

SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, SUTTON

ON THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: G Barber (Chairman), J Sinclair Smith (Vice Chairman), R Chamberlain, J Flitcroft, D Fosbrook, B Griffiths, M Horrox, A Waller and T Whiskard.

Also Present: The Parish Clerk (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

Cllrs Eleanor Hall, M Bhatia, M Walker, 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 12th May 2022 which were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR CIVIC YEAR 2022/23

This report is an overview of the Parish Councils activities for the past year 2022/2023.

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

Also thank you to Cllr Sinclair Smith for the help and support she has given to both me and the council members during the past year in her role as Vice Chair.

Cllr. Michael Eardley stepped down from his position as a council member & we welcomed new Cllr Eleanor Hall, who was co-opted onto the council at our November meeting.

I must thank our Ward Councillor, Andrew Gregory for all his help, support and representations over the last year.

Following the refurbishment of St James Hall our meetings have been held in the hall again at monthly intervals for the last 12 months.

FINANCE

The Parish Council finances remain in good order & the 2022/23 precept was set at £27,225.

POLICING

Many thanks to PCSO Jim Newns from the neighbourhood policing team, for his work over the past year. Especially for the surgeries that he has set up at regular intervals, in different venues around the parish. Residents can easily contact him and speak to him there, on a more personal basis. I would also like to welcome PC Shaun Jackson, who is joining Jim in our area.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The service & parade were both well attended. Again, for the second year the Parish Council had to cover the cost of road closures. This was undertaken by a private company, Duttons, at the cost of £1,450 to the council. I would thank members of the church and the vicar for their help & support at this important event.

DEFIBRILLATORS

The council continues to finance the upkeep & servicing of the 5 defibrillators situated around our parish and thank all the volunteers who continue to check & monitor them weekly.

We have received a request for help to set up another defibrillator at Sutton Reservoir. The council is in the process of working with the Victoria Fishing Society to obtain a defibrillator for this location.

It has been agreed by the council to finance awareness training for defibrillator use on an annual basis. A map of the defibrillator locations has been prepared and is ready for publication on our website and in the Grapevine Magazine.

MILLENNIUM SIGNS

Millennium signs are sited in each of the four wards of our parish. An order has been placed with Leander Architectural, who originally supplied the signs, to clean and refurbish them. Currently signs from Lyme Green and the Rural wards have been removed and taken away to be worked on.

ALLOTMENTS

All allotment plots are taken. There is a waiting list for any plots which become available.

Work to improve 2 water taps & standpipes has been completed.

It is hoped to appoint a spokesman, to represent allotment holders in the near future, who can liaise with council on behalf of other allotment members.

I must thank our councillors who keep regular contact with the allotment holders and the clerk for her hard work in this area.

MACCLESFIELD FOREST WORKING GROUP

Two members from our council continue to regularly attend meetings with all stake holders.

An open meeting was held between United Utilities & residents of the district in June, to enable a better understanding of the difficulties & complaints which arise from the use of the forest by all visitors. Parking issues and use by off road cyclists was high on the agenda.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

The council continues to organise the sunflower competition annually for children who live in our parish or attend Hollinhey Primary School. I would like to thank all councillors who organise & judge the competition.

The CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The climate emergency working group consisting of 4 councillors along with several interested members of the public, have been working hard to develop an action plan of areas where we can take measures to support CEC goal of being carbon neutral by 2030 and at the same time improve our parish environment.

They have looked at ways to reduce the effect of climate change on our locality and our residents. Regular monthly litter picks are now taking place. The group are planning an "Earth Day" which will consist of activities for Primary age children to learn about the effects of climate change on their lives.

The full council has agreed to support in principle, a plan for a community orchard in Langley. Thanks must go to these councillors and residents for their hard work with this.

NEW HOUSING

Both areas of the new housing developments are coming along at a pace.

The final houses on the Seddon's development at Langley are due to be completed by August this year. In December 2022 Cheshire East Highways improved the entrance to the site, making pedestrian crossing places and improving the footpath between Knotting Way and Brighton Crescent.

Parish council members consulted with the developers representative and the Head of CEC Highways to find an agreeable resolution.

The development by Bovis at Lyme Green is well underway. The council have had many meetings with highways, the developers and the police since the first planning stages of this development to try to make the roads emerging onto the main road as safe as possible. Traffic flow needs to be maintained while at the same time keeping the safety of pedestrians and other road user's paramount.

EVENTS/ THANKS

A number of events were supported by the council that took place in June to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeths Platinum Jubilee.

At Christmas the council supports the erection and maintenance of Christmas trees around our parish.

Thanks go to UU for providing the trees along with a tree for Hollinhey Primary School.

The cost of collecting, erecting and dismantling the trees is met by the council.

I would like to thank Keith Roberts who undertakes this work for us and Cllr Waller who stores the Christmas lights and fences each year.

Thanks to Mr David Easterbrook who stores & maintains the lights for the Langley tree and provides sound and lighting at the Langley switch on event.

Thanks also to Chris Fenton who provides the sound system for the lighting of Lane Ends tree and to Mrs Clough, headmistress, and the children of Hollinhey who lead the wonderful Christmas songs at that event before the school Christmas Fair.

I would like to thank our 2 council members who joined the Graveyard Working Group as representatives of the parish council. They have attended regular meetings of this group and reported back to council. Plans for the extension to the graveyard and memorial garden have now been submitted.

The council continue to have regular articles published in the Grapevine Magazine & thank their editorial team for facilitating this important communication link to our residents.

I would like to give special thanks to Anthony Boon (our garden maintenance contractor) for the excellent maintenance & grass cutting at the Pleasance, on Ridge Hill & again this year, for clearing the Pinfold.

Our official website is updated regularly to provide good communication channels and information to the public.

Finally, I must extend my sincere thanks to Sarah, our Clerk, for the hard work, help and advice that she has given to me and members in all areas of council business.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman then invited questions from the public.

There were no members of the public present.

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday 9th May 2024

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.43 p.m.

Minutes agreed by Sutton Parish Council as a true record.

.....Chairman