

# Sutton Bonington Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.00 PM in the village hall

<b>Members in attendance:</b>		
Cllr Jackson	Cllr D Collings	14 members of the public
Also in attendance: Helen Chadwick, the parish council clerk, for the purpose of taking the minutes		

## MINUTES

ITEM	
1.	<p><b>Chairs welcome</b></p> <p>Due to the recent resignation of the chair the absence of the vice chair, Cllr Jackson kindly offered to chair the meeting. He reminded residents this is not a parish council meeting but a village meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the parish meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes were acknowledged and signed by Cllr Jackson.</p>
3.	<p><b>Parish Council annual report</b></p> <p>The 2023/2024 year has been another busy one. The parish council continue to publish their proposed plans for the parish through minutes of its meetings, social media, village noticeboards and the website.</p> <p>Over the past year the parish council have said goodbye to Julie McMullen-Kerr, Sam Collings, Dave Betts, Belinda Simpson, Duncan Bembridge, Michael Symonds and most importantly Miles Raven after over 40 years of excellent service to the village. We thank them all for their commitment and the fantastic contribution to the village. We have welcomed Michael Symonds, Chris Hughes, Richard Gillis, Alistair Cameron, and Joe White onto the parish council. Please note we currently have two vacancies so please do not be shy on coming forward!</p> <p>We have created a mission statement for the parish council 'here to maintain and improve our village for all' and have devised a strategic plan which includes information about the areas that we are responsible for and our approach. We have set out our priorities over the next 5 years, ensuring that we are responding to our community, the feedback we receive and that we are offering value for money.</p> <p>The parish council is committed to encouraging effective local community engagement and to develop relationships between the council, individuals, and voluntary and community groups. We will continue to support these groups by making annual donations.</p> <p>CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). When William Davis were granted planning permission for the development off Park Lane, as part of the process the Parish Council were awarded monies to be spent on Community projects in the village. There is a very strict criteria on what the money can be spent on and the parish council contacted village organisations that were eligible for the levy to submit applications. We are pleased to inform residents that so far money has been allocated to the following organisations and projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Luncheon Club new crockery and cooking equipment</li><li>• Bowls Club refurbish the old pavilion</li><li>• Football Club re-seeding of the pitch in the closed season</li><li>• Angling Club equipment to clean up the river bank areas</li><li>• Playgroup new equipment and refurbishment</li><li>• Community Speed Watch equipment</li><li>• Parish Council for new defibrillators in the area</li><li>• Parish Council new fencing and gate in the Playground</li><li>• Biodiversity group</li></ul> <p>The parish council are dealing with several other applications from village organisations and we will update residents on future projects in due course. The Parish Council themselves are looking at improvements to the Pavilion to improve its offering both to sports clubs and the community by increasing its facilities and size. It is also looking at improvement to the playing fields by increasing the number of pitches and sports facilities</p>

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	<p>And whilst we are on the William Davis development, you may recall that there was a substantial delay to the site being developed caused by the lengthy archaeology investigation. The results of that investigation are being presented on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, to the school in the afternoon and to the village as a whole in the evening</p> <p>The parish council are continuing their dialogue with Network Rail regarding Marle Pit Hill wall and when the full closure will take place so that repairs can be carried out (currently looking like July/August this year). We are also in dialogue with Network Rail about the plans to electrify the Midland Mainline which will have consequences for all the bridges in the village. Whilst we have no firm dates yet it is likely that Marle Pitt Hill bridge will be closed for up to a year!</p> <p>We continue our dialogue with East Midlands Airport about aircraft noise. I think we can all agree the problem has diminished albeit not gone away completely with the occasional rogue aircraft still disrupting us all. Everyone must continue to report these occurrences</p> <p>The Best Kept Village Competition has had a long and distinguished history in Nottinghamshire, where it has been organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) for over 50 years. The parish council are pleased to announce that they will be putting Sutton Bonington forward in 2024. We believe we last won it back in 1984/5 but no one is quite sure! This is about being a well-cared for village and not just how pretty it looks. More to follow on this shortly as we will be 'judged' in June/July.</p> <p>Planning applications are reviewed throughout the year, now with the support of a dedicated working party, and clear objections were submitted as appropriate. Over the past year 37 applications have been considered. Probably the most important of which is the plan to rebuild the village school. This is now approved and we eagerly await a start date for the redevelopment. One big win this year has been the removal of the ugly caravan on Park Lane. It only took Rushcliffe 6 years!</p> <p>We are this year to engage with Rushcliffe Borough Council and its review of our Conservation Area which has not been looked at since 2010</p> <p>The University continues to cause the village some concerns and whilst it is generally a very good neighbour and welcome addition to the village, problems have occurred this year with parking. We have a well-established link with the university and now hold regular meetings to discuss any concerns</p> <p>Broadband continues to be real mixed bag for the village with some enjoying brilliant connection speeds and others still operating at a snails pace. We are doing what we can to support improvements but from my own personal experience BT are a law to their own and we may yet be surprised and the whole village gets upgraded with no notice which is what happened at the Marle Pitt Hill end of the village.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to thank our County and Ward councillor, Matt Barney, for attending our meetings and for his ongoing support and advice which is always welcome and gratefully received. His hard work on behalf of the village is very much appreciated. Thanks also to PSCO Kelly Carlile for her continued support and guidance.</p> <p>Cllr Jackson thanked his fellow parish councillors, and the clerk, for their commitment and hard work during the year. It is a team effort and everyone plays their part.</p>												
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Parish Council draft financial statement 2023/2024</b></p> <p>Cllr Jackson reported that the council makes every effort to keep costs to the rate payer as low as possible. Expenditure in the year was slightly higher than the previous year due to increased costs for mowing and necessary tree/hedge works. Whilst some costs remain the same there has been a need to increase the precept to £49,500 for 2024/2025.</p> <p><b><u>DRAFT Statement of accounts 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Balance carried forward from 2022/2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£29,592</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Precept 2023/2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£45,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£13</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£74,605</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£49,899</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estimated balance to carry forward to 2023/2024:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£24,706</td> </tr> </table>	Balance carried forward from 2022/2023	£29,592	Precept 2023/2024	£45,000	Interest	£13	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£74,605</b>	Payments:	£49,899	Estimated balance to carry forward to 2023/2024:	£24,706
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<b>5.</b>	<b>Reports from County/Borough/Police and local organisations</b> <p>5.1 The Bowls Club It was reported that they had received £7k of CIL funding and would be using it towards the external cladding of the building. It was noted that there are various fund raising events throughout the year and that during the summer there is a 'bowls for fun' night every Thursday. It was noted since the club was established in 1832 they have their first lady member who is a county champion.</p> <p>5.2 Speed Watch It was reported that the parish council have set up a speed watch scheme which will commence once the sites have been approved by the Police. Thanks were noted to those volunteers who have already come forward and residents were reminded that we do need more volunteers to ensure the success of the scheme.</p> <p>5.3 Flooding The parish council acknowledged that flooding is one of the major concerns in the village and this is not something that will change overnight. Councillors are meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council flood officers regularly and there are a lot of issues that need addressing. We are working with several different organisations to get things moving and completed and these take time and money. We do have new signage and our flood volunteers are working tirelessly to support the village. Sewerage being pumped directly into streams and watercourses is a major concern for many. A resident commented that this is a frustration particularly because the ditches on Landcroft Lane are not being emptied and the tankers are causing further damage. The question was asked if the parish council need a bigger team of people to help.</p> <p>5.4 Allotments The William Davis development has resulted in the Parish Council receiving funds to extend the allotments. The money will go towards re fencing of the land and new plots as well as looking at the provision of new water supply. As the monies are part of the development money, they must be approved by Rushcliffe Borough Council first. The current tenant of land for the proposed extension vacates it in May this year. Once vacated the Parish Council will arrange the fencing so plots can be marked out. All plots on the current site are taken and we have a healthy waiting list of 7. The allotment holders have created their own group, which meet on a regular basis and the suggestions they make are put forward are discussed at the parish council meetings. There is also an AGM for all allotment holders each year. A member of the allotment group commented that the group had been set up to bring better communications to the parish council and to address things that are happening/not happening. The group are looking to encourage awareness of the allotments and to ensure that those plots that are not being used are taken over.</p> <p>5.5 Community Shop It was reported that since October 2021 the community shop has achieved its objective to retain essential services in the village. The shop continues to break even or with a small loss but does have a strong trading performance and support from its 250 share holders. The committee have confidence in the viability of the business. It was noted that the premises have been sold and the shop has a positive relationship with the new owners. It was noted that the Wi-Fi has been upgraded in the shop and that they are looking to upgraded other services and to make physical improvements to the building. The group are looking to expand their media presence and the annual members meeting will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall.</p> <p>5.6 Lunch Club It was announced that it is the Lunch Clubs 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and as part of this there will be a road trip for the diners and they will be taking boats out. Membership is steady with the average number of diners being 30-40. It was reported that this event is vital for residents to meet once a month and for those that are not able to attend 'take aways' are now available. Thanks was given to St Annes Manor for their continued support and also for the contribution from the village show. It was reported that the Lunch Club had received funding via CIL and have used it to buy new crockery, glasses, etc.</p> <p>5.7 Village Hall It was reported that the village hall has settled back down following COVID with regular bookings and are looking at their advertising to attract additional bookings. Most of the renovation work has been completed apart from the flat roof. It was noted that three new committee members have joined and one has taken on the role of caretaker. It was reported that following the library renovation in 2022 it is attracting good numbers and they are hoping to encourage the village school to use it more often. It was confirmed that CCTV and WiFi have now been installed. Thanks were noted to the committee members for their continued support.</p> <p>5.8 Soar Valley Bus</p>
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- It was reported that there will be a fund raising event in the village hall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June for anyone that wishes to attend, tickets are £10 and its bring your own food.
- 5.9 PTA  
It was reported that there are now 15 members of the PTA and their aim is to support extra curricular activities for the school children. The next big project is to replace the playground and the school is being refurbished over the summer. The PTA are fund raising for new playground equipment and there will be film nights, discos and the annual bonfire as well as Christmas concerts. There will be car washes on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and the 13<sup>th</sup> July. The PTA are keen to get other organisations involved and invite them to have a stall at the bonfire event. The PTA are always keen to have volunteers in school to help the children with their reading and for any keen gardeners, there is always work to do in the school garden. The PTA also manage the parents presentations where parents go into school and talk about their work or do a science project. Cllr Jackson asked if there was any news on when the building work will be done, it was reported that there is no fixed date but initial works should start within the next few weeks and then on into the summer.
- 5.10 Village Show  
It was reported that the 2023 village show had record crowds and thanks were noted to the Air Cadets for managing the car park. The weekend was warm and sunny with plenty of entertainment for families. There were the usual food stalls, concert band and the motor cycle display team. Local organisations had stands to raise their profile. The Lancaster Bomber fly past was enjoyed by all. The village show committee kept the ticket price the same and thanked everyone for their donations. £10k was raised and given out at the annual awards event in January.
- 5.11 Play Scheme  
It was noted that 2023 was a very successful year with increased numbers and a great team of helpers. Thanks was noted to the parish council and NCC for their ongoing financial support. It was noted that the use of CIL funding will replace some of the outdoor equipment. The annual scrapbook will be in the village hall until the 29<sup>th</sup> July.
- 5.12 Music group  
It was reported that the jazz band played at the Christmas Market and they hosted their our Christmas Concert in December. They have their Spring Concert upcoming on the 6th of April and Sutton Bonington Festival will be in May.
- 5.13 Sutton Bonington Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Working Group (the following report was submitted)  
The Group aims to improve the biodiversity of Sutton Bonington through practical projects – and to inspire the Parish Council and local community to address biodiversity and the climate crisis in their own policies and actions.
- Practical Projects**
- Newly planted saplings have struggled to survive in public areas. 60 new saplings were therefore planted in a “tree nursery” in the Orchard, with a view to moving them to other areas when they are larger. Several were also planted in the Goose Neck as part of a successful project to clear the nettles. 5 established cherry trees were purchased and planted in the playing fields car park to replace saplings that had not survived.
  - The annual tree guard clearing event took place on 8 May as part of the Coronation “Big Help Out”. Around 25 volunteers from the community and East Midlands Airport took part. A survey of the Pasture Lane woods suggests over half of the guards have now been removed but it remains a huge task.
  - A revised plan for the God’s Acre scheme at St Michael’s was agreed with the PCC and local residents. This ran successfully in 2023 and included an enlarged mowing area, new shrub planting at the front, a new wildflower area next to the church and the laying of wildflower turf on the front bank (funded by CIL). A second area of wildflower turf was laid opposite the Hall.
  - The Spinney and Meadow area is to be renamed Sutton Bonington Nature Reserve. A group of volunteers created a new path from the river to the Orchard to encourage visitors, and new signage will be erected.
- Inspiring Action**
- The Group wrote a new SUTTON BONINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CRISIS AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY (based on the National Association of Local Councils model environmental policy and action plan). This was adopted by the Parish Council in February 2024.
  - Energy providers have been reviewed and a proposal that the Parish Council should move to Octopus Energy was agreed.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group held two stalls at Sutton Bonington Show – an information stall and an apple pressing stall. The latter helped to raise awareness of the Orchard and encourage residents to attend a community apple pressing in October at which local apples were turned into apple juice. The Group wrote an article in the Show programme about the importance of biodiversity.</li> <li>Further publicity has been achieved via a stall at the Garden Walkabout, articles in Village News (e.g. No Mow May) and increased activity on the SB Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Facebook page.</li> <li>A HEAT Energy Hub public event will be held in May 2024, led by the Nottingham Energy Partnership. The event will help local homeowners assess and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>General questions from members of the public</b></p> <p>6.1 A member of the public asked about the removal of the memorial around the tree opposite the entrance to the WD site. Cllr Jackson comments that this had been discussed at length at the parish council meeting and that contact would be made with the family.</p> <p>6.2 A member of the public commented that there was no representative from football club or the cricket club and that an awful lot of money is being spent there and asked of the money could be used elsewhere. It was also suggested that they could have submitted a report. Cllr Jackson commented that there are four councillors on the CIL and the money that has been requested by local groups has been spent. It was noted that the parish council have been approached by the football club to see if we can accommodate three more teams including a youth team and a women’s team. The parish council were asked to liaise with the cricket club about the works that need doing. Cllr Collings commented that any plans to extend the pavilion will ensure it can be used more as a community facility. It was noted that there will be a consultation prior to works being agreed.</p> <p>6.3 A member of the public commented that the football club dug outs are not finished and asked whether the CIL money could be used for that. It was also noted that the children’s play area looks tired. Cllr Jackson commented that quotes have been received for the refurbishment of play area and we are looking what other equipment can be provided.</p> <p>6.4 A member of the public asked how money CIL money is left . Cllr Jackson commented that there was an initial £129k for the neighbourhood and then there is £70k that is with RBC and we are working hard to ensure that the money is spent in Sutton Bonington. It was noted that CIL is relatively new and the rules around what the monies can be spent on are really strict.</p> <p>6.5 A member of the public commented that the precept has increased and residents are now paying more and asked if the parish council need it. Cllr Jackson commented that the precept has increased to cover costs. A member of the public asked why the parish council do not predict what they are spending. It was noted that they do but there are unexpected costs that incurred throughout the year.</p> <p>6.6 A member of the public commented that we need more to people to attend these meetings and that they need to be better advertised. It was suggested that there could be a separate sheet in the village news. It was noted that the parish council do need to reach out to a wider audience and on a more regular basis.</p> <p>6.7 It was suggested that there should be a village meeting when we know more about the network rail works and the electrification.</p>

Meeting closed at 20:20

<p>AGREED AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING</p>	
<p>NAME:</p>	
<p>SIGNATURE:</p>	
<p>DATE:</p>	