

# SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING at 7.30 P.M.

IN ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, CHURCH LANE, SUTTON, SK11 0DS

### PRESENT

**Councillors:** G Barber (Chairman), C Eyre, D Fosbrook, E Hall, B Horan, T Priestman, J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), K Stepien-Bialy and T Whiskard.

**Also present:** Eight members of the public (MOPs) were present and PCSO Jim Newns.

- 1/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence from Ward Cllr C O'Leary, the Parish Clerk, Councillors M Bhatia and R Chamberlain. Cllr A Waller was not present.
- 2/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive no dispensations and declarations of interest from Councillors.
- 3/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to confirm and sign the Minutes as a true record of the Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- 4/25 **Public Participation - THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive information/queries/questions from members of the public (MOPs): There were eight MOPs present. Issues raised – The Langley Community Orchard, the current challenges and future viability of Sutton Village Stores and the proposed community hall at Lyme Green.

### MEMBER REPORTS

- 5/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive report from the Cheshire East Ward Member. (See Appendix 1)
- 6/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive report from Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team. (See Appendix 2)

### FINANCE

7/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to approve schedule of receipts and payments for January 2025.

#### Receipts From:

CHQ	Cadent Gas Limited	Contribution to Cenotaph repairs Sutton Lane Ends (including £500 donation)	£896.30
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*Spending power: GPOC*

#### Payments To:

BACS	Sarah Giller	Clerks' net salary £630.90 and expenses £91.07 Pension contributions £37.53 HMRC £Nil <b>DECEMBER</b>	£721.97
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*Spending power: GPOC*

BACS	Charles D Reynolds, Music Account	Remembrance Day - For services rendered on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	£75.00
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*Spending power: GPOC*

BACS	The National Allotment Society	Membership Renewal	£66.00
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*Spending power: GPOC*

BACS	F Davies & Son	Order 306 – Pleasance bus shelter LED bulb.	£109.80
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*Spending power: GPOC*

DD	Spoton.Net Ltd (It'seeze website)	Months subscription DECEMBER 2024	£58.80
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*Spending power: GPOC*

DD	SSE	Account for 01/11/24 – 30/11/24 (collected by DD 23/12/2024) <b>NOVEMBER</b>	£169.34
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*Spending power: GPOC*

#### Pension Contributions:

DD	NEST (National Employment Savings Trust)	<b>DECEMBER contribution</b> Employee pension contribution - 5% - £33.21 Employer pension contribution - 3% - £4.32	£37.53
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*Spending power: GPOC*

#### Additional Payments:



DD	Keith Roberts	Tree Medic – collection of Christmas trees and fitting and removing Christmas Trees	£750.00
<i>Spending power: GPOC</i>			

8/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **approve** Income and Expenditure report for 3rd Quarter financial report (Oct-Dec 2024) and verify figures against bank reconciliation (up to 31st December 2024).

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

- 9/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **keep** Christmas arrangements for 2025 under review and to write to United Utilities near the time to request a donation towards Christmas Trees.
- 10/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to use the donation from Cadent of £500, towards traffic calming and road safety on London Road.
- 11/25 Lyme Green Community Hall - **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to seek advice from Jackie Weaver as to the best form of meeting to take this project forward (working group or committee) and to **agree** terms of reference at the February meeting.

**PLAYGROUNDS**

12/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **note** that no report had been received on this occasion.

**HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

- 13/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **receive** reports on highways issues and consider action:
  - Grit bins will need to be refilled after cold snap.
  - Main Road potholes have increased in size.
  - Stones have fallen from walls onto Red Lane causing a hazard to cyclist and drivers.
  - Concern raised about the pavement between Bollin Grange entrance and the petrol station. This needs to be reinstated (Clerk to make enquires of Highways).
  - Large potholes & the road surface breaking up around the large manhole cover that sits in the road on the Sutton side of Gurnett Bridge.
  - The road surface is badly breaking up on the bend on Langley Road heading towards Langley, across from the Church House, outside the bungalow “Cross Ways”. This could cause a serious hazard as cars negotiate the bend.
  - As previously reported the surface of Walker Lane, travelling from the crossroads of Robin Lane/Walker Lane/Leek Old Road and Bullocks Lane (towards Sutton) is disintegrating from the bend at Parvey Lane right through to Tunicliffe Road.
  - Flood road outside the Church House.
  - Clarke Lane Langley the flood on the bend below the Water Treatment Works. The road floods right across making it dangerous. There is a culvert which should drain the water off the road.
- 14/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **discuss** Cheshire East Highways enquiry and Members **agreed** that they were not aware of any speeding issues on Hall Lane, Sutton.

**THE GRAPEVINE**

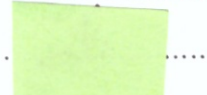
15/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **discuss** ideas for inclusion in the next Grapevine magazine: there was nothing to include at this time.

**PLANNING**

16/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **agree** that there were no applications received at time of Agenda publication.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 17/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **note** the correspondence from CHALC - Town & Parish Councils & VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 8th May 2025.
- 18/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **note** Cheshire East Council - recharges to Town and Parish Councils in respect of all out elections in 2027 (only if elections are contested).



19/25 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **note** correspondence from Member of the Public (regarding adding a dedicated dog bin and outdoor gym equipment to Langley Playing field) and **agree** a designated dog bin is needed on the playing field and bring this to the attention of the Parks Technical Officer along with the idea of gym equipment, when he puts the plans for the improvements of the Langley Playing Field before the Parish Council.

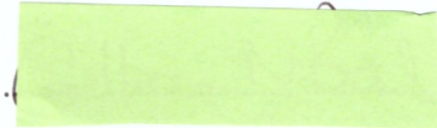
20/25 **MATTERS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AND FUTURE MEETING AGENDA**

- To **agree** appointment of Remembrance Day Traffic Management Company for 2025.
- Annual donation to CIC towards insurance. (*February 2025*)
- To **consider** arranging defibrillator training session for 2025.
- To **consider** assessment of risk. (*February 2025*)
- Receive report from the climate Emergency Working Group (Feb 2025)
- To agree TOR for Lyme Green Community Hall


21/25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **agree** the date for next meeting as **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025** commencing at **7.30 p.m.**

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.31 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record



... Chairman



## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 - Cheshire East Ward Member Report**

#### ***1a – Community Hall Working Group***

I want again to apologise for what has taken place, and completely recognise why this raised significant concerns for the Parish Council about the way in which the WG has been operating. For my part, it is clear that the WG has been established by the Parish Council, and advises the Parish Council. That is, the WG is an advisory body, wholly constituted by and accountable to the Parish Council, and is not in of itself a decision making body. However, I think there has been some confusion as to what has been agreed, and how (and by whom) these areas of agreement would be taken forward. There is enthusiasm and determination in the Working Group to deliver on what has been agreed, and this has clearly meant that some actions were taken that should not have been taken.

Overall, my understanding is that the Parish Council agreed that a Community Hall was feasible and desirable, and wants to progress further to understand in more detail what this means and how this would be delivered. It is also recognised that there may be other options for community use for the site (that might be explored if it becomes obvious that the community hall is a no goer), and a desire to make sure that the site isn't simply left unused. My understanding is that the Parish Council welcomes the work that has been done so far to test the feasibility and desirability of the community hall, which was obvious in the discussion around the feasibility report discussed in October.

For my part, I wonder if a period of reflection and regrouping would enable this important work to continue, while ensuring that the lines of responsibility and accountability are clear and adhered to at all times. I would like to suggest that the Parish Council agree in principle to establish a Working Group to take forward the work on the community hall, and that appropriate terms of reference be table at the February meeting to enable this to happen. These terms of reference should make absolutely clear that the role of the WG is to advise the Parish Council, and it is the Parish Council that makes all decisions (including on the terms of the establishment of the charitable trust, appointments to that trust, and all decisions relating to the spending of any Council funds). I think this should also be clear that the monthly progress report to the Council should be in two parts – an update on progress over the previous month and a set of recommendations for actions in the next month (separated out as actions for the Parish Council and areas of further work for the WG).

#### **1b – Cheshire East Ward Member Report**

##### **Langley Road closure**

I have been liaising with Highways about this. They have made clear that the road needs to be closed in its entirety because of the nature of the planned works, so cannot be closed one lane at a time. Highways have however taken on board comments about the proposed diversion route, and made changes to that. They are also liaising with the bus company about the no14a bus. I have a site meeting with them scheduled for the end of this month, and will update you on the outcome of this meeting via email.

##### **London Road pedestrian crossing**

I have been advised by Highways that an electrical issue has caused the delay in this becoming operational. Highways are liaising with the developer about this, and as soon as I hear more I will let you know. Several residents have raised concerns about the placement of the crossing, concerns that echo our comments when the crossing was being planned.

##### **London Road speed limit**

Following the question about this at the last parish council meeting, I checked with Highways, who are now denying any plans to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. I will be chasing my previous formal request for this speed limit to be reduced and again make the case for this.

##### **Dumped rubbish at Langley Pond and Clough Meadow**

I am assured by Planning Enforcement that they are closed to signing an agreement with the developer and these dumped materials should be removed soon.

##### **Cheshire East Council financial position**

At the end of the third quarter (December 2024) the Council is predicted an overspend this year of £18.3m (although the actual overspend is £55.4m – the Council doesn't include the overspend on SEND services in its reported overspend). The Council is now proposing to borrow £17.6m to cover this overspend, taking the rest from reserves (and leaving the Council's reserves at under half a million pounds). Borrowing in this way is like taking out a ten year car loan to pay for this year's insurance and road tax – it makes little sense and is only being done to avoid s114. The Council has asked Government for permission to borrow an additional c£55m over the next two years to plug gaps in its annual budgets. The Council has also raised the prospect of increasing the Council Tax above the statutory cap of 5 percent, though as of yet there are no formal proposals to do so (and doing so would require either the permission of the Secretary of State or a referendum, which itself would cost around £700k).

**Appendix 2 – Report from Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team**

School parking and school talks at Hollinhey Primary School have resumed after the Christmas break. Trucam speeding enforcement will commence after this icy spell.

**Police Surgery dates times and venues are:**

Wed 15th Jan 10:30 -11:30 Langley Methodist Church

Sat 25th Jan 10:00 -11:00 Sutton General Store Cafe

Sun 26th Jan 14:00 -15:00 Lyme Green Park, Robin Lane

**Incidents of note**

10/12 Theft of cycle Macc Forest

12/12 Theft of cooking oil Ryles Arms

13/12 Customer threatening staff at Curry's store Lyme Green

16/12 Sheep worrying incident Church Lane- rural crime team dealt with local family who's dog escaped

21/12 shoplifting at Sutton General Store. Youth dealt with

22/12 Suspicious person banging on doors Main Rd Langley. Police,attended but nobody there on arrival

22/12 Suspicious person coalpit Lane in early hours of morning

23/12 Reports of van parked near junction of Robin Lane and London Rd making it difficult for motorists to see

6/1 Damage only RTC London Rd Lyme Green

8/1 words of advice given to charities worker knocking on doors after dark in Lyme Green