

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2026 COMMENCING at 7.30 P.M.

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

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllrs G Barber (Chairman), R Chamberlain, C Eyre, D Fosbrook, H Jackson, J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), M Bhatia, K Stepien-Bialy and T Priestman

Also present: The Parish Clerk.

OPEN FORUM *Before the meeting commenced representatives from United Utilities attended to update and answer questions regarding water supply fluctuations, resilience and future investment in the area. (Notes will be available on our website).*

- 83/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence from PCSO J Newns, Ward Cllr C O’Leary, Councillors E Hall and T Whiskard. Cllr A Waller was not present.
- 84/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive dispensations and declarations of interest: Declarations of interest received from Cllr Stepien-Bialy with respect to Item 101/26 related to “The Grapevine”.
- 85/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to confirm and sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 12th March 2026.
- 86/26 Public Participation - THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive information/queries/questions from members of the public (MOPs): There were no members of the public present.

MEMBER REPORTS

- 87/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive report from the Cheshire East Ward Member. *See Appendix 1*
- 88/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive report from Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team. *Report not received at the time of meeting.*

Members asked for the following to be raised with the PCSO and at the next police surgery:

- Vandalism - Members are concerned regarding vandalism and stolen scarecrows at the recent community event and the library at Lyme Green. This adds to the vandalism of the Christmas nativity in December. Enquire whether there is any update on this and what can be done.
 - Parking at junctions – members were concerned with blocking the line of sight at the top of junctions Robin Lane, London Road and Lindrum Avenue.
- 89/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive update regarding current position with the allotments: Currently one outstanding payments 8A. Plot 12 is now free for a new tenant.
- 90/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive reports from the Climate Emergency Working Group and Langley Orchard and agree action: **For reports see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.**
- Progress of Langley Orchard Earth Day 25th April including Risk Assessment - risk assessment has been completed, and members **agreed** a £100 budget for the purchase of items for Earth Day. The Clerk suggested that if alcohol was being supplied a licence would need to be in place.
 - Langley Orchard - Progress with Draft Head of Terms. Reported still waiting to hear the current position from the Solicitor. Solicitor will let us know if there are any issues with regards the searches. *See Appendix 2*
 - Langley Orchard - **noted** schedule of condition to evidence the current state of the land/property had been prepared and forwarded to the solicitor.
 - Great British Spring Clean litter pick on Saturday 21st March. *See appendix 3*

FINANCE

91/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve schedule of receipts and payments for April 2026.

Receipts From:

BACS	Heapy	Allotment Plot 7B	£33.43
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BACS	Barnard	Allotment Plot 11B	£29.75
BACS	Cottrill	Allotment Plot 15B	£32.20
BACS	Dalton	Allotment Plot 14B	£ 41.13
BACS	Lovett	Allotment Plot 5B	£30.04
BACS	Heyes	Allotment Plots 5A/6A	£49.67
BACS	Stairmand	Allotment Plots 4B	£38.15
BACS	Hicks	Allotment Plots 8B	£33.95
BACS	Harrison	Allotment Plots 3	£70.00

Additional Receipts:

BACS	Cheshire East Council	1 st Instalment Precept	£15192.50
BACS	HMRC	VAT refund	£1408.50
BACS	Bhatia	Allotment Plot 4A	£41.65
BACS	Hampton	Allotment Plot 14A	£37.63

Payments To:

BACS	Sarah Giller	Clerks' net salary £885.80 and expenses £34.10, Pension contributions £60.46 & HMRC £97.46 MARCH	£919.90
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Spending power: GPOC

CHQ	G Barber	Sunflower seeds £29.90 Biscuits for use of supply for lights by resident £6.50	£36.40
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Spending power: GPOC

BACS	NSALG	Allotment Insurance for Tenants	£157.50
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Spending power: GPOC

DD	SSE Energy Solutions	Electricity Supply Invoice period 01/02/26 to 28/02/26	£178.39
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Spending power: GPOC

DD	Spoton.Net Ltd (It'seeze website)	Months subscription invoice date 16th March 2026	£58.80
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Spending power: GPOC

DD	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges MARCH	£7.00
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Spending power: GPOC

Pension Contributions:

DD	NEST (National Employment Savings Trust)	MARCH contribution Employee pension contribution - 5% - £47.54 Employer pension contribution - 3% - £12.92	£60.46
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Spending power: GPOC

HMRC payments:

BACS	HMRC	HMRC Income Tax MARCH 2026	£97.46
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Spending Power: GPOC

Additional payment:

BACS	Mr M Johnson	Seeds for allotments/orchard	£36.95
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Spending power: GPOC

92/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve 4th Quarter finance report and verify figures against year-end bank reconciliation up to 31st March 2026.

93/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note Audit 2025/26 notifications received from:

- JDH Business Service Ltd – Notification of Internal Audit and
- PKF Littlejohn – Notification of External Audit.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

94/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to consider whether to install bleed control kits in certain locations and **agreed** that Members could not justify the cost of the kits and boxes.

95/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to agree to note that United Utilities will keep the Council informed of with respect to water supply fluctuations, resilience and future investment.

96/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to agree that Councillors will speak with owner of the property, adjacent to the bus shelter at Lyme Green, to remove the guttering they have extended over the guttering of the bus shelter (this is a public building the Council is responsible for and causing damp to the structure). **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to agree** to speak with contractor to check whether the roof needs action as appears to be a loose tile.

97/26 THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to discuss the neighbourhood plan and whether to take this further and **agreed** to include on the Agenda for the May meeting.

PLAYGROUNDS

- 98/26 Langley Playground – **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to receive update from Parks Technical and Project Officer Cheshire East Council and **noted** that the equipment is on order with delivery Mid-May/June. They are progressing with steel fencing for the scheme as agreed. To **enquire** whether there is a timeline/works schedule for the plan of works and whether the playground will be closed to dog walkers etc during installation.
- 99/26 Langley Playground - **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **agree** to raise, with the fete committee, whether the Parish Council should look into negotiating an easement for access to the field entrance to safeguard continuation of the fete in the future.

HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATH MATTERS

- 100/26 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **receive** reports on highways/footpath issues and **agree** action.
 - Road sinking– between Rossendale just before Ridge View Cottage.
 - Footpath completely overgrown by branches forcing pedestrians into the road - between the Bank Top entrance and down to Fox Bank Farm, Hollin Lane.
 - Multiple pot-holes – Main Road in Langley.
 - Condition of road surface on Walker Lane – end of Lyme Green up to Tunnicliffe Road.
 - Condition of road/deep potholes – Tunnicliffe Road just past the shop.

THE GRAPEVINE

- 101/26 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **discuss** ideas for inclusion in the next Grapevine magazine and **agreed** (*Deadline 20th April*)
 - United Utilities attending forum.

PLANNING

- 102/26 **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED** to **agree** comments for return to the relevant authority for these new applications: **None received.**

CORRESPONDENCE received:

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to **note** the following correspondence and **agree** action if required:

- 103/26 CEC Enforcement 25/0074/ENF – response regarding issues raised against the Lavender Fields Development. Ongoing.
- 104/26 All Hallows School - school bus pick up along Church Lane – to approach Cheshire East to inform them that the lane is unsuitable for a school bus. To **enquire** with Ward Councillor who to contact.

105/26 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AND FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

- To **review** and confirm bank Signatories.
- To **approve** end of year accounts for year ending 31st March 2026.
- Annual Audit - to **approve** Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.
- Annual Audit - to **approve** Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26.
- Annual Parish Meeting. (*May*)
- Annual Meeting of the Council – Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and appointment of working groups. (*May*)

106/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to **agree the date for next meeting as Thursday 14th May 2026 commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.27 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record

..... Chairman

Appendix 1 - Report from Cheshire East Ward Member

I have been trying to two years now to spend the ward budget allocated to me for Highways. This is about £6.5k a year, and neither I nor my predecessor have been able to spend any of it so far. I have now escalated this to a stage 2 formal complaint and spoke with a very senior highways commissioner on Thursday. Hopefully will now see some movement.

I have chased the unfinished lining works on Jarman and Langley. At first Highways said that they could find no record of any proposal to install 30mph roundels on Jarman, so I sent them the email I had received from Highways in February 2026 that included a diagram of the proposed placement of the roundels. I have also chased for more horse-riding signs – there are signs going from Hall Lane up to the Church House but not coming down.

I continue to chase a number of planning enforcement issues around the parish, including Lavender Fields, the old quarry on Coalpit Lane, and issues on Leek Old Road. I have also asked for temporary tree preservation orders for trees at The Bungalow on Gaw End Lane – a number of mature trees have been felled recently.

The lighting in the island on London Road near Sparrow Avenue has now been replaced. I have again asked for a road safety assessment for this junction, and for a speed assessment on this stretch of road now that the new houses opposite Mecca are nearing completion.

Finally, I am hosting a Macclesfield themed cocktail night at the St Dunstan on Saturday 25th April from 7pm. You will have heard the news that the future of the pub has been secured for at least ten years thanks to an amazing community effort.

Appendix 2 - report on Langley Orchard

The acquisition of a lease for Langley Orchard is progressing well. The Clerk has been liaising with CEC and with our solicitor and progress has been made on Draft Heads of Terms. The schedule of condition of the land has been prepared and is now with our solicitor.

Preparations for the Earth Day event at the Orchard are well underway.

A further meeting of the Orchard Action Group was held on the 23rd March where it was agreed that the following activities would take place:

- The PC would have the Gazebo up and would showcase birdboxes, bat boxes, hedgehog house as well as possible Bug hotels and an activity for the children – seed balls. The Gazebo would also act as a welcome point at the entrance to the Orchard, and the Carbon Footprint Calculator would be available.
- Activities for children linked to a Discovery Trail around the Orchard.
- Wild seed planting
- Information board on the history of Turnip Brow
- Turnip Cricket – a bit like a coconut shy
- The life of Trees – handing out tree saplings, a log pile and a slice of a 130-year-old Oak.
- A woodland walk would be marked out
- Picnic – families to bring all their own items and blankets etc if it is a warm day.
- Composting – build compost bays from old palettes.

In addition, the group intends to invite the Community Fridge which is now based in Langley, the Tree Nursery for the saplings and the Dunstan Inn which is now a community pub owned by Langley village residents.

All those who are taking responsibility for each of the activities has been asked to complete a risk assessment on the form which has been circulated. The Group will compile all of the individual risk assessments into a master copy for the overall event. This will be returned to the Clerk to ensure it complies with insurance requirements prior to the event. Please note that scything has been removed and will not now be an activity on the day.

Publicity will be kept low key and local, highlighting the need to walk or cycle to the event as there is no parking. In order for the day to be a success, certain items need to be purchased, and the Action Group have asked for funding for the following items:

- Ply and posts for signs for the various activities £25
(printing is being done free of charge)
- Plain packets for the wildflower seeds £5
- Avery labels for seed packets £12
- Wildflower seeds £20
- Contingency-unforeseen issue/item £20
- TOTAL £82

The event will run from 1pm until 4pm, but may finish earlier if the weather is very poor.

Appendix 3 - report from the Climate Emergency Working Group

The group will be meeting on 13th April and has not met since the last report to SPC in January. However, the Great British Spring Clean event went ahead as planned on the 21st March.

Even though very few members of the public attended, we were able to cover parts of all three villages as well as a bit of Higher Sutton. About 8 bags of litter were collected. Although the overall number of litter pickers was disappointing, there was real enthusiasm showed by those who did volunteer.

There was also curiosity as to what we were doing by non-participants, and so it was an opportunity to promote the council’s “Keeping It Green” agenda, as well as the council being visible in the community.

Fete Events

The Council has agreed the purchase of a roller banner and progress on this will be discussed on the 13th with a view to it being ready by May.

On the 13th the group will also be discussing which events can be covered this year based on councillors’ availability, but could include, the school fete, Langley fete, an event in Lyme Green and Sutton Fruit and Veg. show in September.

Council will be aware that other possible events/ideas were generated and brought to council in January. Of these the Neighbourhood Plan is now being discussed and explored further by the whole Council; the Earth Day event is going ahead on the 25th April (see Langley Orchard report) and the idea of an event highlighting ways of reducing energy costs for residents current housing, has been put on hold due to the focus on the Orchard and a lack of response from CEC. It can be picked up again later in the year and remains very relevant.