

Smisby Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting 9th May 2017

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 9th May 2017.

Smisby Parish Council Attendance

Councillor Steve Hewitt (Chair)

Councillor Simon Barnett

Councillor Mark Parnham

Councillor Rob Hounslow

Councillor Sarah Rushman

Parish Clerk Emma Stroud

Members of the public and other organisations

County Councillor Linda Chilton, District Councillor Peter Smith, 2 members of the public

1 Appointment of Chair for 2017/18

Councillor Steve Hewitt nominated and seconded. All agreed.

2 Appointment of Vice Chair for 2017/18

Councillor Sarah Rushman nominated and seconded. All agreed.

3 Apologies

District Councillor Michael Stanton.

4 Declaration of Interest

None identified.

5 Approval of accounts as at 31st March 2017

Approved.

6 Items identified to exclude public

None identified.

7 Chairman's Communications

A warm welcome to everyone. Congratulations to County Councillor Chilton on her re-election and being appointed Chairman of Derbyshire County Council. She reported that she will remain key contact for Smisby but also advised that her duties may be restricted at times. She also reported that some new young people had been elected over the district which will be exciting.

Councillor Hewitt highlighted the strength of belonging to a community. The Parish has a full range of skills and personalities. He also pointed out that while

lots of parishioners have opinions very few get involved. He thanked the willing volunteers for their continued efforts but said that we needed more people to get involved

The Parish Clerk continues to work well and is making progress learning the role of clerk.

Also thanks to the District and County Councillors for being big sponsors and investigators when needed. The village Defibrillator was funded from a grant and installing it was a big step for a small village. The demonstration evenings for this were also a success.

The Parish Council have driven a number of key issues over the last year with the help and support from the Parochial Charity and the other Councillors. The main ones being the village green (special thanks to Councillor Hounslow) and Chapel Street.

Parishioners often ask what the Parish Council does. Looking around the village it is clear to see. The Village should be proud of all the achievements.

Also thanks to Hazel for her continued attendance which demonstrates we are a very transparent Council.

District Councillor Smith described Smisby as a progressive Parish Council and can be seen as a role model for other villages. There is real team work and a proper community.

The war memorial is due to be cleaned. Parish Councillors are hoping that grants from the war memorial trust will cover the expenses.

The next newsletter is due to go out at the end of May. Councillor Hewitt will be seeking article submissions next week.

8 Opportunity for public questions

Pot holes – areas marked with yellow paint mean they have jobbed and it on the list of thing to do, however, it could still be a very long time until anything is done.

Hazel gave a big thank you to the village for all the help and support with her house fire. Showed a brilliant village community. Happy for an article to be in the newsletter.

Dog fouling is still a problem, will be added to the newsletter. The Parish could ask for more signs to make the problem more visible.

A Parish resident has volunteered to pick litter. **Parish Clerk to look in to insurance implications and also look in to insurance of current lengthsman.**

A resident highlighted that the hedge of one of the council houses is very high. Will it be lowered by the Council before new residents move in? DDC will carry out some maintenance of the property after that the tenants are responsible.

A parishioner also asked if the footpaths could be removed at the end of Chapel Street as they are not usable anyway as they are always parked on. It was thought that this would not be a cost effective option.

Playground has been inspected and everything is ok. Benches are broken but the Parochial Charity currently have them on order.

The Village Hall has had a busy year and has had lots of work done (all part of the long term plan). Bookings are going well but parking is an ongoing problem.

9 Approval of last minutes

One amendment made and signed. Approved.

10 Update on actions from previous minutes

Updates discussed in relevant agenda items.

11 Update on Village Green and Lamp Post

Now the church scaffolding has gone **Councillor Hounslow is waiting for the grass to be cut before he takes some photos which he will then send to County Councillor Chilton.** He will also include some possible ideas so that she can send it through to the right department to get the ball rolling. As Smisby is a conservation area it has been asked if planning is required. Therefore, it was suggested by District Councillor Smith to copy planning in to the email to County Councillor Chilton with a copy of the email stating that no planning would be needed.

Councillor Parnham has got some stone boulders for the village green. He just needs to get them in place, **he will contact other for help when needed.**

12 Chapel Street wear and tear

There was further discussion about how to prevent the verge on Chapel Street getting destroyed from vehicle mounting it. Boulders, logs, grasscrete matting and posts are all options. Whilst the weather has been dryer it has improved and the grass has begun to take. All agreed that it should be left for a few months to see if it deteriorates and **look at it again in the winter.** The road is

wide enough now even when there are parked cars. All agreed to leave logs there for now and remove them once the grass is embedded.

13 BT Phone Box

Parish Clerk has followed this up and is waiting for a reply with information from BT.

14 Hi-Speed Broadband

Councillor Barnett has been getting and comparing quotes for the village. There are lots of different options depending on how far (which properties) it needs to reach. Options include a variety of monthly payments, free installation and buying routers. There is also the possibility of getting a grant if signal is below a certain amount (eg £350 grant if below 2 meg). Parochial Charity still deciding if this is something they would fund. **Councillor Barnett to update at the next meeting or via newsletter.**

15 Car Parking on Main Street

Tempers are now getting high as this continues to be an issue. Inconsiderate parking is now a health and safety risk as emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulance are unable to get through. This was highlighted by a recent fire in the village where the fire engine was unable to get through. All agreed action needs to be taken.

There was lots of heated discussion around possible options including yellow lines along most of the far side of main street (as residents have off road parking), restricting the use of the Village Hall, encourage car sharing to groups.

Following the last meeting the Road Traffic Safety Team from DDC have been to inspect the area and highlighted that the railings outside the nursery are in the wrong place and need to be removed as they no longer required as it has not been a school since the 1970s. All were unhappy with this outcome. However, it is thought that removing the rails would not be considered a priority especially as there is no budget.

The village has had all land searches done to find possible parking solutions. The option of using the Nursery car park out of hours has been approached before with unsuccessful outcomes.

It was noted that adding yellow lines to the street will just move the problem on elsewhere and it would likely result in the damage of Anwell Lane verges.

To encourage car sharing Councillor Hounslow is visiting the groups to give talks about the problems parking in the village is causing. It is hoped that this will help with a longer term solution.

The Parish wish to contact the fire department to arrange for a mock up/practical tests and help to promote the possible risks of bad parking. Drivers are reluctant to drive fire engines through narrow/obstructed routes due to insurance implications, they would try to find another route. District Councillor Smith has spoken with both Leicestershire and Derbyshire Fire Service. There is some discrepancies over which district of the fire service covers Smisby. Swadlincote fire service attended the fire on the 5th May and are willing to help following clearance from HQ at Ripley. Leicestershire however were unwilling to help as they are not part of the same scheme. **District Councillor Smith to follow this up with the Fire Service and help Smisby get some advice.** County Councillor Chilton requested a copy of the report. More posters needed to display inside village hall. The possibility of making a video with a fire engine, highlighting the problem was discussed.

Yellow lines: Road traffic orders were discussed. These are expensive and have to go in the press. If there are objects it is unlikely they would get authorised. Traffic safety department would look at accidents in the area. Would residents object? There is no budget in the DDC pot. White T lines were mentioned but it would be difficult to enforce these in a rural area. County Councillor Chilton to make a complaint to get the ball rolling. Councillor Hewitt to email complaint to County Councillor Chilton to support her. Photographic evidence would help.

16 Update on Village Hall windows

Councillor Barnett and Hounslow putting application together. They requested a cheque from Smisby Parish Council for £97.50 to reduce the fee. All agreed.

17 The Poplars, Annwell Lane verge damage

Councillor Hewitt penned a letter to Harper Crewe to raise the damage they had incurred to the verges. There was understanding and stated that they would make good following the end of their contract. Excellent result.

The state of the fence was raised as it was believed that this would be a temporary measure and that the wall was due to be rebuilt. Pavement also very over grown. **District Councillor Smith to check conservation planners.**

18 7 Chapel Street Tenancy Application

The daughter of a deceased resident has been trying to retain tenancy of a parish property. The Parish Council supported her application. However, the applicant also raised a petition under her own esteem which the Parish Councillors did not sign. Since, there has been a clinical assessment of the property and circumstances. As this is a large 3 bedroom property it is in high demand for families and therefore her application was unsuccessful. District

Councillor Smith has called the applicant and talked through the decision. Parish Councillor thanked District Councillor Smith for his help and correspondence.

A resident enquired about the responsibility and state of the hedge. District Councillor Smith advised that the Council would complete maintenance of the property and assess the health and safety of appliances etc. Others mentioned that there were fuel tanks in the garden. Once a tenant has moved in garden maintenance would be their responsibility.

19 Highway maintenance matters (including potholes)

Potholes as usual. It was remarked that most of the pot holes has now been marked with yellow paint. This means that they have been 'jobbed' but no timescale has been mentioned.

20 To discuss and agree any response to the following Planning Applications

Councillors had no objections with the following applications.

9/2017/0358 – Pruning at Saint James Church

21 Questions and reports from SDDC and DDC Councillors

District Councillor Smith reported no news as the County Elections have dominated. Election on 8th June.

County Councillor Chilton reported that 9 recycling centres in the Derbyshire district have removed the fees for taking waste as fly tipping increased. Tax payers expect to be able to be able to dispose of their waste without a charge.

Lots of changes a foot with election.

Parking charges in Matlock bath have been reversed.

22 Clerks Report

Please see attached documents.

All other items of information have been emailed to Parish Councillors.

23 Review and agree insurance documents for 2017/18

Agreed. **Parish clerk to look in to insurance for covering lengthsman, playground inspector and other volunteers**

24 Statement of accounts, including Audit information

Accounts distributed for this financial year to date. Audit in progress and due to be submitted 7th July. Section 2 approved.

25 Approve payments

Payments approved as below.

Payee	Value	Reason/Invoice Number	Cheque No
H. Salt	50	Lengthsman	857
D. Whitby	40	Playground Inspection	858
Smisby Village Hall	90	Hire of Hall for meetings	856 —862
AON UK Limited	461.42	Insurance	859
E. Stroud	294.72	Salary	860
Bloomin Gardens	528	Grounds Maintenance	855
SDDC	97.50	Planning App	861

26 Set dates for 2017/18 parish meetings

- 11th July 2017
- 12th September 2017
- 14th November 2017
- 9th January 2018
- 13th March 2018
- 8th May 2018
- 10th July 2018
- 11th September 2018
- 13th November 2018

27 Smisby Parish Council nomination for Parochial Trustee

Two names were suggested. Councillors to approach and encourage to volunteer.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for attending and declared the meeting closed.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 7.30.

Signed: Date: