**SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2018 AT DERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr David Price (Chairman), Cllr Bill Brown, Cllr John Busby,

Cllr Michael Eld, Cllr Peter Eveson, Cllr Alison Vaughan,

In attendance: Cllr Mark Winnington (SCC), Cllr Ray Sutherland (SBC), John Charleton (Clerk) + 17 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr J Pert (SCC), Cllr Michael Eld, Cllr Mark Hodgkins, Cllr Jean Wetton,

**1. Introduction and welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed residents and councillors.

**2. Fundraising for Katherine House Hospice (KHH)**

Mr David Middleton gave a summary of the work of KHH and outlined the range of services provided including community fundraising initiatives:

The following points were highlighted:

* 75% of the hospice’s annual running costs of £3m are provided by donations/ fundraising from the local community;
* 87p in every £1 collected through fundraising goes towards care at the hospice
* Once a week the Hospice offers a Well-being day for people with anxiety, breathlessness etc.

The Chairman thanked Mr Middleton for his informative presentation

**3. Annual Parish Meeting 2017**

**RESOLVED:** the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 16 April 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**4. Matters raised by parishioners**

(a) Pavements in Great Bridgeford

Mr Greatholder raised concerns about the state of the footpath outside his property on the Newport Road. He noted that during rainy weather a large pool of water collects that makes it difficult for residents and services to access the property.

Several residents expressed disappointment that pavements in the village had not been upgraded. The last review of the pavements by County Highways had taken place 6 years ago when it had been concluded that the condition of pavements did not warrant remedial repair. Despite many subsequent complaints to Highways by residents and the Parish Council on the poor condition of the pavements no progress had been made.

**Action: Cllr Price to meet Mr Greatholder to assess the problem prior to inviting Mark Keeling from County Highways for a site visit**

(b) Potholes and Gullies

Several residents raised concerns about the number of potholes in the parish’s roads especially on Clanford Lane and Bunn’s Bank. Concerns were also expressed about the number of gullies that needed to be emptied.

Cllr Winnington confirmed that despite a significant reduction in funding from central government the County Council had agreed to invest an extra £5M in roads this year to help repair some of the worst defects caused by the winter weather. Work was due to commence this week to catch up on pothole repair and gully emptying.

Cllr Winnington acknowledged that SCC had been required to devote a lot of resources to ensure roads were gritted properly during the winter.

Robert Eld noted that he had asked for clarification from Highways on how work was prioritised. A written response from Cllr Deaville received by Mr Eld had failed to clarify the County’s approach.

**Action: Clerk to write to Highways to request that gullies in the parish be emptied as a matter of urgency (copy to Cllr Pert).**

(c) Footpath on Billington Lane

Mr Kowalewski raised safety concerns for pedestrians given the lack of a footpath on Billington Lane to the Newport Road.

Cllr Vaughan and the Clerk noted that work had started in exploring the feasibility of constructing a path to the same standard as the Greenway.

**Action: Parish Council to keep this matter under review**

(d) Bus shelter

Mr Turner raised concerns regarding safety for pedestrians due to the narrowness of the footpath from the bus shelter on Whitgreave Lane to the Eccleshall Road. He also noted the problem of parking on the grass verge adjoining the former shop.

**Action: Parish Council to consider these issues.**

(e) Chebsey Lane

Robert Eld noted that he had discovered the electrical connectors for traffic lights that Network Rail had originally intended to install on Chebsey Lane.

**Action: Clerk to advise Network Rail.**

(f) Parking on Jasmine Lane

Cllr Eveson raised the concerns of a resident regarding a van being regularly parked on the entrance to Jasmine Road off the Eccleshall Road. He noted the advice of the PCSO that no action is possible as the vehicle is taxed and insured and not parked illegally,

**Action: Clerk to write to Highways to request clarification of requirements for installing double yellow lines on this section of Jasmine Road**

**5. Annual Report of the Parish Council**

The Chairman presented the Parish Council’s Annual Report for 2017/18 highlighting the main activities/achievements.

The Parish Council will focus this year on plans to upgrade the children’s play area in Great Bridgeford and to install speed activated signs.

**6. Annual Report from Cooper Perry Primary School**

The Clerk presented the Annual Report as drafted by Cllr Wetton highlighting the following key points:

* The school governors and staff are very happy with the new head teacher
* The school governors have set up a nursery.
* The school’s PTA is very active and has funded several events for the pupils. The school choir has performed with Young Voices at the NEC in Birmingham
* The school is performing well academically and has been rated as ‘a good school’ by Ofsted and close to outstanding.

Mr Greatholder asked whether the school caretaker would be replaced following the retirement of the current post holder in May this year. The Chairman noted that school caretaking forms part of the health and safety services which are the responsibility of the PFI contractor rather than the school.

**Action: Clerk to write to the Chair of Governors to advise him of this issue**

**7. Church Reports**

(a) St Chad’s Church, Seighford

Barry Stamp reported on developments at St Chad’s church, Seighford:

* The PCC wishes to raise interest of young people in church issues;
* The Church organ needs repair;
* A beam in the bell-tower has had to be replaced
* The PCC is making plans for fundraising to meet costs such as a replacement boiler in the near future.

On behalf of the vicar and the PCC, Mr Stamp thanked the Parish Council for its award of a churchyard maintenance grant.

(b) St Matthews Church, Derrington

Andrea Dickens reported on developments at St Matthews, Derrington:

* The PCC plans to add handrails and a toilet inside the church
* The lawnmower has been serviced
* The hedges around the church have been cut back.

On behalf of the vicar and the PCC, Mrs Dickens thanked the Parish Council for its award of a churchyard maintenance grant

**8. Reports from Village Hall committees.**

a) Seighford Village Hall

Mr Robert Eld gave a report on behalf of the village hall committee:

* The coffee morning on Fridays continues to be well attended by villagers
* New windows have been installed but no progress has been made with the replacement of doors and porch
* A Yoga class has been well attended
* An open gardens event is planned for 20 May

Mr Eld thanked the Parish Council for its grant towards replacements of windows

(b) Derrington Village Hall

Cllr Vaughan gave a report on behalf of the village hall committee:

* The hall continues to be well used and attracts both regular bookings and one-off events
* Thanks to the help of residents the refurbishment of the kitchen was completed quickly and to a high standard
* Main projects this year will relate to improving the flooring in the main hall

(c) Great Bridgeford Village hall

Cllr Brown presented the report on behalf of the village hall committee:

* 16 groups regularly use the Hall
* 30 + people attend the weekly coffee mornings
* Increased number of organisations are booking annual meetings in the hall.

(d) Community Speed watch

Cllr Price gave an update on Community Speed watch in the parish:

* Unfortunately, the Community Speedwatch Group covering Great Bridgeford and Creswell is still not functioning.
* Michelle Shaker, the Community Engagement Coordinator, Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, Staffordshire Police arranged a training day last November but unfortunately the person who was going to act as coordinator for the group decided to withdraw at the last minute and a successor has not yet been found.
* The proposed Community Speedwatch Group in Derrington is progressing well with 5 volunteers secured which should enable the group to start functioning.

Cllr Vaughan noted that notices promoting the scheme in Derrington were on noticeboards in the village and an article in the next village magazine.

**9. The Millennium Green**

On behalf of the trustees Roy Wood thanked the PC for its grant towards refurbishment of the hard standing on the Millennium Green.

*There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm*