SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre on Tuesday, 11th February 2025 at 7.30 pm.

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

In Attendance 2 members of the public, County Councillor Laughton and District Councillor Mrs Michael

24/148 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Marshall.

24/149 Public 10 Minute Forum
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm for the public session. No questions were raised so the meeting was immediately reconvened.

24/150 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2025 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24/151 To consider applications received for co-option onto the Parish Council
Members noted that one application had been received for co-option onto the Parish Council. This was from Mark Grayson. A copy of Mr Grayson's application form had been circulated to Members for consideration in advance of the meeting.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Keeton, that Mr Grayson's application be accepted. This was unanimously AGREED.

As Mr Grayson was unable to be present at the meeting, the Clerk would confirm his co-option outside of the meeting.

24/152 District Councillor Report
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.33pm for District Councillor Mrs Michael's report.

Councillor Mrs Michael updated Members on the work being undertaken by the IDB across the three sites that made up Phase 1.

<u>Site 1</u>

Two machines cutting the new berm & channel, – works in this section should be complete by the end of the week, remaining works to form the access ramp still to complete.

First culvert is partially installed, second culvert to be installed next week with both culverts expected to be completed by end of next week.

<u>Site 2</u>

One excavator starting on this section by Wednesday this week with another machine joining later in the week, new access gate has been installed to allow access directly onto the berm for annual maintenance.

Site 3

Channel getting roughly formed, should be excavated by Wednesday, followed by the profiling of the drain works & ramps – expected to be fully completed by end of next week 21/3/25.

Power isolated on the overhead line with culvert currently being built, expected to be completed by the end of this week.

Second culvert is nearly complete, should be finished in the next couple of days.

Works are progressing well with no delays expected providing the weather conditions continue to be favourable.

The Chair asked whether funding was in place for Phase 2 and whether work would be undertaken in 2025. Councillor Mrs Michael was unclear on funding but advised that Phase 2 was dependent on completion of Phase 1.

A further question was asked regarding the Culvert that ran underneath Grassthorpe Road, but Councillor Mrs Michael had no information on that.

The Chair observed that it was good to see some progress being made, but Councillor Blanchard expressed concerns at whether the changes would work.

Councillor Laughton reassured Members that all proposals would have been thoroughly tested through hydrological modelling.

Councillor Mrs Michael advised that the District Council had initially proposed a 2.99% increase in Council Tax but that had been reduced to 1.94% on an amendment.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mrs Michael for her report and reconvened the meeting at 7.40pm.

24/153 Newark & Sherwood District Council

There were no matters to consider.

24/154 County Councillor Report

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.40pm for County Councillor Laughton's report.

Councillor Laughton advised that the County Council were in the process of completing a Public Finance Initiative in relation to school catering, which would see 1200 staff transferring to a private company. Financial support would be provided by the County Council in the first instance.

The next full Council meeting will be the first to be held at the new Headquarters at Top Wig Hey.

Councillor Laughton referred to the Local Government Reform and Government requiring proposals for preferred options to be submitted by 28th March 2025. Definitive proposals were required by the end of November, with elections to take place in either 2027 or 2028.

Councillor Laughton advised that, with the County Council elections in May, he would be entering 'purdah' from late March. Apologies were given for the April meeting due to annual leave.

The Chair thanked Councillor Laughton for his report and reconvened the meeting at 7.46pm.

24/155 Nottinghamshire County Council

There were no matters to consider.

24/156 Planning

(a) Applications

There were no applications to consider.

(b) Decision Notices

There were no decision notices to receive.

(c) Tree Works

There were no applications to receive.

24/157 Financial Issues

(a) To record Receipts -

- Sutton-on-Trent Sports Club - £800

(b) The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – February - £316.80
- HMRC – February PAYE - £79.20
- Sage - £12
- NSDC – Brown Bin Renewal - £38
- Microsoft – Licence - £70.56
- Fenland Leisure – Play Area Sign - £202.80
- NSDC – Trade Waste 2025-26 (due 1st April) – £118.30
  Notts ALC – 2025/26 Subscription (due 1st April) – £393.93
- Aspbury Planning – Consultancy Fee - £720

(c) **Financial Report as at 28th February 2025**

Members noted the financial report which showed a balance on the current account of £46,261.60 and £105,238.83 in the deposit account.

24/158 Parish Council Matters

(a) To note the issuing of the Grass Contract Agreement for 2025-28

The Clerk advised that the Agreement had been issued to contractors expressing an interest. Closing date for receipt of completed documents was 23rd March 2025.

In the interim period, it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Keeton, and AGREED that the existing contractor continue on a month by month basis.

(b) To note the statutory consultation on the North Humber to High Marnham Project

Members noted the statutory consultation on the North Humber to High Marnham Project and the opportunity to attend public exhibitions and webinars.

(c) To note the Parish Council's response to the GNR Solar Phase 2 Community Consultation

Members noted the Parish Council's response to the GNR Solar Phase 2 Consultation had been submitted in line with the deadline of 20th February 2025. The Chair extended his thanks to Councillor Keeton and the Clerk for liaising with the appointed Consultant to determine the response, a copy of which had been circulated to Members for information.

(d) To receive the Stakeholder Briefing in relation to Newark Hospital Urgent Treatment Centre

Members noted the Stakeholder Briefing updating the position at Newark Hospital Urgent Treatment Centre.

(e) To note receipt of the report form Smiths of Derby regarding the service of All Saints Clock

The Clerk advised that the report from Smiths of Derby had been received and a copy forwarded to the PCC for information, together with all Members.

(f) To consider a report regarding 'No Mow May'

Members noted the briefing report from Councillor Tyers in relation to proposals for 'No Mow May'. The Sports Club were keen to have the area behind the recently planted trees rewilded, and there may be opportunity to work with the Church in relation to the Churchyard and their obligations.

Councillor Allen advised that there may be the opportunity to work with the residents and Management Company at Strawberry Fields to rewild an area.

After discussion, the Chair asked that Councillor Tyers look at the financial implications of rewilding and bring a report back to the April meeting.

(g) To consider the purchase of a new noticeboard

The Clerk referred to the condition of the new noticeboard on Main Street and requested permission to seek quotations for a replacement.

While in discussion on this item, Councillor Blanchard reminded Members of the request from Sutton-on-Trent WI to refurbish the map of the village, and weatherproof the display case. Councillor Blanchard also referred to the memorial bench that was in need of maintenance.

It was AGREED that the Clerk seek a quotation for a new noticeboard to bring back to the April meeting. The Chair would investigate refurbishment of the map and display case and review the bench.

24/159 To receive updates and agree actions on the following matters:

- **Playing Field**
  - To note receipt of new signage
    The Clerk confirmed that new signage had been received. Councillor Hadley would progress installation.

  - To consider a quotation for changes to the gates
    Members noted that a quotation of £877 per gate had been received to install hydraulic rams to the gates which was considered too expensive. The Clerk advised that an approach had been made to Hutchinson Engineering to establish if they could be of assistance.

- **Cemetery**
  Councillor Sloan advised that holes left by rabbits needed to be backfilled. The Clerk confirmed that the Brown Bin through Newark & Sherwood District Council had been renewed.

- **Highways**
  The Chair noted that Councillor Laughton had asked for Crow Park Avenue to be repaired as a priority and asked that The Meerings also be included.

- **Community Speed Watch**
  Members noted that the Speed Monitoring Camera had again been in the village.

- **Public Footpaths**
  There were no issues to report.

- **Churchyard**
  Councillor Blanchard advised that no decision had yet been made regarding the replacement of the flagpole. Members noted that this rested with the PCC.

- **Village Hall**
  The Chair advised that a meeting was in the process of being arranged with the Methodist Chapel.

- **Sports Club**
  Councillor Blanchard advised that the cladding was nearing completion. Consideration was now being given to signage. The Chair extended his congratulations to the team on the work so far which was an enhancement to the facility.

- **Library Support Group**
  There was nothing to report.
- **War Memorial**
  - To receive feedback on the position with the pre-application
    The Clerk advised that a decision in relation to the pre-application had now been received, with the Planning Officer confirming that if a full application was submitted it was likely to be considered favourably.

    The Clerk would now liaise with the Management Company at Strawberry Fields to confirm the Planning Officer's view. A report would be submitted to the Parish Council on full costings for the War Memorial, including the costs for submitting a planning application.

- **Allotments**
  A site meeting was still required.
- **Any other reports**
  There were none.

24/160 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

(a) March Newsletter
A copy of the March Newsletter had been circulated to Members for information.

24/161 Correspondence

(a) To receive correspondence from the Newark & Sherwood Alliance for People and Nature
Members noted the correspondence as circulated.

24/162 Items for Notification

(a) There were none.

Close: There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.19pm.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 1st April 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.