

**Smisby Parish Council**  
**Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Smisby Parish Council Attendance**

Councillor Steve Hewitt (Chair)

Councillor Simon Barnett

Councillor Mark Parnham

Councillor Rob Hounslow

Parish Clerk Emma Stroud

**Members of the public and other organisations**

County Councillor Linda Chilton, District Councillor Peter Smith, 1 member of the public

1 Apologies

Councillor Sarah Rushman, District Councillor Michael Stanton.

2 Declaration of Interest

None identified.

3 Items identified to exclude public

None identified

4 Chairman's Communications

A warm welcome to everyone. It is disappointing to see that after getting the village looking so nice that parts of it has been driven over by heavy vehicles. This is not thought to have been a result of the church roofers as expected but a TNT lorry. After 2 months with no issues it is frustrating that some of the excellent work has been undone. It has been repaired as best as possible and much of the soil was salvaged however it is clear that thought and work needs to be done to protect the verges and prevent vehicles mounting them. The idea of large boulders, tree stumps and bushes was discussed. Accountability and the location to prevent this was discussed as well as the need to modify how residents park.

5 Opportunity for public questions

Dog fouling is still a problem. **Dog fouling will be added to the newsletter** to keep up the persistence of reminding people. The new countryside law around this was also discussed.

There has also been sad news of the passing of a parishioner. Linked to this the Chair asked District Councillor Smith if there is anything that can be done

to help the daughter left in the house try to buy it. District Councillor Smith wasn't hopeful as this tends to be a very clinical procedure that doesn't sway with family circumstances. 3 bedroom houses are in short supply and are usually in demand for families. It was suggested that **Councillor Hewitt could write a letter and copy District Councillor Smith in to support her.**

Rats have been seen in the village. The Council has been out and laid poison. It is advised to stop feeding the birds and ensure rubbish is cleared away. **This will be added to the newsletter to raise awareness.**

Councillor Hounslow felt that the village had become a little scruffy over the winter and suggested a village tidy up. The 1<sup>st</sup> week in May was suggested so that builders from the church would be finished. **Communications will be sent via facebook and other networks for volunteers.**

Someone has resigned as Parochial Charity Trustee and therefore another person needs to be put forward. This can be anyone.

6 Approval of last minutes

Approved.

7 Update on actions from previous minutes

The newsletter has been sent out. The village halls AGM only had a turnout of 15 people. It was presumed that this meant that the people of the village are happy with the village hall.

Photos were taken after work on chapel street and village green were completed and photos have been taken of subsequent damage.

Outstanding actions were discussed but a record of these discussions has been recorded under the relevant item listed on the agenda or within the District Councillors Item.

8 Update on Village Green and Lamp Post

Photos of the vista of the village to support the application for a new lamp post haven't been taken yet as the scaffolding is still up around the church. Councillor Hounslow intends to taken the photos in spring when the blossom is out and the church is ready to give the best image possible.

Councillor Hounslow still to research the type of LED period lamp desired but this is not currently a priority. As electricians are already there County Councillor Chilton can't see why this wouldn't be declined especially if the Parish is able to pay. **Councillor Hounslow to send photos of the existing lamp post**

**and possible lamp posts to County Councillor Chilton to pursue funding. Councillor Hounslow to do research in to LED Lamp Posts.**

Planning was discussed around this. **District Councillor Smith to enquire if planning would be needed as this is a conservation area.**

9 Update on Chapel Street Works

After the wear and tear on Chapel Street so soon after having the road rectified by DDC the Parish Councillors agreed that something needs to be put in place to prevent further damage of the area. It was thought that widening the road would help. It was suggested that big boulders could be placed on the verge to prevent vehicles mounting the curb. However, there was concern that this could cause damage to vehicles. It was agreed that as long as they are massive boulders that are obvious from the road and as long as they are not obstructing the highway it was thought this should be ok. Especially as there was one there historically. **Councillor Parnham to look in to getting boulders in place.**

Oak posts with reflectors, like the ones on the village green were discussed as well as shrubs and wood look polyurethane posts (which are considerably cheaper than oak posts and don't rot). Another option mentioned was to put road stone down as let the grass grow through it. The area also needs more grass seed.

Currently tree stumps have been placed there by residents and these residents are also parking more considerately so this could make a difference to the pinch point. **It was agreed that Councillor Hewitt should speak or write to the residents to explain what the Parish Council would like to do to prevent further wear and tear.** Parking on the pavement would be setting a bad example but parking on their drive could have a significant impact.

It has been noticed that as well as the TNT lorry the most damage has been caused by the Harper Crew workers vehicles. All agreed that a letter should be sent to Harper Crew from the Parish Council informing them of the damage they have done and asking if they will put it right at the end of construction or pay for it to be put right. **Councillor Hewitt to prepare a letter which will sent from the Parish Clerk and to cc in County Councillor Chilton.**

**The Parish Councillors will monitor Chapel Street over the next 2 months and then make a decision for action.**

10 BT Phone Box

Parish Clerk to follow this up, when move on? The main thing is that it hasn't gone anywhere.

11 Hi-Speed Broadband

This is something that the parochial charity is looking in to and there is also the option of paying for it as a community. There is the possibility of applying for BT rural open reach broadband, however costings are high (over £41000) and would need 3 cab boxes. Councillor Barnett asked if any public funding would be available for this, **County Councillor Chilton to investigate**. It was thought that a grant may be available if you can prove that connection is under a certain amount. Two of the Councillor shared that their connections at home are 14 and 6. There was also one with 0.5 close by. It was reported that people who have applied have been told there is no funding. It was also suggested that having an Ofsted approved nursery in the village might help. It was also suggested that the Parish get MP Wheeler involved.

12 Grounds Maintenance Tender

The Parish Clerk received 2 tenders out of 4. One from Shed Grounds Maintenance Ltd and one from Bloomin Gardens. There was a large difference between price and as Bloomin Gardens have been good all agreed to continue to use them for 2017/18. **Parish Clerk to inform both companies of outcome.**

13 Highway maintenance matters (including potholes)

Potholes as usual.

Traffic and parking in the village was raised. As the village hall is getting more and more bookings parking is becoming more irresponsible and inconsiderate. Councillor Hounslow has taken several photos of the main road when parked vehicles have made it too narrow for vehicles to pass (this would be a problem for emergency vehicles), people had to turn around. Double yellow lines outside Ashby cottage and the nursery were discussed as an option as no residents need to park there but this was an unpopular option as it will just move them on to parking in other equally narrow areas in the village. The main problem is that people can't park on both sides of the road near the Village Hall as this is a narrowest point.

Road traffic orders were discussed. These are expensive. Some areas have vehicles parked so that it makes it incredibly difficult for residents them to get in or out of drives due to the turning area inflicted. It has been noticed that no one seems to park on the white lines.

County Councillor Chilton advised that was unlikely that highways have the budget for yellow lines. The question was raised 'what if the Parish paid?'

Councillor Parnham made the group aware of an A3 Fire Service Poster 'Dead End - Think about your parking'; which is a fire service prevention initiative. **Councillor Parnham to email the poster and District Councillor Smith will ask Swadlincote fire service to come and put some up in the village and to evaluate the risks in the area.**

County Councillor Chilton also thought that getting Road Traffic Safety advice from DDC on how to make the area safer may be beneficial particularly if attention is drawn to the nursery. Councillor Hounslow is happy to meet with them on site, a Wednesday night would be best to see the problems.

- 14 To discuss and agree any response to the following Planning Applications  
Councillors had no objections with the following applications.

9/2017/0110 - Smisby Manor

9/2017/0113 - Smisby Manor

9/2017/0184 - Tap House

Scamhazel Farm

In, addition it was noted that Old Chapel is for sale. District Councillor Smith has not seen any pre-applications for planning. Parish Councillors asked to be made aware if any new applications are submitted.

Councillor Hounslow reported that he is having difficulties with replacing the village hall windows. Council planning officers are not responding promptly and are not offering helpful options. PVC windows have been refused even though the they windows will look identical to the existing windows. Other houses in the area have had PVC approved. There has been no further advice. **District Councillor Smith will speak to planning and will let Councillor Hounslow and Barnett know the outcome.**

- 15 Questions and reports from SDDC and DDC Councillors

County Councillor Chilton informed the group that DDC is selling off some of its assets. Elvaston Castle currently have work being done to develop the building so that it can be used for weddings and to boost tourism. It has 10 new trustees. Funding is also being granted for other community project schemes.

District Councillor Smith informed the group that the Local Plan Part 2 is due to be finalised in early spring and should give better protection over Derbyshire.

The Spring wedding fair is on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and is encouraging local businesses to come. Also, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March there is a new business advice service at Sharpe's Pottery, 5.30pm.

16 Clerks Report

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Precept request has been received by SDDC.

Summer Holiday Provision Mobile – All agreed not required as parish to small.

A rise of 1.95% I council tax has been agreed for SDDC.

Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan for Ashby is available to view online.

Liberation Day on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Gresley Old Hall, tickets on sale now.

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

17 Statement of accounts/ end of year accounts/ concurrent expenses

Parish Clerk shared to date overview for March 2017. Approved.

Concurrent expenses form approved and signed. Should be eligible for full £1719.

Section 1 of the 2016/17 Audit was agreed assuming the form is the same as last years.

18 Approve payments

Payments approved as below.

Payee	Value	Reason/Invoice Number	Cheque No
H. Salt	50	Lengthsman	851
D. Whitby	40	Playground Inspection	852
S. Hewitt	68.90	Newsletter	853
SDDC	141.65	Litter Bin Service	850
E. Stroud	294.72	Salary	854
DALC	97.62	Annual Subscription	849

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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30.

Signed: ..... Date: .....