

Smisby Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting 13th March 2018

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 13th March 2018.

Smisby Parish Council Attendance

Councillor Steve Hewitt (Chair)

Councillor Rob Hounslow

Councillor Mark Parnham

Councillor Simon Barnett

Parish Clerk Emma Stroud

Members of the public and other organisations

District Councillor Peter Smith, 2 members of the public

1 Apologies

Councillor Sarah Rushman, County Councillor Linda Chilton, District Councillor Michael Stanton

2 Declaration of Interest

None

3 Items identified to exclude public

None identified

4 Chairman's Communications

A warm welcome to everyone.

5 Opportunity for public questions

Dog poo is still an issue on pavements, verges and roads particularly on Chapel Street and forties lane. This will continue to be mentioned in the newsletters.

The building works and parking from 29 Chapel Street were discussed. It was felt that there is some inconsiderate parking on the road and in-front of the bollards. District Councillor Smith has provided a letter that SDDC will be sending to all dwellings within the immediate vicinity. It was also noted that this issue is not just due to residents, many visitors to the village for Art club and country bike rides etc also contribute. It is hoped that this will be a temporary problem and that the parking pressure will ease once building work at 29 Chapel Street has finished.

One member of the public suggested that Chapel Street becomes a one-way system to help with the bottle neck and that some parts of the footpath, that can't be used, are removed and made in to diagonal parking bays. This could

also make the route from Main Street to the recreation ground a safer route to walk (particularly for children and the elderly). It was District Councillor Smith's understanding that DCC would be unlikely to pursue these options due to their budget, the fact that planning/consultations would be needed, its residential only/not a main route and that it would impact on infrastructure.

With the current parking situation deliveries for oil and bin collections can be difficult.

A white line on the road in-front of the phone box was also discussed to deter people parking in a potentially dangerous place.

It was also mentioned that keeping the hedges trimmed low around the corner will help with visibility.

Councillor Hewitt to email District Councillor Smith and County Councillor Chilton about the issues discussed and possible solutions to raise with DCC.

It was reported that there is a broken bench in the top field that need replacing. **Councillor Parnham to remove with trailer and Darren Whitby give him access.**

It was also asked if Bloomin Gardens can cut the grass on the football pitch over the winter months to allow the team training better usage of the pitch. **Parish Clerk to contact Bloomin Gardens and get this added to the current quote.**

6 Approval of last minutes
Approved.

7 Update on actions from previous minutes
Outstanding actions were discussed but a record of these discussions has been recorded under the relevant item listed on the agenda or within the District Councillors Item.

8 Update on Village Green and Lamp Post
Ongoing - Councillor Hounslow to email Debbie about actual costings to move the lamp post to pavement but still keep the power source on the green. Estimate costs are £800. The Parochial Charity may cover some of the costs. The Parish Council still need to clarify who owns the land – **check land registry.**

- 9 Interpretation Notice Boards – WI Centenary Challenge
The Village Hall board is ready. Councillor Hewitt and Hounslow have seen it. Councillor Hounslow will pass on the noticeboard key, so they can start work when the weather improves.
- 10 BT Phone Box
Ongoing – Councillor Barnett put forward the idea of moving the box to the garden in front of the village hall. This would make it a more central feature and also help with parking/access issues on Chapel Street. It was considered that it maybe easier to buy a refurbished one than try to do the existing one up. This could cost £2750 but they may also buy old ones. The company to research is X2 Connect.
- 11 Update on Village Hall Windows
The windows have been fitted and are complete.
- 12 Update Hi-Speed Broadband
Councillor Barnett is pursuing this. Judith Brown from Open Reach has confirmed that a community fibre box for the area is already on the programme. Simon is pursuing with BDUK about a refund or getting an improved service. Delivery thought to be in August.
- 13 Car Parking on Chapel Street (and Main Street)
See discussion in item 5.
- 14 Update the Poplars boundary fence
Harper Crewe have not replied to the letter sent by the Parish Council. Ongoing matter.
- 15 Highway maintenance matters (including potholes)
Potholes as usual. It was noted that some potholes have been filled, but that some are already breaking up. It was questioned if the weather, budget and temporary crews involved allow the job to be done properly. The more people that complain and report online the more they will do about it. Encourage people to register online via the newsletter and copy County Councillor Chilton in.
- 16 War Memorial Cleaning update
The application has been submitted. A grant of £1230 has been obtained. It has been estimated that the works should cost approximately £1640 + VAT. Therefore, the Parish Council will have to pay the difference. The Parochial Charity may be able to help. Councillor Barnett will update at the next meeting.

- 17 Smisby Parish Council – Managing Transitional period
Councillor Parnham has given notice that he intends to resign from the Parish Council. It was also highlighted that both Councillor Hewitt and Hounslow would also be leaving this summer due to leaving the Parish. All agreed that new recruits are needed to allow Smisby to retain its own governance control and avoid collapse. Possible candidates were discussed and will be approached in the new few weeks. The AGM will bring a good time for change and the news that the parish is seeking new volunteers will be announced in the next newsletter. We need to clarify if candidates need to live within the Parish boundary and an election is only necessary if there are too many candidates. Possible future chairs were also discussed. Councillor Hewitt agreed that he would chair the May meeting.

District Councillor Smith said that this is sad news as he considers it to be one of the most effective Parish Councils in the district - 'big shoes to fill'.

- 18 Servicing of defibrillator
The pads on the defibrillator go out of date in July. There was discussion about what is going to be done about servicing it. Contacting the supplier or the red cross are options to be researched. **Councillor Hewitt to look into.**

- 19 To discuss and agree any response to the following Planning Applications
Councillors had no objections with the following applications.

9/2017/1328 – Prior notification of extension at Mill Farm.

9/2017/1144 – Variation of conditions to the Old Chapel

- 20 Questions and reports from SDDC and DDC Councillors
District Councillor Stanton – Nothing to report

District Councillor Smith – On behalf of County Councillor Chilton he informed us that if the Parish would like any lampposts not to be switched off at midnight for fear of increased crime then the Parish should let County Councillor know which ones and she will try and get them switched back on. Need to give the location and number of lamppost.

- 21 Clerks Report
The Parish clerk advised the grounds maintenance tenders received back.

All other items of information have been emailed to Parish Councillors.

- 22 Statement of accounts
Accounts distributed for this financial year to date

23 Approve payments

Payments approved as below.

Payee	Cheque No	Reason/Invoice Number	Value
H. Salt	889	Lengthsman (6th Payment)	£50.00
D. Whitby	890	Playground Inspection (6th Payment)	£40.00
E. Stroud	891	Clerks Salary (6th Payment)	£331.56
S. Hewitt	892	Newsletter	£78.30
Kilworth Machinery	894	Envelopes and Postage	£50.93
SDDC	896	Litterbin	£141.65
Kilworth Machinery	893	Grit	£112.32
DALC	895	Subscription	£99.47
E. Stroud	897	Clerks Expenses for Year	£89.99

The vice chair thanked the Parish Councillors for attending and declared the meeting closed.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.30.

Signed: Date: