SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre on Tuesday, 14th January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor M Allen
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor J Keeton
Councillor P Marshall
Councillor M Moody
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor S Tyers
Councillor Walker

In Attendance 3 members of the public and District Councillor Mrs Michael

24/116 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Laughton.

Councillor Walker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8.2.

24/117 Public 10 Minute Forum
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm for the public session.

A resident enquired about the Hogarth Paths at Strawberry Fields. The Clerk advised that this still remained with Rights of Way. Concern was expressed that these now presented a Health & Safety risk, especially when wet. The Chair advised that the Clerk would continue to liaise with Rights of Way and Councillor Laughton.

A resident referred to other Parish Councils producing reports on items that were due to be considered on the agenda which might make it easier for members of the public.

A resident noted information in previous minutes regarding seeking an alternative use of the funds allocated for the Village Hall site. The Parish Council's was asked to consider that the land would have a value to the developer and should the Parish Council only received the funding and not the land it would not be getting the same value.

The Chair thanked residents for their participation and reconvened the meeting at 7.38pm.

24/118 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December 2024
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2024 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24/119 District Councillor Report
(a) The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.40pm for Councillor Mrs Michael's report.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that the next meeting of the Internal Drainage Board was on 30th January 2025. The IDB were in contact with the landowners involved in Phase 1 of the works which would proceed once all agreements were in place. A commencement date would depend on the condition of the land which was currently very wet.

The Chair referred to the recent flooding in the village which fortunately had not led to any properties being affected.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Michael for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.45pm.

24/120 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) To receive correspondence regarding the Amended Southwell Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Stage Consultation

Members received and noted the correspondence as outlined.

24/121 County Councillor Report

The Chair advised that Councillor Laughton was unable to attend as he was scheduled to attend a meeting to discuss Local Government Reforms. These Reforms had been put forward by the Government. The County Council had met with Nottingham City Council (which was already a Unitary Authority) and the Leaders and Chief Executives of the District and Borough Councils. Proposals were required to be put forward to the Secretary of State by the end of March.

24/122 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) There were no matters to consider.

24/123 Planning

Applications

(a) **FOR NOTING - 24/02175/DISCON – Land Off Old Great North Road, Sutton-on-Trent - Request for confirmation to discharge conditions 2 (windows and Doors), 3 (External Facing Materials), Condition 6 (Hard and Soft Landscaping), Condition 13 (Self Build Dwelling) attached to planning permission**

Members noted the application for the discharge of conditions as outlined.

(b) **24/02164/FUL – Oak House, Grassthorpe Road, Sutton-on-Trent - Erection of single storey garage and store room / farm office annexe to existing farm house**

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs Walker removed herself from the meeting.

It was unanimously AGREED that this application be supported.

Councillor Mrs Walker rejoined the meeting.

(c) **24/01935/FUL – York Cottage, 2 Carlton Lane, Sutton-on-Trent - Conversion of existing garage to create annex living accommodation ancillary to main dwelling**

After discussion, it was unanimously AGREED that this application be supported.

(d) Decision Notices

There were none received at the time of setting the agenda.

Tree Works

(e) **24/02044/TWCA – Sutton-on-Trent Primary School, Church Street, Sutton-on-Trent - Fell 1 Silver Birch**

Members received and noted the application for tree works.

24/124 Financial Issues

(a) To record Receipts -

- E Gill & Sons - £135

(b) The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – December - £316.80
- HMRC – December PAYE - £79.20
- Future Farming Ltd – Inv SI-591 - £1,060.80
- Sage - £12
- Methodist Community Centre – PC Room Hire (Sept to Dec) - £72
- Methodist Community Centre – Falls Group Hire (Sept to Dec) - £300

(c) **Financial Report as at 31st December 2024**

Members noted the financial report which showed a balance on the current account of £45,620.07 and £105,019.61 in the deposit account.

(d) **To consider a draft budget for the 2025-25 financial year and determine a Precept**

Members considered the draft budget for the 2025-26 financial year circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that expenditure during the year was projected as £31,465. Members considered that income should always be ahead of expenditure and noted that projected income on top of the Precept was £3,992, with Cemetery income and donations a variable.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Blanchard that an increase of 3.5%, in line with inflation, be applied to give a Precept of £28,980 for the 2025-26 financial year. This was seconded by Councillor Keeton and unanimously AGREED.

The Clerk confirmed this increase would give a Band D rate of £52.13 for the 2025-26 financial year.

(e) **To note the requirement to advertise the grass cutting contract to take effect from the 2025/26 financial year**

Members noted the requirement to advertise the grass cutting contract to take effect from the 2025/26 financial year.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the contract be advertised on the basis of the current arrangements which allowed for:

Area	Number of Cuts
Grass Cutting:	
Playing Field, Grassthorpe Road	17
Churchyard, Church Street	17
Sports Club, Grassthorpe Road	31
Cemetery, Ingram Lane	17
Hedge Cutting:	
Playing Field, Grassthorpe Road	1
Churchyard, Church Street	2
Sports Club, Grassthorpe Road	1

Members noted that the Sports Club made a donation towards the extra cuts at the Sports Club.

Councillor Moody asked if regard to any contractor providing evidence of a Waste Transfer Notice to ensure compliance should waste be removed from site.

24/125 Parish Council Matters

(a) <u>To note the advertising of a Casual Vacancy</u>

The Clerk advised that the notice advising of the resignation of a Councillor had now been posted. The District Council had advised that the Parish Council would be able to fill by co-option should no election be called by 3rd February 2025.

(b) <u>To consider a draft Bio-Diversity Policy</u>

Members noted the draft Bio-Diversity Policy put together by Councillor Tyers in conjunction with the Clerk. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Allen, that the Policy be accepted and adopted into policy. This was unanimously AGREED.

(c) To discuss action to be taken when implementing a road closure due to a flood event
This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Walker following the recent flood event.

Councillor Sloan explained how the road closures had been agreed with the County Council. In terms of the closure of Grassthorpe Road, that is included within the Grassthorpe plan at the moment. Councillor Sloan advised that a request had been made to also include it within the Sutton-on-Trent plan. Discussion took place around the problems created by HGVs ignoring the road closure and having to turn round in inappropriate places. Councillor Sloan advised he would liaise with the County Council regarding this issue.

(d) To receive the minutes of the Trentside Parishes Meeting held on 20th November 2024
The minutes of the Trentside Parishes Meeting held on 20th November 2024 were received and noted.

(e) To receive the Statement of Community Consultation from GNR Solar and details of the second phase of community consultation
Members received correspondence from Elements Green regarding the Statement of Community Consultation and details of the second phase of community consultation.

The Parish Council had removed itself from the Joint Parish Action Group so would not be able to access support from the Planning Consultant appointed by that Group and Council needed to consider whether they wanted to submit a response during the consultation.

Councillor Keeton considered that the Parish Council would need professional assistance in providing a technical response to the five areas of concern raised by residents. These were:

- Flood prevention and flood mitigation to ensure current flooding does not increase
- The impact the proposals will have on existing wildlife, flora and fauna
- Clarification on what will happen at the decommissioning stage
- The level of landscaping to mitigate visual impact
- The impact on food security with the loss of high quality farmland

As the Parish Council hold a neutral stance on the proposed development at this stage, it does not require a planning argument to made for or against. Instead, for comments to be written on its behalf on the above specific points which the Parish Council consider are important and should to be taken in to consideration as part of the consultation phase.

After discussion, it was AGREED that the Clerk seek quotations to appoint a planning consultant to submit on its behalf comments to the GNR Solar and Biodiversity Park Phase Two Community Consultation. Given the timescales involved to submit comments prior to the deadline of 23.59 on 20th February 2025 the Clerk advised that an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting would need to be called as soon as quotations were received.

24/126 To receive updates and agree actions on the following matters:

- **Playing Field**
  - To note progress on the installation of new signage
    The Clerk advised that a draft of the new sign had been received, but confirmed costs were awaited.
- **Cemetery**
  - To note the planting of new trees
    Councillor Marshall advised that the new trees had now been planted. The Chair asked that thanks be extended to Mr Pike for providing the trees and Future Farming for planting them, both without charge.

Councillor Marshall referred to a dead tree that needed to be removed, together with a broken bench. The Clerk would ask the contractor to liaise with Councillor Marshall with a view to getting them removed.

- **Highways**
  Councillor Moody advised that work to Old Great North Road had been completed. The Clerk advised that no further contact had been received from the residents. The Chair extended thanks to Councillor Moody for his perseverance in working with Via to secure work on a road that otherwise would have been ignored.

  Councillor Keeton noted that resurfacing work to the A1 slip road had now been completed.

  Councillor Moody referred to contact with a resident during the recent flood event which had brought water into their garden. The Clerk confirmed that Via had been in contact with the resident.

  Councillor Marshall referred to the white lining at the junction of Main Street and Carlton Lane which had not been replenished following the resurfacing. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Via to get them replaced.

- **Community Speed Watch**
  The Clerk referred to information received advising when the Mobile Speed Camera had been active in the village.

  After discussion, the Clerk was asked to seek information on how many times the camera had been deployed in the village in 2024.

- **Public Footpaths**
  There were no matters to report other than raised during the public session.

- **Churchyard**
  Councillor Blanchard advised that the Clock had today been serviced. Unfortunately, the flagpole had broken in the recent high winds.

- **Village Hall**
  - <u>To consider a business plan in relation to the request made to amend the Section 106 Agreement</u>
    The Chair referred to a meeting with Newark & Sherwood District Council & Persimmon Homes regarding the Section 106 for the Strawberry Fields Development, which the Parish Council was not a party to, but had benefit of funding from. The meeting had explored using the funds in an alternative location, rather than the Parish Council committing to costs to build a village hall.

    The Parish Council would need to formulate a business plan to outline alternative use of the funds, while still providing a community benefit. The Chair requested delegated authority to discuss this in more detail with the Methodist Community Centre, which Members AGREED. Authority was also given for Councillor Moody to undertake some investigative work in improving public access from the village to the Sutton-on-Trent Sports Club.

- **Sports Club**
  Councillor Blanchard reported that efforts continued to finish the cladding but the weather had hampered the work. It was anticipated it would be complete within the next fortnight. Volunteers had come forward to become Trustees, including one it was hoped would become Treasurer. Bingo would recommence on Friday, 17th January.

- **Library Support Group**
  There was nothing to report.
- **War Memorial**
  The Clerk advised that the pre-application had been submitted but no response had yet been received.
- **Allotments**
  A site meeting was still required.
- **Any other reports**
  There were none.

24/127 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

(a) January Newsletter

A copy of the January Newsletter had been circulated to Members for information.

24/128 Correspondence

(a) To receive a letter from Elston Parish Council regarding Road Safety and 20mph Statutory Speed Limit

Members received and noted the letter from Elston Parish Council.

24/129 Items for Notification

(a) There were none.

Close: There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Community Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED.