

**SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, SUTTON

**ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** G Barber (Chairman), J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), M Bhatia, R Chamberlain, C Eyre, D Fosbrook, B Griffiths, E Hall, T Priestman, K Stepien-Bialy, A Waller and T Whiskard.

**Also Present:** The Parish Clerk, Cheshire East Ward Councillor C O’Leary and three members of the public.

**1.0 CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

**2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **approve** the Minutes of the Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 which were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4.0 ANNUAL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR CIVIC YEAR 2023/24**

This report is an overview of the Parish Councils activities for the past year 2023/2024 during which the full council have met 11 times.

Firstly, I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work & dedication to the council and to our communities of, Langley, Lyme Green, Rural and Sutton Lane Ends Wards over the past year.

I would like to thank Councillor Horrox for his dedication to the council over a number of years as he has now stepped down from his position and we have welcomed Councillor Eyre, who is now representing the Lyme Green Ward. We look forward to working together in the year ahead.

I must thank our Cheshire East Ward Councillor Dr Chris O’Leary for his tireless work, help and representations over the year.

**Finance**

The Parish Council finances remain in good order and the 2023/24 precept received was £27,225. Anyone wishing to see the full Parish Council accounts they can be viewed on the parish council website or by contacting the Clerk, Sarah Giller.

**Policing**

I would like to thank PCSO Jim Newns from the neighbourhood police team for his work & help in our parish over the past year. P.C Newns regularly attends our meetings or sends a written report if he is not available.

Police surgeries continue to serve the community, being held regularly in Langley, Lyme Green & Sutton.

**Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day was again well attended in November 2023, despite it being a very wet morning. The Parish Council employed Duttons Traffic Management Team at a cost of £1,425. The company deal with

all the highway safety, notices and road closures, for the parade from St James Church to the Sutton War Memorial.

I would like to thank members of St James Church & the vicar for their help and support in organising and conducting this very important civic event.

**Defibrillators**

The Parish Council now finances the upkeep and servicing of 6 defibrillators situated around the Parish. I must thank all the volunteers who check & monitor them weekly. The latest defibrillator to be acquired is situated at Sutton Reservoir.

Donations from Victoria Fishing Society and members of the community have enabled this to be installed. Also, due to a very generous donation from a member of the community, a light has been added there for safety, during the darker periods of the year.

The council holds training evenings, at different locations around the parish, for any members of the public who would like to understand and feel more confident on the use of the defibrillators.

**Millennium Signs**

The work to refurbish the signs in the Rural ward & Lyme Green ward has been completed.

The signs in Langley and Lane Ends wards are due to be taken away & cleaned in this coming year.

**Allotments**

The allotments continue to have full occupancy, with a waiting list for available plots. Sometimes a lot of rubbish is left behind when plots are vacated.

A number of skips have had to be provided during the last year to help with removal of this rubbish. The Parish Council have provided a new notice board as a communication site for both the allotment holders and the Council.

I must thank our councillors who keep good contact with the allotment holders and regularly help with maintenance on site. Also, the Clerk for her hard work in this area.

**Macclesfield Forest Working Group**

Three members now represent the council on the working group & regularly attend meetings with all the other stake holders.

Difficulties continue to arise with, amongst others, parking issues and the use of the forest by off-road cyclists.

**The Climate Emergency Working Group**

The C.E.W.G. consists of 5 councillors & several interested members of the community. The group established an action plan to show areas where we can take measures in our parish to support the C.E.C. goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. At the same time, we hope our work in this area will improve our parish environment.

Monthly litter picks continue in Langley and Sutton Lane Ends wards.

The council would welcome any help from residents who would like to lead litter picks in the other wards. The group, supported by the council, held two “Earth Day” activity sessions for children and their families. The autumn day was held in conjunction with Sutton St. James Scout & Guide Group.

The plans for a community orchard in Langley are still going forward, working in conjunction with C.E.C. for acquisition of the land. The next steps include finance and ascertaining community interest in this project.

The Parish Council now obtain the electricity for all lighting in the parish from a Green energy supplier.

**Graveyard Joint Working Group**

Councillors continue to serve on the Joint Working Party Group for the extension to Sutton St. James Graveyard. Plans for this extension have now been passed.

**Grapevine Magazine**

The council use the local Grapevine magazine, published bi-monthly, to publish articles of interest and communicate information to our residents. Thanks to the Grapevine editorial team for facilitating this. The council contact details, and website details can be found there.

**Sunflower Competition**

The council continues to organise the annual sunflower competition for children who live in the parish or attend Hollinhey Primary School. I would like to thank all councillors who organise and judge the competition.

**Building Developments in Langley & Lyme Green**

Builders are still on site at the Seddon development in Langley currently working on landscaping various areas and building the group of industrial units.

The development at Lyme Green is progressing. At the moment issues of road safety and the speed of traffic, travelling along London Road in both directions, are still being pursued by the Parish Council.

We are now awaiting confirmation of an on-site meeting date with C.E.C. Road Safety Team Leader.

**Lyme Green Community Hall Working Group**

In 2023 a working group was set up, consisting of the Lyme Green ward councillors and 2 interested local residents, to explore the viability of a community hall being built and maintained within the new housing development at Lyme Green.

The developer did have to detail spaces for a community building, a children’s play area and for community allotments when planning permission was sought.

Any project of this kind by the parish council is in the very early stages of consideration as the commitment and cost of any such project is huge.

**Christmas Events**

As usual the Parish Council organised the erection & maintenance of the 3 Christmas trees in the parish. We would like to thank UU for providing the trees along with a Christmas tree for Hollinhey Primary School. The council cover the cost of collecting, erecting and maintaining the trees and lights and dismantling on 12th night.

Many thanks to Mr David Easterbrook who stores and maintains the lights for the Langley tree and provides the sound system and lighting for the Langley switch on event. Refreshments are provided by the nearby residents for this event.

Many thanks to Mr Chris Fenton who provides the sound system and lighting at the Sutton Lane Ends tree switch on and to Mrs Clough, Headmistress of Hollinhey School & the school children who lead the Christmas singing.

Unfortunately, the switch on event for the Lyme Green Christmas tree had to be cancelled in 2023.

**Grass Mowing**

Maintenance of the grassed area on the Pleasance and around the seats on Ridge Hill and Church Lane is still carried out for the Parish Council by Mr Boon.

All other grass mowing in our parish is the responsibility of C.E.C.

Our official Sutton Parish Council website is kept up to date providing a good communication channel & information to the public. For any queries or information required please email our parish clerk, [clerk@suttonparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@suttonparish.co.uk)

The address can also be found on the website.

Finally, I would like to thank our parish clerk, Sarah, for her hard work and for the help and advice she gives to me and all council members in conducting Sutton Parish Council business.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman then invited questions from the public.

There were no questions asked.

**7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.43 p.m.

**Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record.**

.....Chairman