

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting 12th March 2024

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

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillors Haines and Lowe, County Councillor Muller, Rob Hounslow Parochial Charity Trustee and 3 members of the public.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

None.

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. A sign has been placed on the B5006 to advise that the road will be closed between 18th and 21st March. In addition, the Derbyshire Highways Hub reports that roadworks are planned along the B5006, between the A511 roundabout and Ticknall village, from 1st April to 30th Sept, for ‘surface dressing.’ Parish residents should be aware that traffic diversions will cause increased traffic through Smisby village and along sideroads.
- ii. In conjunction with Swadlincote First Responders, SPC is hoping to host two Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) courses in the June / July timeframe. This will provide participants with the knowledge & skills to, potentially, save lives. The tentative plan is to run one course during a weekday evening and the other during a weekend afternoon, in Smisby Village Hall. The training is free-of-charge and will be advertised when the dates & times are confirmed.

5. Clerk’s report

- i. Annual leave 2nd-5th April.
- ii. Lengthsman has offered to collect the rubbish in the playground. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to this and stopping the contract with SDDC**

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

A member of public reported that there was a lot of water running down Anwell Lane and an increase in potholes. Also, issues seen on Forties Lane during recent rain. Councillors Taft and Cuming have both reported the issues to DCC. Another person asked if DCC Highways could clean the banks along Forties Lane, as it is very overgrown and mud is now filling the drains. Councillor Taft advised he would report this to DCC.

7. Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2024

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. Rob Hounslow Parochial Charity Trustee, apologised for the confusion over the payment of the ground's maintenance grant, difference in synching over financial years. They have now seen the latest contract and have applied the same percentage; they will contribute £518 towards grounds maintenance, for the next financial year. Councillor Cuming advised that the wildflower area is looking neglected and a future plan needs to be drawn up. Rob suggested sending all ideas through to the Charity for consideration. The mole situation has now been dealt with on the football pitch. The state of the nets was discussed and Rob agreed for quotes to be sent through to the Charity for review. They are having a face-to-face meeting with charity investors on the 4th April 2024. Councillor Brooke asked if communications would be issued on the charity's finances, he was advised that it would be reported back to the Council at the next meeting and put into the next newsletter. They are gradually going through the process of changing to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. There are currently 4 trustees and they rotate the chairman role each meeting. The Parochial Charity is drafting a new Scheme of Arrangement, which means that Trustee nominations are likely to change. The parish council will have one nomination and the Village Hall Committee will have one. Councillor Brooke asked for the reasons behind this change on nominations? He asked why the Parish Council had not been consulted? Rob advised the charity had decided that it would be fairer to have one nomination from the Parish Council and one from the Village Hall Committee. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to send a letter to the charity to express concern over the changes.**
- ii. District Councillor Lowe, SDDC have approved the council plan 2024-28, it is on the website. It will be 50 years since the formation of SDDC in May. Environmental health will be increasing their fines for things such as fly tipping. Leaflets for home upgrades were handed out and one will put into the Parish Council noticeboard.
- iii. District Councillor Haines, there is a new statement of community involvement which can be found on the SDDC website. People are encouraged to respond to it. Government acceleration of planning processes, may impact parish council's that only meet every other month. Councillor Cuming and herself had surveyed the parish and will be submitting details to SDDC that are currently incorrect on their mapping portal. The area on Chapel Street was discussed.
- iv. County Councillor Muller, apologies for missing the January meeting. Reminded people that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayoral elections will be held in May. Voters are reminded to take photographic ID. Derbyshire electoral division boundaries are now in the consultation phase up

to April. Details can be found on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England website. Council tax has been set at 4.99%, 2% to adult care. Budget update, over spend of £34.1 million in the current financial year, a gap of around £40 million. Potholes, there are 25 reactive teams working. The weather has been atrocious and is contributing to the issue. They have got a JCB machine on test for potholes. This is good on a major road but is too big for smaller roads. Councillor Taft says it is demotivating to keep reporting the same potholes, he would like to see improved feedback to reported faults.

9. Parochial Charity Trustee

Resolved, this item is postponed to the next Parish Council meeting in May.

10. Budget Approval

Resolved, all Councillors agreed the budget

11. Approval of minutes from Parish Council Finance Meeting held on 9th January 2024

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

12. Policy Review, including Biodiversity

Resolved, all Councillors accepted the updated and reviewed policies.

13. Tree and Benches

The tree has been felled and replaced by SDDC. With the old Pinfold at the heart of Smisby village conservation area, Councillor Taft believes it should be tidied up and made more inviting, prior to reinstating the benches. He will write to SDDC and ask them to support this. Councillor Dickens has temporarily taken custody of the trunk from the old tree and asked the Council to consider what they wish to do with it. Councillor Brooke has a contact that may be able to carve it into a bench.

14. Playground Inspection and Repairs

Councillor Taft feels that the Jubilee Field needs a comprehensive 'uplift,' including the installation of new play & exercise equipment. Councillor Cuming agreed and suggested that the Council ask the Parochial Charity whether the (neglected) wildflower area could be returned to grass.

15. Highways

See 8 iv

16. Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch (CSW) activities have now resumed.

17. Newsletter

Councillor Taft will draft the next newsletter. Councillor Cuming wished to remind parish residents that Parish Council communications are only through the Smisby

village website, the village noticeboard and the Parish Clerk.

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

No comments.

19. Dates of future meetings

14th May, 9th July, 10th September, 12th November 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 Delegated Authority
01/02/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and maintenance (December 2023)	65.58	10.93	Y
01/02/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (January 2024) and 4 weeks holiday pay	515.44		Y
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Mileage	113.40		
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (February 2024)	264.62		
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and maintenance (January 2024)	65.58	10.93	
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Litter bin emptying	141.65	23.61	
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	H Salt	Lengthsman	60.00		
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	Timpson (via chairman)	Keys	10.00		
12/03/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and maintenance (February 2024)	65.58	10.93	

21. Payments Received

i.	17/01/2024	HMRC VAT reclaim	£447.71
ii.	15/02/2024	Parochial Charity Grant towards Football Pitch Maint	£644.00
iii.	08/03/2024	SDDC Concurrent Expenses (S136)	£1,842.15

22. Communications received since last meeting

- i. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 7; Newsletter x 6
- ii. DALC: Newsletter x 2; South Derbyshire Parish Council; Forum Reminder; Employment Law Update Training; Cyber Crime Prevention Training
- iii. DCC: Newsletter x 4; Parish & Town Council Liaison Forum 16 April 2024
- iv. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 2; Repton Agenda Pack -January 2024; BEACON REGISTRATION - D-DAY 80 - 6TH JUNE 2024; SDDC Flooding update; Personal Security Briefings - Elected Officials and Faith Leaders; South Derbyshire Service/Facilities Survey 2024; Concurrent Functions Grants letter; Safer & Stronger Neighbourhoods Funding
- v. South Derbyshire CVS: Funding Bulletin x 2; Health and Wellbeing Bulletin x 2; Beech Tree
- vi. District Councillor Haines: Litter Bins; Winter Newsletter 2024
- vii. District Councillor Lowe: Small Grants Scheme
- viii. Parochial Charity: Moles on the Football Pitch; Nomination of Mr. R.J. Hounslow as Nominative Trustee to The Parochial Charity; Smisby Parish Council Grounds Maintenance Quotes

- ix. EMA: Portable Noise Monitor; Community Flyer; We want your Opinion; Reminder: We want your opinion
- x. Grounds Maintenance Quotes
- xi. North West Leicestershire District Council: Advance Notice: Draft North West Leicestershire Local Plan Public Consultation; North West Leicestershire Local Plan Consultation
- xii. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Derbyshire - DR – Stakeholders
- xiii. DCHC: Council Funding Request
- xiv. Derbyshire Immediate Justice Scheme Newsletter
- xv. Shed Grounds Maintenance: Accreditation
- xvi. Grass Verge Chapel Street Complaint

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 May 2024 at 19:00 for the Annual Parish Meeting with the Annual Council Meeting starting on its conclusion in Smisby Village Hall.

Signed: Councillor Taft Date: 14/05/2024