Authority, which is Derbyshire County Council. It was discussed that the Parish Council would like to tidy-up the area and make it useable again. The Clerk cautioned the Parish Council that they should seek the permission to do this from Derbyshire County Council. Councillor Taft is to write a specification for the work needed and three quotes will then be sought. It was also discussed about the ownership of the land on Chapel Street that is currently used by some for parking. Councillor Brooke advised that the verges and pavement fall under the Highways Authority, but the land belongs to SDDC. District Councillor Lowe took an action to look further into this.

16. Playground Inspections and Repairs

The Clerk advised that there was nothing showing as more than a low risk on the latest report, no further action needed at this time. Parish councillors also do regular checks.

i. Repair Estimates

Councillor Brooke advised that the lease of the field says that the Parochial Charity are responsible for any repairs or replacement of the playground equipment. It was discussed further and agreed that once the working party has formulated some options, the Parochial Council could then be contacted to discuss further. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to take no further action on the playground unless the inspection reports highlighted an area that needed action to ensure it was safe to use.**

17. Highways

After the recent surfacing work there are still some signs missing. Councillor Cuming agreed to report this to DCC, the clerk advised him to send the case number to County Councillor Muller to chase a response to it.

18. Speed Watch

Councillor Cuming advised that they are regularly running speed watches, although the darker months mean less available day light. They are always looking for new volunteers. He is actively keeping up to date with the other areas in Derbyshire that have purchased SIDs and will keep reporting back to the Council.

19. Newsletter

Councillor Taft received feedback that a resident of Smisby had not received a hand delivered newsletter. Councillor Dickens advised she would report this back to the Parochial Charity. He also proposed that the newsletter be circulated via the 'Smisby Crew' WhatsApp Group, when paper copies are circulated. For people with strong connections to the parish, but who live outside its boundaries, Councillor Taft proposed they should receive a postal copy of the newsletter. He agreed to compile a list of addressees for the Parochial Charity.

20. Noticeboard outside the Village Hall Repairs

This has now been replaced by the Village Hall. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to remove the old noticeboard from the Council's asset register.**

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

No comments

22. Dates of future meetings

14th January 11th March 13th May 8th July, 9th September, 11th November 2025.

23. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

Date	Method of Payment	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Total £	VAT £	Already paid under Clerk and Chairman Delegated Authority
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	Royal Mail (via clerk)	Postage	0.85		Yes
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (September 2024)	282.62		Yes
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grounds maintenance 8 th payment	364.19	60.70	Yes
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and minor maintenance (September 2024)	65.58	10.93	Yes
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE and NI	93.80		Yes
01/10/2024	Bank transfer	Royal British Legion (via clerk)	Poppy wreath	50.00		Yes
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (October 2024)	282.62		No
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grounds maintenance 9 th payment	364.19	60.70	No
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and minor maintenance (October 2024)	65.58	10.93	No
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	A person	Lengthsman	60.00		No
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	Amazon (via clerk)	Folder	3.99	0.67	No
11/11/2024	Bank transfer	Cartridge People (via clerk)	Printer ink	34.90	5.82	No

24. Payments Received

- i. 16/09/2024 HMRC VAT refund £553.23
- ii. 24/09/2024 Parochial Charity Grounds maintenance £518.00

25. Bank Balance

£10,876.34

26. Communications received since last meeting.

- i. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 10; Newsletter x 5; Website x 2
- ii. DALC: Newsletter x 4; Important Update: New NALC Website Launch; Subject: Upcoming Training Courses and DALC Day Details; Employment law Updates
- iii. DCC: Newsletter x 9; Parish & Town Council Liaison Forum 15 October 2024; Derbyshire County Council Snow Warden Scheme 2024-25; Parish & Town Council Liaison Forum 15 October 2024; Flood Risk Management; Information request: Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice
- iv. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 2; Polling District and Place Review; Free Tree Scheme and Repair Cafe opportunities!; Annual Canvass - Register Of Electors; South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan Part 1 Consultation; South Derbyshire District Council Climate free climate and Environment Training for Town and Parish Councils; The 2024 Draft Local Plan Consultation is now open; South Derbyshire District Council Flood Liaison Meeting - Hold the date (21st Nov -10am); South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan Review Part 1 Consultation; Parish - New look planning application search; Flood liaison meeting SDDC; Autumn 2024

- Newsletter; Invitation from an unknown sender: South Derbyshire District Council Flood Liaison Meeting @ Thu 21 Nov 2024 10:00 - 12:00 (GMT)
- v. South Derbyshire CVS: Funding Bulletin x3; Health and Wellbeing Bulletin x ;1 Our Befriending Report & Upcoming AGM!
 - vi. District Councillor Lowe: Draft Local Plan; Leisure Contract Activity and Wellbeing Newsletter
 - vii. Parochial Charity: Parochial Charity Response Letter; Resignation of Claire Hynam, Nominative Trustee
 - viii. County Councillor Muller: PC Meeting 10th September 2024
 - ix. East Midlands Airport: EMA Parish Forum - Monday 2nd September 2024 at 13.30; Aircraft Noise Nuisance; Community Flyer
 - x. CPRE: Breaking News - Pylons and Planning Training
 - xi. Derbyshire Police Force: SNT Update; Mercia area Newsletter
 - xii. Flight Evaluation Executive, East Midlands Airport: RE Aircraft Noise Nuisance
 - xiii. A Parishioner: Smisby War Memorial
 - xiv. Immediate Justice Newsletter
 - xv. CPF Landscape and Heritage: Smisby Open Space - SDDC Audit
 - xvi. Shed Grounds Maintenance: Elevate Your Outdoor Space!

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 14th January 2025 in Smisby Village Hall at 19:30.

Signed: Date: