

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, SUTTON

On **THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2022 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillors: G Barber (Vice Chairman), M Bhatia, R Chamberlain, M Eardley, J Flitcroft, B Griffiths, A Walker and T Whiskard.

Also Present: Six members of the public, representative from United Utilities and the Parish Clerk.

1.0 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs M Horrox, D Fosbrook, J Sinclair Smith, PCSO J Newns and Cheshire East Ward Councillor A Gregory.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to **approve** the Minutes of the Meeting dated 6th May 2021 which were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR CIVIC YEAR

(Report written by Chairman Cllr D Fosbrook and read by Cllr G Barber in the meeting)

This is an overview of the activities of the Parish Council over the past year.

Cllr Elizabeth Jones stepped down from the Council and we welcomed new Cllr Matthew Walker who was voted onto the council from a pleasing number of five applicants.

Our new Ward Councillor Andrew Gregory has proved a worthy successor and we would like to thank him for his help and representation over the year.

a. Finance

The Parish Council finances remain in good order and the 2021/22 precept was set at £24750.

b. Policing

Many thanks to PCSO Jim Newns, especially for his surgeries with residents around the parish.

c. Remembrance Day

The service and parade was well attended after the previous years' lockdown service and this was the first year we had to cover the costs of the road closures. This was a significant change at £1,375.

d. Defibrillators

The Council continues to support the five defibrillators around the parish and we much appreciate the help from volunteers who continue to check their working order.

e. Robin Lane playground

After what seems like an eternity and many meetings ANSA agreed to move the equipment to a better position within the playground and to install drainage pipework to solve flooding issues. We hope that this will please most residents and this fantastic park can now be enjoyed by all.

f. Allotments

The plots are all looking productive with the vacant plots filled from the waiting list. All plots are now full. Costs have been incurred clearing vacant plots and plans are in place to consider increasing the number of water taps and boxing in the standpipe housings.

g. Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Working Group

Cllrs Whiskard and Bhatia continue to attend meetings with all stakeholders and seek better communication between United Utilities and residents.

h. Sunflower Competition

As in previous years the Council has organised the sunflower competition in conjunction with Hollinhey Primary School and I would like to thank Cllr Barber and Bhatia for the running and judging of the competition.

i. Hall Hire

Due to the closure of St.James Church hall, while renovations took place, meetings were held in the Langley Methodist Chapel hall and I would like to thank them for making their facilities available and for helping us to deal with Covid regulations so efficiently, during our early meetings, after the lockdown was lifted.

- The Parish Council have been involved with helping of the Queens Platinum Jubilee events which we are looking forward to in June.
- Last year the Council agreed to be involved in the church graveyard burial closure extension. Two of our Councillors Whiskard and Chamberlain agreed to join the working party to try to find a solution.
- In 2020 we agreed to implement a climate change policy and agree actions that could be taken. With COVID this was put on hold however, a working party has now been formed with four Councillors (Cllr Sinclair Smith, Bhatia, Griffiths and Fosbrook) and a number of residents to move this forward. Many thanks to Cllr Sinclair Smith for all the background work and chairing of working group meetings.
- The biggest challenge of the year was opposing the division of our parish proposed by the East Cheshire Governance Review. After numerous meetings, including one with MP David Rutley and help from our Ward Cllr Andrew Gregory, it was decided that a leaflet drop to every house in the parish explaining the importance of voicing opinion/objections was required. Hence with the help of Councillors, who hand delivered the leaflets to all households nearly 400 residents replied with 97% objecting to the changes. I am very pleased to say it was successful with no change to the Parish.
- We have had an improved connection with the CIC and involvement in the Grapevine magazine and we look forward to working closely with them in the future.

Special thanks to :

- Our garden maintenance contractor for excellent grass cutting and maintenance of the Pleasance, Ridge Hill and the clearing of the Pinfold
- To Cllr Bhatia for her work and time maintaining and updating the website.
- To Cllr Flitcroft for your help with all financial matters and to Cllr Griffiths for being on hand for any allotment issues.
- To resident for stepping in at short notice as our sound engineer for the Christmas tree lighting and carol service with Hollinhey School which was much appreciated.
- To Cllr Waller for collecting the Christmas trees and to resident (tree surgeon) for stepping in to erect them at late notice.
- And lastly thank you to all my fellow Councillors for their attendance and continued support and in particular to my Vice Chairman Gill Barber and to our Clerk Sarah Giller for their help and support in my year of office.

5.0 REPRESENTATIVE FROM SEDDON HOMES TO REPORT ON PROGRESS AT LANGLEY BUSINESS PARK

Seddon's Project Manager reported on progress:

- The show homes are open with 25 plots under construction.
- The first plot will be occupied end of May.
- Over the next 2/3 months people will start living on the site.
- Regarding the entrance – they are still waiting for Cheshire East Council to sign off so that they can commence work on the entrance. They expect it to be three to four weeks work. They expect half the lane will be closed with traffic lights. No date set yet.
- The site office/cabins will stay for duration of the work.
- Piling - should be finished by Wednesday and there will be another phase of piling around August time.

- Majority of work will be around pond area with the last plots going in around the pond area.
- Last plots are programmed for August next year 2023. The site is progressing well.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman then invited questions from the public.

Representative from Seddon's answered a number of questions from Councillors and residents regarding:

- Piling and the type of properties being built at the back of the site.
- Lavender Fields - It was confirmed that Lavender fields was a marketing name and would not be used for the area or road names. Examples of road names include Notting and Cricketers Road.
- They released 21 houses for sale which have all sold.
- Industrial units – are not sold however, they are going through some design changes. They should be ready at the back end of this year.
- S106 monies – confirmed monies go to Cheshire East Council who will allocate the funds. Plans have been drawn up for Langley park. Funds will be released once first property sold.
- Lack of recreation available for children – nothing designed for children to play. Noted that Seddons did propose the pond was filled in for a park however, residents did not want this to happen.
- Hedge way driving into Lavender field – no hedging will be removed.

There were no further questions.

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday 11th May 2023.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.56 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record.

 Chairman