SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre on Tuesday, 25th June 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor M Allen (arr 7.11pm)
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor M Moody
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor A Smith
Councillor S Tyers

In Attendance 1 member of the public

24/030 Apologies for Absence

Received and accepted from Councillors Keeton and Walker

24/031 Public 10 Minute Forum

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm for the public session.

A resident referred to the Parish Council's concerns around response rates to the online survey. As a professional, with many years experience in arranging surveys, anything between a 5% and 30% response rate was considered good. As an example, the District Council only had 100 people respond to a survey out of 100,000 people and Elements Green were talking positively about a response of 200 out of 5,800, which was a 3.4% response rate.

The last survey in Sutton-on-Trent was in 2005 to a Housing Needs Survey, which had a 24% rate. The information was offered as context for members to consider.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their input and reconvened the meeting at 7.40pm.

24/032 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24/033 To consider the results of the survey undertaken to seek the views of parishioners on the Great North Road Solar Park and consider whether additional community consultation was required.

The Chair gave a presentation which provided a breakdown of the data gathered during the recent online survey. Members noted that there had only been an 8% response rate to the survey, which was considered disappointing.

The challenge for the Parish Council now was whether it should continue to approach residents for their views or accept the results of the survey.

The Chair extended thanks to Councillor Allen for the time and effort he had invested in interrogating the data and putting the presentation together.

Members noted that representatives from Elements Green had agreed to attend prior to the 9th July meeting of the Parish Council.

After discussion it was AGREED that the following points needed to be raised, which were major concerns from the survey responses:

- A level of reassurance required around flooding
- Concerns around the impact on wildlife

- Clarification on decommissioning
- Landscaping
- Concerns around the loss of high quality farmland

Discussion also took place around whether the Parish Council was in a position to decide whether or not it was against, for or undecided on supporting the GNR Solar Park at this time.

It was proposed by Councillor Tyers, seconded by Councillor Allen, that the Parish Council should remain neutral for the moment. This was unanimously AGREED.

The Chair advised that the points raised would be forwarded to Elements Green, together with a request to discuss community proposals for the village.

Close: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th July 2024 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.