

Smisby Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting 12th September 2017

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 12th September 2017.

Smisby Parish Council Attendance

Councillor Sarah Rushman (Vice Chair)

Councillor Mark Parnham

Councillor Rob Hounslow

Councillor Simon Barnett

Parish Clerk Emma Stroud

Members of the public and other organisations

County Councillor Linda Chilton, District Councillor Michael Stanton, District

Councillor Peter Smith, 1 member of the public

1 Apologies

Councillor Steve Hewitt (Chair)

2 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Hounslow as a member of the Village Hall Committee - planning application for windows - 9/2017/0641.

3 Items identified to exclude public

None identified

4 Chairman's Communications

A warm welcome to everyone

5 Opportunity for public questions

Potholes on Chapel Street near Councillor Barnetts house and just off Chapel Street – Can they be done? Also on Annwell Lane, 150yards past Arboretum towards the Tap House there is a split in the road that is getting bigger, **County Councillor Chilton to look in to this**. These are easy to report on the Derbyshire County Council website on the 'Do it now' pages. **Councillor Hewitt to add a note to residents in the newsletter** that the more people that log problems then the quicker they are likely to get rectified. Similarly, you can log things on 'Fix my Street'.

6 Approval of last minutes

Approved.

7 Update on actions from previous minutes

War Memorial cleaning - This is an ongoing project. Councillor Barnett is dealing with it and is currently Pre Application. He is in contact with War Memorials Trust and they can provide 75% grant.

Overgrown verge and hedgerow on Smisby Road – This was cut back the next day.

Other 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

Councillor Hounslow has been pursuing this and is having problems proving that this should be changed to a more traditional looking lamp post and has been a metal base in the past. **Research needs to be done regarding the concrete base from the 1970's**. DDC just need to be onboard with the lighting as the Parochial Trust intend to pay for the work and lamp. The street lighting service is in Chesterfield and **Councillor Chilton will chase Senior Technician and report back before the next meeting.**

9 Jubilee Grounds – Residents Only sign following recent incident

Very recently youths were seen drinking on the Jubilee grounds. Councillor Hewitt approached the youths twice and asked them to leave as this was private land. They did eventually but all agreed that there should be at least 2 people to approach in the future as this could be dangerous. A sign was discussed to say something like 'Private land for villagers only'. Although it was also mentioned that this needs to have careful wording as the Parish Council does not wish to stop parents with children at the nursery from playing there when they pick up their children e.g. from dusk. All agreed no action is required at this point. Wait and see if there are any more incidents. Can the neighbourhood watch do anything in the meantime to deter youths?

10 BT Phone Box

Parish Clerk has sent the cheque and the contract and **will chase up again.**

11 Update on Village Hall Windows

Councillor Hounslow received a call from Katie at planning advising that the planning for new windows would not be approved. Following discussion highlighting the following. There is confusion over the reasons why it hasn't been approved as it is exactly the same spec as the Poplars (wood look and in keeping). Especially as planning initially said they couldn't see any reason why it would be approved. Apparently, there are stricter rules on public building compared to private houses. Even so there seems to be vast inconsistencies across the Parish where other properties seem to get the go ahead on things

that aren't suitable for a conservation area. Planning documents also include a clause like 'in their discretion'. **District Councillor Smith** was shocked to hear this outcome and **intends to contact planning directly** to challenge reasons. Changes to the application ie changing the spec to wood will add significantly to the cost. It was also noted that the old part of the building currently has PVC and rest of the building is relatively new. If it is not approved the Village Hall Committee will appeal.

The Village Hall Committee have 2 weeks to submit planning info for all wood frame windows. These are not ideal as they will not provide the efficiencies, maintenance and soundproofing improvements aiming for. **District Councillor Stanton will also pick this up (planning app 641) as a decision is required by 22nd September (next Wednesday).**

12 Update Hi-Speed Broadband

Simon still pursuing. Broadband is still not good enough. Backup processes can't access the cloud so this is impacting businesses massively. For example, Kilworth Machinery has ½ a meg. Councillor Parnham would like to send a letter to the relevant man in DDC. County Councillor Chilton explained that rural areas have been neglected due to numbers but this will be discussed at the annual conference. In the meantime, County Councillor Chilton will find out who Councillor Parnham can write to.

Councillor Barnett has arranged for approximately 30% of the village to get better broadband through BT open reach (those connected to CAB21). The nursery helps as it enables a discount. However, there is a £150,000-£200,000 GAP in funding to get broadband to the remaining outlying properties in the Parish (those NOT connected to CAB21) which is approx 70% of the Parish. Therefore this it isn't financially viable.

County Councillor Chilton suggests that Kerry from DDC attends the next meeting to give an update of DCC plans and discuss parish issues.

A letter/document will be going out to the whole parish to explain in more details and advising of the potential options for getting broadband into the village. 70% of the village is supplied from the Smisby Road box and will be able to be connected the remaining 30% have the option to get funding towards other options. A timescale hasn't been specified yet but early 2018 is a possibility.

13 Update Car Parking on Main Street

Traffic and parking in the village was an area for discussion again. Several possible options are being investigated including a white line on side and cones as a temporary solution. Long term plans will take time to resolve. Further

discussion to follow with an update at the next meeting. Councillor Hounslow regularly checks area. There are often comments on facebook about the problems with parked cars.

14 Interpretation Notice Boards – WI Centenary Challenge

Did the national forest have to get planning for information boards etc? Project ongoing and to roll over to next meeting.

15 The Poplars boundary fence

It was reported that the planners are not going to change their mind about the fence. This left Councillors confused as the fence is not in keeping with the village adds to the inconsistencies of planning within the village.

It was thought that original plans said that the original hedgerow planting would be retained and that they would 'make good the wall'. Neither has happened. Technically the fence is behind the wall on their property so what can be done about it? Article 4? It was believed that the conservation document that planning are following for the lamp post restrictions states that there should be no wooden fencing in the village.

All agreed that the Parish Council should write to Harper Crewe and say that they are disappointed and unhappy with the end result, explain and why they didn't rebuild it and suggest what could be done. Include that the wall is unstable, dangerous and makes the path unusable. The Parish Council would prefer the wall to be make good or for hedges to be planted. **Also contact planning raising the same issues.**

All felt this was against the values of planning applications in conservation area as it is not aesthetically pleasing.

16 7 Chapel Street – SDDC support with hedge cutting and ground works

District Councillor Smith confirmed that help will be given to cut hedges, won't be done in September due to nesting and doesn't have a idea of a date. He also confirmed that the fence is the responsibility of the tenant and that they are aware of this. Land and the level still being investigated.

17 Potential for mobile post office in Smisby

Councillor Hewitt has been approached by a company in Tamworth who can come to the village with a mobile post office. They would do it on a trial basis once a week initially to see if there was any take up. All thought that there wouldn't be much interest as there aren't many people around in the day but happy for a trial to take place. **Add to newsletter.**

18 Highway maintenance matters (including potholes)

Potholes as usual.

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

Councillors had no objections with the following applications.

9/2017/0813 - the variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref:
9/2016/0390 (relating to conversion of existing outbuilding to form four dwellings and associated access and parking arrangements) at Smisby Manor Annwell Lane Smisby Ashby de la Zouch

9/2017/0872 - the removal of condition 2 of listed building consent ref:
9/2016/0398 (relating to conversion of existing outbuilding to form four dwellings and associated access and parking arrangements) at Smisby Manor Annwell Lane Smisby Ashby de la Zouch

9/2017/0641 - to replace the windows of Smisby village hall on 3 elevations at Smisby village hall Main Street Smisby Ashby de la Zouch

20 Questions and reports from SDDC and DDC Councillors

County Councillor Chilton advised to be alert during Storm Ilene tonight and tomorrow particularly as there could be road closures.

District is currently looking for carers in the area to look after vulnerable people. They would work in sheltered accommodation with an aging society and receive a living wage.

Gold card (concessions for 65+) – check dates to see if they are due for renewal. **Add to newsletter.**

Management is changing at County Hall. County Councillor Chilton to add Parish Clerk to update emails

County Councillor Chilton reports that the street lighting on Heath Lane is still a problem. Currently the lamppost is hidden within thick poplar trees. A lamp post number needs to be located and reported by neighbours on 'Do it now'. The owner can be ordered to trim trees.

District Councillor Stanton nothing to report.

District Councillor Smith gave a warning that Telephone scams are being reported using the District Councils name using underpaid letters from inland revenue and tax.

21 Clerks Report

The Parish clerk confirmed that she attended the DALC finance clerk and may suggest some changes at the next meeting.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that she would **order the poppy wreath**. Attendance to the ceremony was discussed and District Councillor Stanton and Councillor Rushman will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

22 Statement of accounts, including Audit information

Accounts distributed for this financial year to date.

23 Approve payments

Payments approved as below.

Payee	Value	Reason/Invoice Number	Cheque No
H. Salt	£50	Lengthsman	871
D. Whitby	£40	Playground Inspection	872
E. Stroud	£294.72	Salary	873
DALC	£60	Finance Training Course	874

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

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 7.30.

Signed: Date: