

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, SUTTON

ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: 9 councillors (G Barber (Chairman), M Bhatia, J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), C Eyre, D Fosbrook, E Hall, H Jackson, A Waller and T Whiskard).

Also Present: The Parish Clerk. There were no members of the public were present.

1.0 CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Priestman and K Stepien-Bialy. Cllr R Chamberlain was not present.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to **approve** the Minutes of the Meeting dated 8TH May 2025 which were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ANNUAL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR CIVIC YEAR APRIL 2025- MARCH 2026

Good evening & welcome to the Annual Meeting of Sutton Parish Council.

This report is an overview of the Parish Councils activities for the past year April 2025 to April 2026 during which the full council has met 11 times.

I would like to thank all our councillors for their hard work & dedication to the council in representing the communities of, Langley, Lyme Green, Rural and Sutton Lane Ends Wards over the past year. Thankyou to Cllr Sinclair Smith and the Clerk for their support.

The membership of our council has remained the same during the year, with the addition of Cllr Harry Jackson who was co opted, in October, to represent the Lyme Green Ward.

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

FINANCE

The Parish Council finances remain in good order. The 2025/2026 precept received was £29,500.

During the last financial year the Parish Council have received payment of the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy monies, which were owed from the new housing development at Lyme Green.

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

Thank you to PCSO Jim Newns, from the neighbourhood police team, for his work and 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 to be present.

Police surgeries continue to serve the community, being held regularly in Langley, Lyme Green & Sutton. Dates for these can 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 2025.

The Parish Council employed Dutton's Traffic Management Team at a cost of £1,465.00 to deal with all highway safety of the event.

Duttons give notices of road closures for the parade from St James Church to the Sutton War Memorial. Provide operatives to be present on the day and erect all the necessary signage for the period of road closures.

There was an unfortunate incident of a speeding vehicle on Church Lane during this year's parade. Measures have been put in place to try to prevent this happening again.

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 at the War Memorial again this year. There was a very good attendance by the Scout Group members at this important parade. I must thank Roger Fenton who puts a lot of work into the organisation at the War Memorial and David Easterbrook for supplying the PA system.

DEFIBRILLATORS

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

Thank you to all the volunteers who check and monitor them weekly.

Defibrillators are a great community asset.

The council was able to hold another training evening in Sutton, in October, for any members of the public who wanted to understand the defibrillators and feel more confident to use.

ALLOTMENTS

The allotments continue to have almost full occupancy with just one vacancy at the start of this season.

The council have undertaken fence repairs and cleared weeds & brambles from around the entrance to the allotment during the last year.

The council have sponsored the purchase of wildflower seeds to sow around the entrance area of the allotments.

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 council members sat on the Forest Working Group but unfortunately the group was due to a change in management positions within UU and the Forest Rangers.

This meeting was a valuable asset to our council as it gave us an opportunity to liaise with other representatives of the Forest and its working.

Difficulties in the forest and surrounding area often arose with, amongst others, parking issues and off-road cyclists.

The condition and maintenance of the roads and pathways around the Ridgeway and Trentabank reservoirs are often a concern, and the council are constantly lobbying CEC to repair potholes and maintain the road surfaces not only by the reservoirs but throughout our parish.

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The C.E.W.G. consists of 4 councillors and 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 CEC goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. At the same time, we recognise that all our work in this area will improve our parish environment.

A successful litter pick was held around the parish at the end of March engaging members of our community and councillors.

LANGLEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

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

The land that the council want to acquire for the orchard is behind the Langley Institute, bordering Coalpit Lane and owned by Cheshire East Council.

The parish councils' solicitor is dealing with the acquisition of a lease to transfer the land from Cheshire East to Sutton Council.

Progress has been made on the Heads of Terms agreement and a schedule of condition of the land has been prepared and lodged with our solicitor.

A number of meetings have continued between Parish Councillors, representatives from Cheshire East Council and Macclesfield Wild Group and the neighbouring landowner.
A new boundary fence has been erected between the neighbouring land and the proposed orchard.
The orchard action group were able to plant some hedges in December along this boundary.
The community Orchard Action Group again attended local events to promote their aims and show how small actions by us all can help to achieve “ a greener community “

The Parish Council obtain the electricity for all street lighting in the parish from a green energy supplier.
The Christmas trees at Sutton and Lyme Green have energy saving bulbs but we are still working to get mains electricity to the site of the Langley tree enabling it to have energy saving bulbs too.

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 Nursery.
I would like to thank all councillors who organise and judge the competition. Prizes are awarded for the three tallest sunflowers.
Thank you to the Head Teacher and staff from Hollinhey School and Nursery who distribute the packets of seeds to all the children and go out later in the year to measure the height of any flowers which are grown outside the parish.

LANGLEY PLAYING FIELDS AND RECREATION AREA

The s106 money, that was issued to Langley following the Seddon’s Development in the village, was allocated to the project for improving the Langley playing field area and children’s play park.
In May all residents whose property borders the playing field were sent copies of the plans and lobbied for comments.
Parish council representatives met with the project officer and members of the fete committee on site.
The plans for the improvements of the whole playing field including the play area and surrounding recreation area have now been agreed.
The important aspects of the plans that have been considered are accessibility for all, noise levels, litter, suitability of play equipment and future maintenance of the whole area.
The play equipment for the play park has now been agreed and ordered with the view to start installation in the coming weeks.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS IN LANGLEY AND LYME GREEN

All the houses are now occupied at the Seddon development in Langley and some of the industrial units are occupied.
Approaches to the developers regarding landscaping snagging issues in various areas are still on going.
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 CE planning enforcement continue to try to have the waste removed by the development company and continue to try to resolve other outstanding issues with Seddon Homes.
Builders have been on site at both housing developments at Lyme Green through the year.
Building is progressing with another 40 houses in the process of being built & nearing Completion on the site on the corner of Gaw End Lane and London Road and work continues on the Vistry Homes site.

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety is another concern to residents and councillors. We are constantly looking at ways to keep our roads and lanes safer.
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 our Ward Councillor and the Parish Council.
The pedestrian crossing on London Road, close to the new entrance to the development, is now operational but the council have been lobbying CEC to repair and reinstate the footpath which runs along the west side of the London Road, between the new housing development and the petrol station.
It is vital that a safer route is established for people wishing to walk to the service station shop.

The Parish Council constantly try to deal with the poor state of repair of our roads and lanes due to potholes and water ingress.

The clerk is in constant touch with CE highways to try to achieve repairs of the roads and footpaths in our community.

A number of grit bins have been re-located or new added to some areas to try to help with slippery conditions in the winter.

With a view to safety, street lighting issues in the parish are always dealt with promptly when reported.

LYME GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING GROUP

Phase 1 of the development of a Community Hall at Lyme Green on land owned by Vistry Housing was completed during 2025. A Trust was setup to acquire the land that was needed.

The Parish Councils relationship with the Trust is over but the council will be happy to consider requests for assistance in the future, in the usual way.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Again, the Parish Council financed and organised the provision of the three Christmas trees in the parish.

The cost covers purchasing, erecting, 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.

As usual this year the event was well attended by the community.

The Sutton Lane Ends tree switch on was again organised by the school and Friends of Hollinhey.

Thank you to Hollinhey School staff, pupils & parents for wonderful singing to get everyone in the Christmas mood.

Thank you to Chris Fenton who provided the sound system.

GRASS MOWING

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

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

BUS SHELTERS

The Parish Council are responsible for care and maintenance of three bus shelters in our community.

Langley bus shelter has been refurbished this year. Painting and maintenance of the roof were undertaken.

The Sutton and Lyme Green bus shelters have been earmarked for maintenance in the future.

Our official Sutton Parish Council website is kept up to date providing a good communication channel and information to the public.

For any queries or information required please email our parish clerk, 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

There were no members of the public present.

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday 16th May 2027

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.16 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record.

.....Chairman