



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Monday 17th April 2023 at Derrington Village Hall
Starting at 7.30pm*

Kelly Day & RFO: Tel: 07931167 081 E-mail: seighfordparish@yahoo.co.uk

Present: Cllr David Price (Chairman), Cllr Carole Allen, Cllr John Busby, Cllr Mark Hayward, Cllr Mark Turnbull, Cllr Mark Hodgkins, Cllr Neil Brown, Cllr Richard Wilkes

In attendance: Kelly Day (Clerk) + 28 members of the public

Apologies: SBC Cllr Ray Sutherland, SCC and SBC Cllr Mark Winnington, SCC Cllr Jeremy Pert

1) Introduction and welcome by the Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 19.30, introduced the councillors and welcomed residents

2) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2022

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr John Busby and seconded Richard Wilkes.

3) To consider any matters raised by parishioners

a) Frances Sutherland read a statement on behalf of Cllr Ray Sutherland where he announced his resignation and thanked everyone for their support over the years.

b) MOP raise concerns about footpath 20, Norcroft Farm in Seighford. The bridge is destroyed and commented it is a shame that it can't be used. Mr Robert Eld (MOP) said has contacted the person in charge of it, didn't hear anything and asked what the Parish Council are doing about it. The Parish Council are still waiting on a response from the landlord. MOP commented further saying he wrote to SBC but didn't hear anything back either.

c) MOP asked if there was perhaps a need for a pedestrian crossing in Derrington near the bus stop. It is very difficult to cross and on a blind bend, so you can't see vehicles coming from either side. Harder to hear with electric cars, also.

d) The footbridge at The Ford in Seighford is badly decayed. Highways have been informed but no response as of yet. **Action: Parish Council Clerk to raise with Highways**

e) The noise at the airfield doesn't seem to get any better. Environmental Health have no interest and nothing seems to be getting done about it. The chairman read a response from Borough Cllr Ray Sutherland from the planning department that a new enforcement officer has been put onto the case with an officer from environmental health. They intend to discuss the unacceptable level of noise, planning permission for the earth bund, and sound monitoring.

f) MOP asked if anything can be done about the potholes around the chicken farm nr the airfield. **Action: Parish Council Clerk to report them on County Council website.**

g) Mrs Cotton (MOP) asked if Parish Council could enquire about putting a hand rail under the railway bridge in Derrington as the path is very unstable for people unsteady on their feet.

h) MOP commented on high meadows/wild flowers on verges and said it would be nice to have them on the Green in Seighford. The Chairman commented that the land isn't currently owned by Seighford Parish Council and is expected to come back to them but this is an ongoing issue.

i) Mandy Cameron (MOP) asked if there had been any further discussions to have a play area in Seighford. The Chairman said that this had so far been unsuccessful with the land owner and is something he would like to take further and raise in the May's meeting. If not the Parish Council to look at applying compulsory powers to get one installed at Seighford.

j) Mr Eld (MOP) asked if meetings could be published on the website in draft form. The Chairman said that this is already done.

h) The main footpath through Seighford was only patched up and is still very uneven. It was suggested that the Parish Clerk raise this with County Highways. Parish Cllr Mark Hodgkins has already reported this himself.

j) Cllr Mark Hayward read a statement on behalf of Karen Davies who would like a response on:

- Fires on Mr Busby's land which have thick black smoke
- Reservoir created with no planning permission. Has this now been sought?

The Chairman responded saying the pictures sent haven't been dated and said the fires reported go back 4 months. The Chairman asked why this wasn't reported at the time?

Re the reservoir at Stallbrook Hall. Planning permission has been granted along with the poly house. The Chairman will write to Mrs Davies explaining the issues.

Parish Cllr Busby explained that the fires are from fruit boxes which they have permission to burn. He welcomed any one to send pictures of black smoke when the boxes create only a white smoke. The reservoir was built and the environment agency think the reservoir is wonderful and asked anyone to come to him if they are not happy or have any issues.

4) To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council from the Chairman

The Chairman presented the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2022/23 thanking the parish councillors for their support and the efforts that they devote to their duties. The Chairman also acknowledged outgoing Borough Councillor Ray Sutherland's membership and services to the Seighford and Church Eaton ward over the past 20 years and wished him a happy retirement. He highlighted the main achievements in 2022/23. These included:

- Grant Aid towards the maintenance and upkeep of both St Matthew's and St Chad's Churches as well as support to Derrington Village Hall for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.
- The continued maintenance and upkeep of the play areas within the parish along with subsidising the use of the football field in Seighford by Seighford Football Club.
- Civic Amenity visits
- Dog dispenser bags for the public
- Raising the concerns of residents with County Highways on a range of issues such as flooding, the poor state of pavements in Great Bridgeford and safety issues on the Greenway, Derrington
- Responding to planning applications including concerns over the unacceptable level of noise from the driving experience on Seighford Airfield
- Speed Indicator devices in Great Bridgeford
- Community Speedwatch in each of the three villages

5) To receive the reports from the following local community groups:

- **The Parochial Church Councils of St Chad's and St Matthew's**

St Chad's

Revd Doug Heming thanked the Parish Council for their grant to St Chad's. Revd Heming said in 2022 there would be an attendance of 24 people on a Sunday service and maybe 6-8 during the week, but this doesn't reflect the true number of people who attend and support the church in other ways, so these numbers are significantly more including those volunteers who give their time showing the church's important role in the wider community.

Revd Heming said funding from the Parish Council was used to resurface the pathway which was unsafe at a cost of £3,000. The surround to the main door has been repointed and a crack in some of the lead guttering needed fixing. Revd Heming thanked everyone for their financial support towards the church. He explained that all churches were now required to undertake safeguarding training.

Revd Heming said that the church had been involved with some fundraising initiatives including the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and an advent coffee morning and thanked everyone for coming along to support the church. He also said that during the turbulent times the church has offered a place of solace and safety for people to come in as they wish.

St Matthew's

Revd Cath Brumfitt said she was grateful to the Parish Council for the money given to them to support the church which is used to help keep the churchyard looking beautiful. The rest of the upkeep is kindly done by volunteers. However, the grass was too much for a volunteer in the end, so the money enables them to pay someone to do that.

Revd Cath said the church is trying to connect with the community and to use the church as much as possible, so they want to hold more events so people come in. There are no major issues or work needed at the church, so it means they can look at some bigger projects, including installing a toilet which stops them being able to run certain events. She thanked everyone for supporting the church in all the ways that they do.

- **Village Hall Committees**

Sally Churchill Chair of Derrington Village Hall

Sally explained that at the last AGM all existing trustees stepped down so there was an opportunity for whole new committee, which now has 12 people. The committee is split into teams which focus on different areas such as maintenance, entertainment, finance and HR. It seems to be working well at the moment.

Sally reported that some of the activities run at the Village Hall included a barn dance which was attended by people of all ages, a childrens' Halloween party and a Christmas party.

The film nights are back up and running and were building momentum and a 3-day event to mark King's Coronation was planned thanks to funding from the Parish Council.

So far this year they have purchased new chairs, a hot water tap, and have been donated sofas which have been placed in snooker area.

Sally explained that the heating system needs replacing, so they are looking into quotes for it to be done this summer. They have also started a newsletter for the village which has input from all user groups.

Weekly other events include yoga, craft, bingo, snooker and bowls. The post office is also open 3 days a week.

Phil Causer Chair of Great Bridgeford Village Hall

Phil explained that he was new to the village hall. He said it had been a good year and all was back on track, so they have been actively planning events to involve the community. He said they have been busy upgrading the hall and now it offers a good community facility. Phil said they have planted three fruit bearing trees on to the grounds and were involved with the warm spaces initiative which had a good turnout.

Phil thanked the Parish Council for their help with pursuing the new bus shelter and hoped to get that in place.

Ongoing work by the Village Hall includes regular litter picking coordinated by Parish Council Cllr Mark Turnbull.

Phil said that this year they are integrating the garden guild and annual show and it will be called the Great Bridgeford Horticultural Show which will take place on the 20th August.

Robert Eld Chair of Seighford Village Hall

Robert explained that they had reopened the café on Friday mornings which is proving successful with 20 plus people attending each week. Yoga classes also continue from the hall. They supported the warm spaces but noticed how their energy costs has gone up considerably. They have increased the number of events including a quiz night and a gardening club. Robert said they have purchased a storage unit to store chairs.

He also said that after two years, still no lease has been drawn up for or signed by the Landlord.

- **Community Speed Watch Groups at Derrington, Great Bridgeford and Seighford**

Peter Kowalewski– on behalf of Derrington Community Speed Watch

Phil said there are four volunteers working once every two weeks. When it first started they would see 250 vehicles and, of those, there would be about a dozen speeding. Since the Stafford Western Access Route had been completed this traffic has now reduced so they might see 120 vehicles and of those there would be on average 4 speeding. This information is then sent back to Staffordshire Police. Those speeding will then be sent a warning, if they are caught speeding three times, the police will contact them.

Denise Perry-Miller on behalf of Great Bridgeford Community Speed Watch

Denise said they formed the group in 2021 and they now have nine members with another three recruits in training. They have six site locations which are risk assessed by the police. All roads in Great Bridgeford are 30mph so anyone doing more may hear from the police. They have also sent 30mph signs to households for them to put on wheelie bins.

From the 01/01/2022-24/10/2022 there were 16 enforcement sessions, total observed was 8,021. 121 people got a first warning letter and five got a second warning letter. The Highest speed recorded was 50 mph.

Mandy Cameron on behalf of Seighford Community Speed Watch

Mandy explained that Seighford trained 11 people in 2022 and started operating in Jan and Feb 2023. They run two observations per week with three people at a time. The number of people speeding through the village can be as high at 25% which is often at school time. Highest speed recorded was 57mph.

Report from Parish Councillor school governor representative, Cllr Mark Hayward

The Governors have 3 committees which meet on a quarterly basis. The Parish Council is getting involved to understand how the school runs and getting to know teachers and children in year 5. The Parish Council has highlighted the problem with parking and speeding through the village which has been reported to County Councillor Mark Winnington.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm