



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the meeting of
Seighford Parish Council held
at Great Bridgeford Village Hall on
Monday 16th January 2023
Starting at 7.30pm*

Kelly Day & RFO: Tel: 07931 167 081 E-mail: seighfordparish@yahoo.co.uk

Present

Councillor D Price (Chairman)
Councillor J Busby (Vice Chairman)
Councillor M Hodgkins
Councillor M Hayward
Councillor R Wilkes
Councillor M Turnbull
Councillor N Brown
Councillor C Allen
County Councillor J Pert
County Councillor M Winnington

Members of the Public – 3

Kelly Day – Clerk

1	16/01/23/1 To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences. Borough Councillor R Sutherland
2	16/01/23/2 Declaration of interests: a) Cllr Hodgkins declared an interest in 9g) b) There were no dispensation requests.
3	16/01/23/3 Public Open Forum: MOP drew attention to the fact that the meeting of Derrington Village Hall Committee on 28 th February is for a representative of the Parish Council to attend and is not open to the public. MOP reporting noise from Drive Me at Seighford Airfield. More drifting taking place which is very noisy. Decibel rating has reached as high as 78 decibels. Is this being monitored? The Clerk has written to SBC about this. Cllr Winnington responded that the noise was very bad over Christmas. They are holding 2 types of events there. Drive Me where the performance cars make a lot of noise, but since then the noise has been a lot better. The second type of event is the cars doing doughnuts that is run by someone who runs a community track in Birmingham. This didn't seem as noisy. Enforcement is aware that things aren't right there and it's on their radar. Cllr Winnington said hopefully we can get it nailed down. Cllr Price said the monitoring equipment is not working. Cllr Winnington said the people said that they are supposed to test their own cars for noise beforehand. Cllr Winnington said if it continues, he will speak to Environmental Health again.

4	<p>16/01/23/4</p> <p>Updates from Borough/ County Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Pert reported that Whitgreave Lane will be open both ends in May 2023.</p> <p>The road works to Beaconside will start summer 2023 and works to Redhill Island on the A34 will also be carried out at the same time.</p> <p>SBC wishes to thank everyone involved with the Warm Spaces initiative- 30 warm spaces were involved.</p> <p>Cllr Pert said they have been arguing with the Health Service re ambulance waiting times. They are working behind the scenes on behalf of the community, even if at times it isn't always visible.</p> <p>Cllr Turnbull raised the issue of repairs to the footway along the A5013 Eccleshall Road, Great Bridgeford from opposite the Jasmine Road junction to Worston Lane. Cllr Pert said this element wasn't originally in the scheme and is based on quality of pavement. Currently there is little money for highways work and any money there isn't rippling down due to increase in the cost of materials. Cllr Pert suggested that the best thing to do is to keep reporting it. Cllr Pert said a petition could be drawn up if it gets to a point but it would need a lot of signatures.</p> <p>Cllr Turnbull raised the issue of the need for traffic lights at Worston Bridge. Cllr Pert said he is pushing a scheme to put traffic lights there via HS2 funding.</p> <p>On behalf of SBC, Cllr Winnington reported that work had started on the town centre. SBC is working with shops and businesses to get Stafford back to life.</p>
5	<p>16/01/23/5</p> <p>Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd November 2022:</p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and were signed. Proposed by Councillor Turnbull and seconded by Councillor Hayward. Unanimous</p> <p>b) Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman raised item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of 22nd November 2022. A volunteer is needed to remove ivy off the former telephone kiosk in Derrington and paint the kiosk. A volunteer was not forthcoming but it is assumed that this work will be carried out by a Ward Councillor.</p> <p>The Chairman raised item 17 seeking retrospective approval being requested for the increase in cost for the extra work. This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Busby. Unanimous</p> <p>The cost of the Community Speed Watch signs is £813.20. Community donations now amount to £610 so the Parish Council's contribution will be £203.20 rather than £206.65 as stated in the minutes.</p> <p>Hedge cutting has not yet been done.</p> <p>SBC Local Plan Preferred Options– SPC response emailed on the 11th December 2022</p>

6	<p>16/01/23/6</p> <p>Planning matters: None to report</p>
7	<p>16/01/23/7</p> <p>Parish Councillors Report: <u>Derrington Ward</u></p> <p>It has been highlighted to Cllr Wilkes that people are using the Church at the Derrington track as a shortcut to the park and there are reports of dog fouling etc in the graveyard. Cllr Wilkes raised the matter with the Church Warden.</p> <p>Cllr Wilkes also reported that there was no fencing and should there be fencing. Cllr Price said it was the County Council's responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Allen said nothing had been done about the pot holes in Derrington car park and they are getting worse.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Clerk to send reminder to Housing Plus.</p> <p><u>Great Bridgeford Ward</u></p> <p>Cllr Turnbull gave an update on Community Speed Watch. Michelle Shaker is trying to find someone to erect the signs but this has to be through the Police and carried out by a reputable person. Once the work has been done the Parish Council will receive an invoice.</p> <p>Still waiting for wheelie bin stickers.</p>
8	<p>16/01/23/8</p> <p>Chairman's report – Rev Doug Heming asked for councillors to put forward the names of any local resident in need of support from their benevolent fund. Please pass on names to the Chairman.</p> <p>Karen Davies MOP asked for update on her queries. The Chairman responded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speed on Derrington Lane – the Parish Council had a recent meeting with the County Council when this matter was discussed. The feedback we got from the County Council was that as this is an unclassified single carriageway rural road, the national speed limit of 60mph applies and advice from Central Government gives no grounds for adopting a lower speed limit. If, for example, there was development on either side of the road for at least 600 metres with 20 or more houses, then there would be grounds for reducing the speed limit to 30mph. 2. Sign Post at Blackhole Lane has been knocked down – we don't know which sign this is because all signs appear to be erect. 3. Issues with diverting of a water course by Councillor Busby which has been reported to the Environment Agency. The Parish Council has no knowledge of this incident other than what has been raised by you and cannot therefore make any comment on this statement. However, as the Environment Agency is the statutory body responsible for protecting the environment, it is assumed that the Environment Agency will take any necessary action.

4. **Can the meeting be better advertised?** The notices of the Parish Council's meetings are posted on its website and on the Parish Council's Facebook page as soon as they are published. I don't think we can do better than that.

9

16/01/23/9

Finance – Clerk

- a) The Clerk presented an update on expenditure against the budget for 2022/23.
- b) The accounts were approved for payment following a proposal by Cllr Turnbull seconded by Cllr Hayward. Unanimous

Payment list to be approved and signed 16th January 2023

Chq number	Amount	Payee	Reason for payment
1674	£ 289.80	JRB Enterprises	Repayment. Cheque was undated
1675	£ 630.00	Mark Hodgkins	For grass cutting work carried out in 2022
END OF CHEQUE BOOK			
1701	£ 360.00	JDM Price	Reimbursement for Indigo Surveys Ltd paid by BACS
1702	£ 20.48	JDM Price	Expenses (Nov cheque made out incorrectly)
1703	£ 21.00	Great Bridgeford Village Hall	Payment for use of hall on 16th January 2023
1704	£ 58.50	JDM Price	Expenses (Nov cheque made out incorrectly)
1705	£ 103.98	JDM Price	Refund for two batteries
1706	£ 410.04	Kelly Day - Clerk	22 Nov - 31st December 2022 payment
1707	£ 1,417.87	Elan City	Payment for conversion of speed device
1708	£ 112.50	Derrington Village Hall	Payment for use of Hall 2022 and 2023
1709	£ 500.00	Seighford Settled Estates	Rent of football field for 22/23
1710	£ 100.00	Seighford Settled Estates	Rent for use of kickabout field
1711	£ 131.95	Staffordshire County Council	Website hosting fee and domain (silver package)

wasn't
- money
lane

TOTAL £ 4,156.12

4,024.17

Hayday

Signed - Chairman

Date 16.1.23



Signed - Clerk

Date

Hayday
16/1/23

c) To approve Bank reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr Busby and seconded by Cllr Hayward. Unanimous

d) Nothing put forward

e) The Precept and the Budget for 2023/24. The Chairman drew attention that the Local Elections will be held in May and if there was a one contested election costs of £3 to 4 K could fall on the Parish Council. £1K is allocated for this item and the Parish Council has reserves of about £44K.

Councillors Allen, Busby and Brown proposed that the precept remains the same as last year. Cllr Busby suggested the Parish Council pay for the chicane on the Greenway at Derrington. It was proposed by Cllr Hayward and seconded by Cllr Allen that the precept remains the same as last year i.e. £18,896.64.

Action

Clerk to submit this to SBC

f) To consider the Clerk having online access to the Parish Council's bank account and for payment to be made by online transfer. Cllr Busby raised the point of how much trust should the council put into one person as had issues with this before. But agreed we do need to modernise.

The Chairman suggested a working group of the four signatories was set up to discuss how online access might work which was approved in principle.

Action

The Chairman to set up working group to discuss this further.

g) Contracts:

➤ To approve the quotation of £630 submitted by Cllr Hodgkins for grass cutting in Seighford for 2023 season. Proposed Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Brown. Unanimous.

➤ To approve quotes received for grass cutting at Derrington and Great Bridgeford Clerk read out two quotes. SBC for £1,225.13 ex VAT and SJL Landscapes for £2,625 ex VAT Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Busby that Streetscene's quotation of £1,225.13 is accepted. Unanimous.

Action

Clerk to inform SBC that they have been given the contract for 23/24.

¹⁰ 16/01/23/10

To report on the meeting held with County Councillor Winnington on Tuesday 10th January 2023 to discuss problems on the Greenway, Derrington and other matters in Derrington.

Cllr Wilkes commented that meeting with Cllr Winnington went well and their problem was understood. The track is populated with a lot of walkers. Solution suggested with County Council was improved signage but Cllr Wilkes would like a chicane to slow cyclists down. What was actually realistic was discussed and cost implications. Cllr Wilkes and Cllr Hayward said the path has got busier and something needs to be done before someone is potentially hurt.

Cllr Winnington response was that better signage was needed and they would need to see whether a chicane could be put in but somewhere else similar with a chicane there is a group trying to remove it, so hard to please everyone.

	<p>A larger and clearer sign is needed from Newport to Stafford direction and there is the potential option of posts being erected near the car park to stop people parking on the verge.</p> <p>On behalf of Seighford Parish Council, The Chairman gave his thanks to County Cllr Winnington for organising the meeting and for his input.</p>
11	<p>16/01/23/11</p> <p>To consider the applications made by Great Bridgeford and Seighford Village Hall for financial support for the Warm Spaces initiative.</p> <p>Reports received from Great Bridgeford and Seighford Village Halls indicated that the uptake was not huge and the two Village Halls stated that they didn't wish to proceed with their applications for assistance.</p>
12	<p>16/01/23/12</p> <p>To consider Parish Councillors being issued with email addresses to be used solely for Parish Council business</p> <p>The Chairman said it would be better for councillors to have a specific council email address as will be more business-like. It is not safe and secure to run through their personal emails.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward said it makes sense for councillors, it creates a better impression and is safer if there was ever an investigation. Better for GDPR too.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward asked the Clerk to check with the County Council first to see if they can set up email addresses as they run our website domain. If not, he will take it on. Proposed by Cllr Wilkes and seconded by Councillor Turnbull. Unanimous.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Clerk to ask contact at the County Council about setting up Parish Council email addresses.</p>
13	<p>16/01/23/13</p> <p>To discuss the use and purchase of parking bollards outside Cooper Perry Primary to resolve parking issues and to discuss how to reduce speeding through the village.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward is the Parish Council's representative on the Board of Governors of Cooper Perry Primary School.</p> <p>He explained there is an ongoing issue of parents parking at the front, outside of allocated areas and speeding through the village.</p> <p>One solution was bollards in the shape of children outside the school to stop this. Funding has now been found via the County Council for Cooper Perry to purchase the bollards. Cllr Hayward said he will ask the school why parents don't park in the back car park designed to stop people parking out the front.</p> <p>The issue of speeding was discussed and can the Parish Council help with implementing a reduction of speed through village. Cllr Price said he doesn't see why the County Council doesn't implement it as a 20mph speed zone. Cllr Hayward suggested meeting with Cllr Winnington about the problem of speeding through village.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Cllr Hayward to discuss with the school first before approaching Cllr Winnington.</p>

14	<p>16/01/23/14</p> <p>To report on the progress made in respect of the application for planning permission for the proposed bus shelter on Newport Road, Great Bridgeford.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that no further progress had been made since the last Parish Council meeting. However, the Local Planning Authority had requested an extension of time until 9th February 2023 which had been agreed but it is hoped that planning permission will be granted this month.</p>
15	<p>16/01/23/15</p> <p>Civic Amenity updates:</p> <p>These have been booked and promotional plan is in place.</p>
16	<p>16/01/23/16</p> <p>Highways footpaths, and playing fields matters:</p> <p>Playing Field Inspection Reports update: just the usual moss and grass growing in the joints of the safety tiles need attention.</p> <p>Cllr Turnbull drew attention to a hole in the boundary fence adjoining the slide at Great Bridgeford Childrens' Playing Field and reported that Councillor Hodgkins and he had arranged to repair it tomorrow.</p> <p>It was also reported that the climbing frame, slide and igloo needed welding at Derrington Childrens Playing Field. Cllr Hayward stated that a new net was needed for the goal posts. The Ward Councillors said that the outstanding work needs attention in the Spring.</p> <p>Councillor Hayward stated that the replacement of the lettering to the noticeboard for which approval had been given at the last meeting was still outstanding.</p> <p>Action Cllr Hayward to email to ask for letters to be replaced.</p>
17	<p>16/01/23/17</p> <p>Invitation to Derrington Village Hall committee meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2023.</p> <p>One parish councillor allowed to represent and not open to public without invitation.</p>
18	<p>Next meeting: to agree items for the next meeting of Seighford Parish Council to be held on Monday 20th March 2023 at Seighford Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
19	<p>The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm</p>