

## SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, SUTTON

ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

**Councillors:** 8 councillors (G Barber (Chairman), J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), R Chamberlain, C Eyre, D Fosbrook, T Priestman, K Stepien-Bialy and A Waller).

**Also Present:** The Parish Clerk, Cheshire East Ward Councillor C O'Leary. No members of the public were present.

A minute's silence was held for VE day 80<sup>th</sup>

#### 1.0 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

#### 2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors T Whiskard and E Hall. Cllr M Bhatia was not present

#### 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 which were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4.0 ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR CIVIC YEAR 2024/25

This report is an overview of the Parish Councils activities for the past year April 2024 to April 2025 during which the full council has met 11 times.

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

I would like to thank Councillor Brian Horran for his service to the council.

Cllr Horran has had to step down from his position due to ill health. We are in the process of co-opting a new councillor to serve the Lyme Green Ward

I must also 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 2024/2025 precept received was £28,314.

Anyone wishing to see the full Parish Council accounts can view them on the parish council website or by contacting the clerk to the council, 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 on our meeting night.

Police surgeries continue to serve the community, being held regularly in Langley, Lyme Green & Sutton. Dates for these can also be viewed on the Sutton PC website.

PC Newns regularly monitors the speed of vehicles on Hall Lane, Jarman, Robin Lane and Byron's Lane using TruCam. He also monitors the parking around the centre of the village particularly at the beginning and end of the school day.

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day was again well attended in November 2024.

The Parish Council employed Duttons Traffic Management Team at a cost of £1,734.

Duttons deal with all highway safety, with 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.

Thank you to Chas Reynolds & Bollin Brass for providing the music both in church and at the War Memorial this year.

There was a very good attendance by the Scout Group members at this important parade we must thank Roger Fenton who puts a lot of work into the organisation at the War Memorial.

### **DEFIBRILLATORS**

The Parish Council now finances the upkeep and servicing of 7 defibrillators situated around the Parish.

I must thank all the volunteers who check & monitor them weekly.

A new defibrillator has been installed outside Sutton Shop in March this year.

This has been funded by money that was surplus from the Sutton Reservoir defibrillator, installed last year and donations raised by Alan & Lisa at the Sutton Stores.

Defibrillators are a great community asset.

The council has held training evenings, at different locations around the parish, for any members of the public who would like to understand and feel more confident to use a defibrillator.

We hope to host another training in the coming year.

### **MILLENNIUM SIGNS AND NOTICE BOARDS**

The work to refurbish the signs in the Langley and Sutton Lane Ends wards has now been completed. This has been a two year project and all four signs are now looking much improved.

A new PC notice board has been installed in Higher Sutton situated next to the red telephone box. The Parish Council recognises that notice boards are still an important form of communication and provide a necessary link between the community and the council.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

The allotments continue to have almost full occupancy with just one vacancy at the start of this season. Sometimes a lot of rubbish is left behind when plots are vacated. The council have again provided a skip to help with removal of this rubbish. I must thank our councillors who keep good contact with the allotment holders and regularly help with maintenance on site. Also thank the clerk for her hard work in this area.

### **MACCLESFIELD FOREST WORKING GROUP**

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

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

The condition of the road surfaces by Ridgegate and Trentabank continue to give concern and the council are constantly lobbying CEC to repair potholes and road surfaces, not only by the reservoirs but throughout our parish.

### **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 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.

The plans for a community orchard in Langley are still moving forward,

The council have engaged a solicitor to deal with the transfer of the land behind Langley Institute, from Cheshire East Council to Sutton Parish Council as freehold or via a long lease at peppercorn rent.

Meetings have been held with the neighbouring property owner to ensure his privacy is maintained and agreement has been reached for the boundary between his property and the orchard area.

In January the Langley Community Orchard Action Group was established.

The group aims to bring their expertise & local interest to ensure the Community Orchard project is developed and managed well.

In March members of the community along with number of councillors and members of Macclesfield Wild Group planted a variety of trees on the land as a first step towards an established orchard.

The council have purchased a new gazebo that has been used by the members of the climate emergency group at two village events, the Langley Fete and the Sutton Fruit and Veg. show promoting small ways in which we can all help to be "a greener community"

The Parish Council obtains the electricity for all lighting in the parish from a Green energy supplier and in time for last Christmas the Christmas tree lights at Lyme Green and Sutton Lane Ends were replaced with LED bulbs.

The council are looking towards replacing the bulbs on the Langley tree with LED too.

#### **SUTTON ST. JAMES GRAVEYARD JOINT WORKING GROUP**

The graveyard extension is now complete, and I would like to thank everyone councillors, members of the community and the church for working together to resolve an issue that was very important for our parish community.

#### **GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE**

The council use the local Grapevine magazine, which is sent out bi-monthly, free of charge, to all residents who are registered with the publication team to communicate information to residents, including items of interest and council news,

Thanks to the Grapevine editorial team for facilitating this.

The council contact details, and website details can be found in the magazine.

#### **SUNFLOWER COMPETITION**

The council continues to organise the annual sunflower competition for children who live in the parish or attend Hollinhey Primary School or Pre-School.

I would like to thank all councillors who organise and judge the competition. Prizes are awarded for the tallest sunflowers.

Thanks also to the Head Teacher and staff from Hollinhey who go out to measure the height of any flowers which are grown outside the parish.

#### **LANGLEY PLAYING FIELDS AND RECREATION AREA**

This last 12 months the s106 monies resulting from the Seddon housing development in Langley has become available for use.

The sums are divided between a sum for Public Open Space and a sum for Recreation & OutdoorSpace.

This money has been allocated to the project of improving the Langley playing field area.

The Parish Council are working with the Parks Technical Officer on planning the improvements of the whole playing field including the play area.

On site meetings have been held and consideration given to on going costs and maintenance, signage, disabled access, the natural environment and providing something for all ages.

No plans will be finalised and implemented before a public meeting is held to discuss them.

#### **BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS IN LANGLEY & LYME GREEN**

Builders have been on site at the Seddon development in Langley for the whole of the past year. Most houses are now occupied and the industrial units are finished.

Work on landscaping various areas is still going on.

The controversial matter of waste that appeared to be dumped on the site is still not resolved. This spoil has caused flooding of gardens and property.

The C. E. planning department continue to try to have the waste removed by the builders

The housing developments at Lyme Green are progressing with another 40 houses gaining planning permission this last year to be erected on the plot bordering Gaw End Lane and London Road.

At the moment issues of road safety along with the speed of traffic, travelling along London Road in both directions, are still being pursued by the Parish Council.

The important matter of the pedestrian crossing not being operational is a serious concern and the council continue to liaise with CE road safety office and the builders to have this working as soon as possible.

#### **LYME GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING GROUP**

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

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

The working group continued to meet through 2024 to establish the need for a Community Hall in this position at Lyme Green.

A charitable trust has been set up.

The next steps will be to consider the acquisition of the land for the hall and funding for this huge project as well as exploring the ongoing costs of maintaining and running such a hall.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

As usual the Parish Council organised the erection & maintenance of the 3 Christmas trees in the parish.

In previous years UU have provided the Christmas trees as a payback for the disruption caused by the extra traffic and inconvenience to residents of heavy lorries travelling through the areas narrow roads.

Last Christmas UU informed us they could not provide our trees.

The council were therefore required to source trees and cover the cost from our budget as well as the cost of collecting, erecting and maintaining the trees and lights and dismantling on 12th night.

As we were given very short notice of this UU did make a donation towards the cost of buying the trees but this will not continue in the future.

It was a one-off gesture of good will.

This added considerable cost to our Christmas expenses.

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.

The event was well attended by the community.

The lighting and sound system for the Sutton Lane Ends tree switch on was organised by the Friends of Hollinhey.

Silk FM provided the sound system.

There was wonderful Christmas singing around the tree by the children of Hollinhey. Thank you to them, their parents and Mrs Clough, Headmistress of Hollinhey School.

A successful switch on of Lyme Green Christmas tree lights was able to take place on December 20th 2024.

Thanks to all the community members who help to organise this.

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.15 p.m.

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



**Chairman**

