

Sutton Bonington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sutton Bonington Parish Council that was held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.00 PM in the pavilion

Present:

- Cllr Burgess, Cllr D Collings, Cllr Gillis, Cllr Harrod, Cllr Hood, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Jackson and Cllr White. Cllr Barney, 1 member of the public and clerk were also in attendance

981/2024 – Resolution to receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hardisty.

982/2024 – Resolution to receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

- Councillors agreed that if a declaration of interest had been noted then that councillor could take part in the discussion but could not vote.
- Cllr Hood declared an interest on item 990 and 991 as a member of the football club.
- Cllr Hughes declared an interest across the agenda as Treasurer of the Post Office.
- Cllr Jackson declared an interest on item 993 as owner of the land that the Network Rail compound will be on.

983/2024 – Report from Police/County/Borough Councillors

Cllr Matt Barney reported that:

- All Borough councillors had been invited to attend a domestic abuse training session and that it was available to councillors. It was noted that the clerk had circulated the details to councillors.
- Rushcliffe Borough Council is preparing a new Design Code to set out quality and standard rules for new developments and advised the parish council to comment on it when the consultation opens.
- The CEO of Rushcliffe Borough Council has left and is being replaced by Adam Hill. It was noted that Kath Marriott had made herself available to all councillors and her support has been phenomenal.
- He will be objecting to the hedge removal consultation. It was noted that this has been received and circulated to councillors by the clerk.
- There are ongoing concerns from residents and local business regarding the works to be carried out by Network Rail. Cllr Barney proposed that he try to arrange a meeting with James Naish to look at the impact on local businesses. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes would collate information on local business and work with Cllr Barney over the next few months.
- The project to increase broadband speeds in the village is ongoing and should be completed by the end of 2025.
- Councillors are invited to the Mayors Civil Service at St Laurence's Church in Gotham at 4.00 PM on the 22nd December.

984/2024 – Public Forum

- A member of the playscheme reported that the Playscheme has been running for 58 years and there's always been a strong link between the PC & Playscheme. The scheme runs for two weeks in the summer holidays for 5 to 13 year olds (children under that age are welcome with either a parent or adult carer). The activities are arts, crafts, a competition, games, sports, dressing up, entertainers. The scheme provide drinks and biscuits for the children & a party on the last day (when they do an extra hour). They also run a tuck shop on most days. It was reported that the scheme benefits the community on many levels and age group categories including: the children attending; the youngsters that come along as helpers; parents, carers, aunts, uncles, grandparents. etc. It was noted that because of the parish council donation there is no registration fee for children attending from Sutton Bonington and Zouch (as is the case for Normanton and Kingston). There are a good amount of children from outside of the area that attend too. Back in 2004 the Parish Councils donation was £240, increasing to £400 in £2006 and that the message, in the past, from the Parish Council was always to come back if they needed more. The Sutton Bonington scheme is the only Playscheme left in the County. They are able to continue due to a small group of dedicated volunteers, a number of whom create crafts to keep the costs down (and quality up). A couple of these volunteers have been involved for 30 plus years. They also have the support of Lee Marshall from the NCC (children's voluntary sector services) regarding the running of the scheme, policies, etc. They have had the support of the County and Borough councillors for many years. The largest part of their funding comes from the gate (£1.50 per child per day) and the Local Communities Fund that we apply for each year through NCC. It was reported that they were nominated for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service a couple of years ago. The member of the playscheme commented that they would welcome the ongoing support of the parish council. The chair thanked the member of the playscheme for attending the meeting and for providing background to the scheme.

985/2024 – Resolution to approve the minutes from the meeting held on the 11th November 2024

- A copy of the minutes from the October meeting were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Collings proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Gillis and all councillors who were present at the meeting were in agreement.

986/2024 – Resolution to approve payments

- The clerk circulated a copy of the financial summary to councillors prior to the meeting, which showed expenditure of £2,271.82. Cllr Cameron proposed that the payments be approved, this were seconded by Cllr Harrod and all councillors were in agreement.

ACTION: Payments to be made.

987/2024 – Resolution to approve donation to the 2025 playscheme

- Cllr Cameron commented that we need to ensure that the playscheme carries on and to continuing support it. Cllr Hood proposed a donation of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Collings. Cllr Cameron proposed a donation of £600, this was seconded by Cllr Jackson and councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm donation of £600.

988/2024 – Resolution to approve the 2025 mowing tender

- The clerk circulated a copy of the mowing tender to councillors prior to the meeting.
- Cllr Hood commented that we need to add in the mowing of the orchard twice a year. Cllr Collings commented that we also need to add in the 20m allotment extension path that will need mowing.
- Councillors agreed that it was an accurate reflection of the work required.
- Cllr Watson asked about the grass verge at Zouch and it was noted that it will be highways and the environment agency.

ACTION: Clerk to send out tender document.

989/2024 – Resolution to approve bench installation

- It was noted that Cllr Jackson has reported that the land at Zouch was owned by the Canal & River Trust and that we would need permission from them to install the bench.
- It was also noted that our current playground inspection company had provided a quote in the region of £980 for the installation of benches found. It was agreed to source an alternative provider.

ACTION: Clerk to approach the C&RT regarding permission to install a bench.

990/2024 – To discuss the installation of shutters on the dugouts and agree actions

- It was noted that additional quotes are being sourced but costs are looking in the region of £3,500. It was agreed to see what the additional quotes come in at and then review the situation. .

991/2024 – Update on the pavilion refurbishment

- The chair reported that the architect has still not confirmed if we need to have a biodiversity report and there has been response from our comments on the plans. It was agreed that the planning application will be submitted without the bio-diversity report.

992/2024 – Update on the village wide task list and agree actions

- Overgrown hedge at Gables Lea has been reported highways.
- Overgrown hedge at the bottom of Hungary Lane needs reporting.
- The street light opposite the hall has been reported.
- The grit bin at the bottom of Marle Pitt Hill has not been replaced and needs chasing.
- Noted that the ditch on Park Lane is still on the long term plan.
- The street light on Soar Lane was removed but has not been replaced.
- Following work by the Environment Agency to replace the gates their 'footpath closed' signs are still there and need collecting.
- Need to monitor the grass by the Jubilee tree to ensure it is reseeded after the works by Severn Trent.
- The old bin by the lock at Zouch needs removing, too heavy for one person. Ideally needs emptying first.

ACTION: Continue to report issues and follow up on tasks.

993/2024 – Planning & Land

- It was reported that Cllr Jackson and Cllr Collings had a meeting on site last week and following the information they received the following post was put on social media/website, etc.
 - *After a five-year wait, Network Rail has confirmed funding for the wall replacement on Marle Pit Hill. The wall is in urgent need of repair and this work needs to be carried out before any further work on the bridge for the upcoming electrification of the Midland Mainline. Therefore, Marle Pit Hill will be completely closed on the following days: Monday, January 20th, from 8 pm until Friday, January 24th, at 6 am (for investigation work for the future electrification of the Midland Mainline). Monday, January 27th, until Friday, April 18th. (for the wall replacement).*
 - *On both occasions, pedestrian, cyclist, and horse access will be maintained; however, because of the nature of the works, the road will need to be fully closed to allow work to be carried out from the road itself.*
 - *Diversion routes will be in place. However, after negotiations with VIA East Midlands and to prevent minor roads from being used as rat runs, it has been decided that Landcroft Lane will be closed off after the university exit, meaning all traffic will need to go via College Road and Melton Lane. In addition, Hungary Lane will be closed off after Hungary Lane Farm to prevent access from Trowell Lane into the village. Both closures will be in effect for the entire period, and concrete blocks will be used to enforce them.*
 - *The Parish Council and VIA are in contact with schools and bus companies to develop plans for the period*

the road will be closed. It may be necessary to implement a temporary no-waiting area around Main Street/Soar Lane to allow for bus turnarounds.

- *The Parish Council is aware of the impact on residents and businesses, but Network Rail and VIA have no alternative but to close the road for the rebuilding.*
- *This closure must be completed before the end of April 2025 to allow work on the electrification and a new bridge on the A6006 near the Hathernware Industrial Estate to commence in May 2025. More information about this next project will be provided when available.*
- *The Parish Council will be in constant contact with Network Rail and the contractors until the rebuilding is complete. Residents with concerns should contact the Clerk to the Council at clerk@suttonboningtonparishcouncil.org.uk.*
- It was agreed that Cllr Barney would send a communication to James Naish to ask why the Bi-Modal trains that have been procured by EMR to allow both pantograph and battery operation don't negate the need for all of the bridge disruption in Sutton Bonington. It appears that these new trains are being introduced as bridge works as far as Leicester are deemed not cost effective. It was agreed that we need to seek any explanation as to why these same trains can't utilise their Bi-Modal capacity through Sutton Bonington to negate the need for four years of bridge works.
- Councillors agreed that Cllr Collings would be the point of contact for all communication and that Cllr Hood and Cllr Cameron would be responsible for social media posts.
- Cllr Jackson reported that he has received the draft drawings for the replacement bridge at Marle Pitt Hill but needs to check they are the final version because they are dated 2023. The correct plans will be circulated to councillors for comment.
- Cllr Hughes asked if there is any economic mitigation for business owners. Cllr Hood suggested that we find data to show how many cars travel through the village and then to do a comparison when the work is taking place.

ACTION: Working party meeting with Cllr Collings, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Hood and Cllr Cameron to ensure all information is accurate and to provide communication to residents and businesses.

994/2024 – Working party updates

- A copy of the Zouch working party update was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- Cllr Cameron reported that the Biodiversity group are looking to purchase a frame for the metal plaque for Arthur Clarke and then it will go in the village hall.
- Cllr Collings reported that we are waiting for the land to be rotavated but the conditions need to be right, hoping for the work to be done in January.
- It was noted that we will need volunteers for the weeding around the Jubilee tree next year.
- It was noted that the defibrillator training sessions went well and additional ones will take place in 2025.
- Cllr Watson asked about the speed gun sessions and whether they could take place in Zouch. Cllr Collings confirmed that we have permission to do them in Zouch but just need more volunteers.
- Cllr Watson asked about the flood plan and how we go about creating one for each island. Cllr Collings agreed to work with Cllr Watson on this.
- Cllr Cameron asked about the road sweeper and whether we can request this to clear the leaves from the drains.

995/2024 – Agenda items for the February meeting/future agenda's

- Mowing tenders
- Replacement benches – Hungary Lane and play area
- Best Kept Village
- Network Rail
- Working party updates

996/2024 – Date of next meeting

- The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 3rd February at 7.00 PM in the pavilion.

Closed at 20:30

AGREED AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING	
NAME:	
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	