



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the meeting of
Seighford Parish Council held
at Great Bridgeford Village Hall on
Monday 20 November 2023
Starting at 7.30pm*

Kelly Day & RFO: Tel: 07931 167 081 E-mail: clerk@seighford-pc.org.uk

Present

Councillor J Busby (Chairman)
Councillor M Hayward (Vice Chairman)
Councillor D Price
Councillor M Hodgkins
Councillor R Wilkes
Councillor N Brown
Councillor M Turnbull
SCC Mark Winnington
SCC Jeremy Pert
SBC Councillor Jack Rose

Members of the Public –21

Kelly Day – Clerk

1	20/11/23/1 To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absence: Cllr Carole Allen
1	20/11/23/2 Declaration of interests: None declared
3	20/11/23/3 Public Open Forum: MOP Bob Eld reported that the gullies and drains on Smithy Lane are still blocked. Action: Clerk to liaise with SCC Winnington over getting this sorted due to hand over of land between SBC and Housing Plus. Mr Eld said the noise on the airfield is still bad and needs monitoring. Cllr Jack Rose has spoken to enforcement officer but hasn't had a response. Cllr Rose will continue to chase. The Clerk read out a statement on behalf of Seighford Speed watch Coordinator, Mandy Cameron. Ms Cameron said that the speed monitoring activity has helped to reduce speeding through the village. Ms Cameron also thanked Cllr Busby for his proactive approach to resolving some long standing issues such as the school parking problem, the village green boundary and the potential play area. She also thanked the other councillors for their continued support.

4	<p>20/11/23/4</p> <p>Updates from Borough/ County Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Jack Rose said he has the slow down and no horse riding signs for the Derrington track, so the councillors just need to decide where to put them.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Winnington reported that the improvements to the pathway from the road to the Greenway has been cleared and looks great. To tarmac the footpath, it would cost 29k, which is too expensive.</p> <p>Cllr Price asked Cllr Winnington about the current poor state of Dale Lane. Cllr Winnington said it has been too wet to fix and said there was a possible waste transfer operation operating out of site on Dale Lane and was going to check if it had a licence. He also commented that that we have experienced some horrendous flooding lately.</p> <p>Cllr Pert agreed flooding in gullies is bad due to recent unprecedented rainfall. He said they are currently applying pressure on council to get this sorted and to get some more funding for this but there are lots of different departments involved. Hopefully with the new financial year coming there will be more funding for highways.</p> <p>Cllr Pert reported the good news that 20 million had been allocated to regenerate some brownfield land near the train station to include new homes, businesses. This can be seen on the SBC website.</p> <p>He also said that despite the cancellation of HS2 they are still battling to get traffic lights over Little Worston Bridge funded by the HS2 funding pot.</p>
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5	<p>20/11/23/5</p> <p>Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 September July 2023:</p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and were signed subject to the below amends. Proposed by Cllr Hayward. Seconded by Cllr Price. Unanimous.</p> <p><u>Item 3 - second paragraph</u> Delete and replace with Peter Longstaff, on behalf of the residents of Great Bridgeford, thanked David Price, John Busby and Mark Hodgkins for their work in connection with the bus shelter project. It is now finished and ready for people to use.</p> <p><u>Item 5</u> before Cllr Hodgkins insert Cllr Price</p> <p><u>Item 14</u> third paragraph Twelfth line - replace Cllr Wilkes with Cllr Hodgkins</p> <p><u>Item 15</u> 5th Line – delete ‘back’</p> <p>b) Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda Re grants to Derrington Millennium Green and Cooper Perry Primary School. Cllrs need to send them the application forms for them to complete and return for a grant to be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Price read out a personal pre-prepared statement in response to comments made by Michael Eld at the previous meeting in connection with the provision of children’s play facilities at Seighford village. Cllr Price’s statement said that this project was actually stopped last year by Michael Eld despite discussions with the Estate’s land agent. And at the SPC meeting on the 22nd November 2022 (item 16) it is recorded that Mr M Eld asked if the Parish Council could</p>
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	<p>consider suggesting extra community facilities, however there was no mention by Michael Eld about the Parish Council's request for the provision of land for a childrens playing field in Seighford. Cllr Price concluded in his statement that Michael Eld had no intention of dealing with the Parish Council's request and subsequently arrangements were made to discuss this matter with SBC Jack Rose.</p> <p>Michael Eld responded by strongly disagreeing with Cllr Price's statement and said it was a matter for the monitoring officer at SBC.</p>
6	<p>20/11/23/6 Planning matters: Nothing to report</p>
7	<p>20/11/23/7 Parish Councillors Report: <u>Derrington</u></p> <p>Cllr Wilkes reported that there had been lots of good things happening in Derrington. The widening of the new path to The Green makes it much more accessible and much safer. Thanks to Cllr Busby and Roy Wood for their help with this as well as the working party. Thanks to Cllr Rose for the no horse riding signs which will make it safer further.</p> <p>Cllr Wilkes also reported that, along with Cllr Busby and Cllr Hayward they spent 8 hours over the past week getting on top of much-needed jobs at the park, which is now much safer and looks great.</p> <p>Thanks to Cllr Winnington for providing and installing the white posts which will help prevent traffic from parking on land opposite the village hall.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward echoed how pleased he was with the improvements explained by Cllr Wilkes.</p> <p>In addition, Cllr Hayward said the digital team had recently visited Derrington Village Hall and helped up to 7 people from the village with how to access things like their health records etc digitally. They also had a 'Staying Well' visit arranged by MPFT. There were up to 14 referrals from this as a result.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward added that the grass cutting needs to be tidier around the edges of the field.</p> <p><u>Great Bridgeford</u></p> <p>Cllr Turnbull said the 'Staying Well' clinic also visited Great Bridgeford Village Hall's coffee morning and had a good turn-out. There were 10 residents who received referrals as a result for help with mental health and occupational health. On the 6th December they are also having a visit by the Digital Skills Team who will help the community with how to use phones and laptops etc as well as signposting.</p> <p>Cllr Turnbull met with Dominic Ward, the Rights of Way Officer re path 28. Farmer Hopley has been growing crops across the right of way. After the discussion Mr Ward said he would write to Farmer Hopley to ask him to clear the path and make it accessible. Farmer Hopley was at the meeting and responded. He asked if there was an issue as thought there was still a path but after Cllr Turnbull explained he agreed he would have a look and sort the issue.</p>

Cllr Price carried out an inspection of Great Bridgeford play field and said the grass was very long, so asked the Clerk to check with Streetscene. There are also overhanging branches over zipwire which need cutting back. He asked if Cllr Hodgkins would perhaps cut them back along with certain parts of the hedge which had also overgrown. Cllr Hodgkins agreed. **Action: Cllr Hodgkins to cut back overgrown branches and hedges.**

Cllr Price also said there is still graffiti the GB railway bridge even though it had been reported to Network Rail. Cllr Winnington said it will be up to SBC to hold Network Rail to account. Cllr Jack Rose said he will look into this. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Rose on this.**

Seighford:

Nothing to report

8 20/11/23/8

Chairman's report:

The Chairman reported that they have improved access under the railway bridge and made it safer for people to use. The gate has also been removed in the field to make it more accessible. The chairman asked for a letter to be sent to Mr and Mrs Challinor to thank them for permission to use their land. **Action: Clerk to write thank you card.**

The Chairman responded to the costs of re-tarmacking the small section in Derrington and agreed it was too expensive but would still like to find a solution to this.

Residents have raised the issue of the times of buses in Derrington saying they are either too early or too late. **Action: Clerk to raise this with the bus providers to see if anything can be done.**

He also said it might be a good idea to have horse and rider signs on each side of the bridge to make it safer.

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Payment list to be approved and signed

20-Nov-23

Chq number	Amount	VAT	TOTAL	Payee	Reason for payment
1744					
1745	£ 37.50		£ 37.50	Derrington Village Hall	Hire of hall 15th April 2024
1745	£ 37.50		£ 37.50	Derrington Village Hall	Hire of hall 16th September 2024
1746	£ 21.00		£ 21.00	Great Bridgeford Village Hall Committee	Hire of hall 20th November 2023
1747	£ 320.80		£ 320.80	Kelly Day	Salary for Sept 2023
1747	£ 320.60		£ 320.60	Kelly Day	Salary for Oct 2023
1748	£ 33.15		£ 33.15	Kelly Day	Expenses for ink cartridges, stamps and copier paper
1749	£ 400.00		£ 400.00	David Vincent	Labour for improvements to telephone box and bus shelter - Derrington
1750	£ 99.40		£ 99.40	Staffordshire County Council	purchase of 5 permanent community speed watch signs - Great Bridgeford
END OF BOOK					
1751	£ 55.97		£ 55.97	HMRC	HMRC payments - PAYE
1752	£ 165.07	£ 33.01	£ 198.08	Sutcliffe Play	Repair and replacement parts for Derrington play field
TOTAL	£ 1,490.99	£ -	£ 1,524.00		

10 20/11/23/10

To discuss actions and outcomes from September's meeting

Mr Bob Eld asked if they had been any resolve re Footpath 20. This had already been raised with Rights of Way officer and it was agreed the Parish Council would chase it up.

11	<p>20/11/23/11</p> <p>To provide an update on the proposed car park in Derrington</p> <p>Cllr Busby sent an email to SBC for a proposed change of use to remove some of the hedge therefore creating 6-8 additional car parking spaces. Cllr Price says the field has statutory protection and nothing should be taken away from playing field. It was discussed that it might be possible to create more parking at the entrance to Duddas Wood. Cllr Busby said he will speak to SBC to see what their response is and take it from there.</p>
12	<p>20/11/23/12</p> <p>To provide an update on the online banking status</p> <p>Cllr Price said the mandate is all ready for signing by the Clerk, Cllr Hodgkins and Cllr Brown.</p>
13	<p>20/11/23/13</p> <p>To provide an update on the mapped assets via Parish Online</p> <p>Cllr Price said it is job that takes a long time. He said there is some tuition available on how to map using Parish Online. Cllr Price confirmed it will get done.</p>
14	<p>20/11/23/14</p> <p>To discuss and approve the proposal for a Housing Needs Survey in all three parishes</p> <p>A Steering Group has been set up to discuss this. Cllr Busby asked fellow councillors if a Housing Needs Survey needs to be carried out.</p> <p>Cllr Price said it is only right that a questionnaire be sent out first to ask residents in all three parishes how they feel about housing in the villages before a survey is carried out as no housing has been anticipated. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Turnbull. Unanimous Action: Councillors to agree on a questionnaire and to send after Christmas.</p> <p>Mr Michael Eld said this will would have happened by the professionals carrying out the Housing Needs Survey anyway and the Parish Council's vote has just bypassed that.</p>
15	<p>20/11/23/16</p> <p>To note the annual, national NALC pay agreement to the Clerk backdated to 1st April 2023</p> <p>Noted by councillors</p>
16	<p>20/11/23/16</p> <p>Report on the AGM of Staffordshire Parish Councils Association held on 30th October 2023</p> <p>Cllr Price attended and reported back.</p>

17 20/11/23/17
To seek approval for a proposed playing field with equipment in Seighford and by January a detailed budget to be drawn up

A recent meeting was held with Michael Eld, Cllr Busby, Cllr Hayward and Cllr Wilkes. There are no restrictions to put up equipment as long as the land can be restored back to normal at the end of the tenancy. Cllr Busby enquired as to whether the Parish Council could take some more of the land. A meeting with the estate is booked for the following week where this can start to be taken further. All should be agreed and in place in time for January's meeting including a list of playground equipment.

A budget for the equipment will need to be drawn up. Cllr Price said we will have to source grants to raise the money but we will need to get planning permission and a long lease to secure most funding, including lottery funding. Michael Eld said you won't need planning permission as already has a certificate of use.

Cllr Wilkes said we should pull out all the stops to create the play area for the children.

Cllr Busby said he is happy to donate play equipment and there is some second hand equipment around at a good price. He said that at January's meeting we need to draw up a budget of how we are going to fund it.

It was also proposed that we purchase more bags of woodchip for Derrington play area. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded Cllr Wilkes.

18 20/11/23/18
Update on section 106 agreement in Seighford discussion with SBC

A meeting with residents took place to discuss the transfer of this piece of land. Cllr Busby met with Peter Simmons who agreed and was prepared to hand land back to the Parish Council in its current state under the Section 106 agreement. Home owner Mr Horton is willing to donate two benches and trees along the boundary.

Cllr Busby asked all Councillors if they are willing to accept land back in its current condition.

Ken Anderson said it is currently being looked after by Cllr Hodgkins and urged councillors to accept the offer to hand it back in its current form.

Cllr Hodgkins said if the boundary line is correct, we should accept it, but if not as per the original agreement, then the Parish Council shouldn't. Simmons replied that the original boundary still stands as far as he is concerned.

Mr Horton continued that Mr Simmons is legally offering to hand over the land to SPC as it is entitled to and said he paid a chartered surveyor who said it meets the agreed boundary.

Cllr Price said there is still an area of 45 square metres that needs to be handed over to SPC. Mr Horton disagreed that this isn't the case, it is just a statement and not based on fact.

A MOP commented that the Parish Council should agree to take legal ownership of the land as it is and draw a line under it once and for all. Mr Michael Eld suggested that the chartered surveyor report be sent to the council to have a look at unless it wants to get an independent one.

	<p>A vote was taken as to whether to agree to the transfer of land as it stands by Mr Simmons to Seighford Parish Council and this was agreed unanimously by all councillors.</p>
19	<p>20/11/23/19 To discuss the state of Dale Lane, Haughton</p> <p>This was discussed by Parish and County Councillors in agenda item 20/11/23/4 updates from Borough/ County Councillors</p>
20	<p>20/11/23/20 To agree locations for permanent speed watch signs in Seighford</p> <p>The proposed locations by Michelle Shaker were agreed. Action: Clerk to notify Michelle Shaker so signs can be ordered.</p>
21	<p>20/11/23/21 To agree the dates and locations for the bi-monthly meetings of Seighford Parish Council in 2024 (including Annual Parish Meeting)</p> <p>It was agreed the dates met the council's Standing Orders.</p>
22	<p>20/11/23/22 SPC news in Church Parish magazines:</p> <p>Copy date is the 15th of each month but maybe bought forward by a month. Members to email the Clerk their contributions to the publications.</p>
21	<p>Next meeting: to agree items for the next meeting of Seighford Parish Council to be held on the 15 January 2024 at Great Bridgeford Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
21	<p>The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:16</p>