

Smisby Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting 13th September 2016

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 13th September 2016.

Smisby Parish Council Attendance

Councillor Steve Hewitt (Chair)

Councillor Rob Hounslow

Councillor Mark Parnham

Councillor Sarah Rushman

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 Simon Barnett, District Councillor Michael Stanton.

2 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Hounslow declared an interest in item 13.

3 Items identified to exclude public

None identified

4 Chairman's Communications

Councillor Hewitt welcomed County Councillor Chilton back and gave our condolences.

Councillor Hewitt expressed thanks to County Councillor Chilton for all the work put into pursuing Chapel Street Works.

The sad news that Dolly (an elderly parishioner) passed away on Sunday 11th September 2016. The funeral is on Tuesday 20th September at Smisby Church at 2pm and afterwards at the Village Hall.

It is anticipated that the newsletter will be sent out at the end of next week. It will include information about works that have gone on over the summer especially the defibrillator. The whole parish will be notified of the emergency code. It was agreed that the film night will be deferred to the new year with focus being put on the popular Christmas Event.

It was also mentioned that Smisby Parish needs more help and input from the local community.

5 Opportunity for public questions

Member of the public highlighted that the phone box is really dilapidated and needs painting. This has been raised previously but has been put on hold due to other priorities. Again, the Councillors expressed an interest in owning the phone box and using it as a library/DVD swap shop. Tourist information has also been mentioned which may be eligible for funding. All Councillors were in agreement that they wish to keep the phone box.

Some pot holes have been done but a member of the public flagged that there are still a lot of potholes, particularly on the way to Ticknell, on Main Street, Forties Lane, Heath Lane and still going towards Ashby. County Councillor Chilton said these could already be listed.

A member of the public also enquired if it would be possible to get more play equipment for the 11-17 age group as she has concerns about kids playing on forties lane and destroying the bank near their house. The Councillors thought this could be an item to take to the parochial charity but after further discussion it was thought that Smisby does not have a big enough economy or enough children to warrant spending this amount of money. The District and County Councillors put forward the idea of a multifunctional play area which could be used for tennis, basket ball, football etc. It was thought that the parochial charity would not be enthusiastic about this as they would not want to install equipment for it not to be used. Evidence that there is a need for this equipment would be needed for further consideration. It was also noted that there is a skate park, leisure centre and trampoline gym in nearby Ashby. However if Smisby Parish did wish to pursue this then it was mentioned that The District Council and Sports England would be worth contacting for help/funding.

It was highlighted that the picnic bench was in need of repair. The parochial charity paid for this previously, it was discussed if would be cheaper to buy a new one – **Councillor Hewitt to look in to this.**

It was noted again that the (broken) swing is still missing. It is thought that the council has taken this away after doing a spot check. District and County Councillors believe that this will be returned repaired – **Councillor Hewitt to check up on this.**

It was brought to the attention of the Parish, that the church will be getting a new roof in November after they were successful in getting a government grant for £56,000. Active fund raising before means that the full cost of the roof will be covered. There will be scaffolding up for 3 months. The

Christmas Service will go ahead as usual. **Councillor Hewitt to let Jeff know the date for the Christmas lights event.**

6 Approval of last minutes
Approved.

7 Update on actions from previous minutes
It was agreed that an article about the dog fouling in Smisby would be included in the next newsletter.

A letter to Ashworth about the Chapel Street works was sent.

Councillor Barnett is pursuing the Air Con Application, he has had to submit more plans. The hearing loops should be working very soon. County Councillor Chilton reported that there was a difference already even though it is not set up. Many thanks to Councillor Barnett who is volunteering his spare time to do the work.

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
Councillor Hounslow updated the group. Bloomin' Gardens have given a quote of approximately £3000 to replace rotten posts and replace with fewer but thicker posts. Current posts are 4x4 and they suggest to replace with 6x6. They will add reflectors. They will match the posts at the front of the church. **Councillor Hounslow is eager to get approval from fellow councillors before the next meeting to be ready for Remembrance Sunday.** There is the option to add chains after if it needs it. All agreed, that this would add style to the area and join the church and green together to make the Parish look consistent. Also, it should be easier to maintain.

It was mentioned that the war memorial would also need cleaning.

The green will need a Christmas tree ordering soon. The Councillors discussed what size they need and it was agreed that approximately 15 foot should be about right. **Councillor Parnham to research and arrange.**

The wording for the plaque was agreed and has been ordered. A black plate has also been ordered to avoid problems with screws.

District Councillor Smith commented that it looks amazing as you drive in and can see the church. Well done to all involved. It was commented that an

ornate lamp post would finish it off beautifully. County Councillor Chilton thought that it was unlikely that Highways would be able to help. Parish prepared to pay. **Councillor Hounslow to look in to reclaimed lamp posts.**

After the work Smisby might be able to enter the Best Kept Village Competition (in the under 500 population category) which it last won in 1993.

9 Update on Chapel Street Works

County Councillor Chilton updated all of her contact history and read her email trail including emails from Glyn Dutton which has resulted in DCC agreeing to complete the works. All Councillors are very happy with this result but have requested that a site visit is arranged to discuss the job and agree the plan. It is preferable that highways, a Parish Councillor (the more the better) and County Councillor attend this site visit. All agreed that it is vital that a Parish Councillor meets and confirms the work to be carried out to avoid disappointment again. Parish Councillor would like to be clear where the kerb will be installed and where there will be tarmac, it is crucial that the road is not made too narrow. Emergency vehicles, trucks and waste vehicles need to be able to access without going up the verge. However, the sum of £9000 was mentioned as a cap for this work. County Councillor hoped that this should be completed by Christmas. **County Councillor Chilton and Councillor Hewitt to pursue site meeting.**

10 Defibrillator

It was reported to the group that the defibrillator has been installed and that it is now fully functional. The access code will continue to be published in the newsletter and more training can be arranged if required.

Councillor Hewitt to send an email to County Councillor Chilton regarding where the we sourced the defibrillator.

11 Village Hall Air Conditioning

Councillor Barnett has had to submit further plans for the Air Conditioning and will continue to keep the group updated on progress.

12 Highway maintenance matters (including potholes)

Potholes were discussed in item 5.

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

The Pruning of 2 trees at Ivanhoe House (Ref: 9/2016/0797) was discussed. Councillor Hounslow did not comment on this item. No objections were raised.

14 Questions and reports from SDDC and DDC Councillors

District Councillor Smith reported great news that unemployment in South Derbyshire is 0.6% and that 185 young people are seeking employment in to meaningful apprenticeships.

He also confirmed that the next Safety Neighbourhood Area Forum will be on 4th October at 6.15 in Ticknall.

Also, a state of the art climbing facility has been opened in Swadlincote. Apex Climbing Centre was opened by District Councillor Smith last Friday. It is the best in the country and replaced Grove Hall. It was partly funded by Sports England. It has walls for all ages and abilities.

Melbourne club house was formally opened on Sunday. It is a great facility.

District Councillor Smith is now away until early October but will still be picking up private emails. Contact District Councillor Stanton will urgent matters.

County Councillor Chilton announced that highways would be opening a new £15000 hub/one stop shop in April 2017. This will support the 3500 miles of network.

All surface dressing and programmes for road works has finished for 2016 except for dangerous. They are now compiling a list for 2017. A dangerous hole in the footpath along Burton Road was reported.

There is a need for more snow wardens. Farmers get money for doing it for local communities. See DCC website for more details.

The Council is urging students to go and get the vaccination for meningitis. **Councillor Hewitt will add this to the newsletter.**

Councillor Hewitt mentioned that the swing had still not been replaced. **District Councillor to investigate this and find out where the swing has gone and if they intend to fix/replace it.**

15 Clerks Report

The Parish Clerk made amendments to the financial regulations document and this was signed.

The Parish Clerk asked all Councillors to complete the 2 forms for declaration of acceptance and pecuniary interest forms.

The Parish Clerk updated the group about the complaint about the Gold Hand Car Wash from a Smisby parishioner to NWL district council.

Parish Clerk has ordered the Poppy Wreath.

Parish Clerk discussed updating the asset register and insurance with defibrillator and laptop. All agreed this should be done.

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

16 Statement of accounts

Parish Clerk has now completed the Audit and has got relevant signatures to sign off Section 2.

Parish Clerk shared to date overview for September 2016. Approved.

19 Approve payments

Payments approved as below.

Payee	Value	Reason/Invoice Number	Cheque No
RBL Poppy Appeal	£25	Remembrance Wreath	831
H. Salt	£50	Village Lengthsman (3/6)	828
D. Whitby	£40	Playground Inspections (3/6)	829
B. Wood	£100	External Auditor	832
Kilworth Machinery	£54.74	Defibrillator Letter	830
E. Stroud	£331.56	Clerks Salary (3/6)	833
SDDC	£46	Trade Waste Sacks	834

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 8th November 2016 at 7.30.

Signed: Date: