



**MINUTES OF SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.30PM AT SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs J Jones (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs S Gerrard  
Councillor Mr A Higgs  
Councillor Mr J Walker  
Councillor Mr N Matlock

Councillor Mr R Butler  
Councillor Mrs M Wilson-Knight  
Councillor Mrs M Matlock  
Councillor Major K McRae  
Councillor Mr A Booth

**NOT PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs E Jones (Apologies received)  
Councillor Mr T Cox

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Borough Councillor Mr G Lawrence  
Mrs R Richardson - Clerk  
Mrs J Lovatt – Deputy Clerk

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**298/23-24**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE BY COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED** to accept and approve apologies from Councillor E Jones. Apologies received from County Councillor Mr R Shepherd.

**299/23-24**

**INTENTION TO CO-OPT TO CASUAL VACANCY OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

**RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Andrew Booth. Councillor Booth signed his Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting. He was given a Register of Members Interest Form to complete and return to Charnwood Borough Council within 28 days.

**300/23-24**

**TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor A Higgs Min No 305/23-24 (b)

### 301/23-24

#### CLERK'S REPORT

The following application has been withdrawn: -

**P/23/1392/2** Erection of 166 dwellings provision of access, landscaping, open space and drainage infrastructure Land r/o Derry's Garden Centre, Cossington, Leics.

**Planning Nuts and Bolts training** - An introductory training session for Parish/Town Councillors and Clerks covering the basic principles of planning including policy, applications, appeals and enforcement. This session will also include tips on increasing the effectiveness of the responses that Parish and Town Councils send through to local planning authorities and the opportunity to ask questions of an experienced planning consultant who has worked for local Councils, a volume house builder and a planning Need to know by 19 January 2024.

Email from Charnwood re Storm Henke. "We are continuing to work with Leicestershire County Council and the Environment Agency to gather data on areas and streets where properties flooded internally last week following storm Henke. Attached is a list of the areas and streets where we have received information that properties were flooded internally. Officers from the different agencies continue to visit affected areas to help gather data. We hoped you could have a look at the attached spreadsheet and either add any information you may have gathered for these streets or add in information/details on other streets where properties were flooded internally. Please feel free to add as much detail as you can."

Grateful thanks from John and Beverly Burton to the members of the council for their decision to fund the repairs to St Mary's Church Clock. Hopefully, this will ensure the clock working normally for the foreseeable future.

A reminder that the Community Response Table Exercise is next Tuesday, 23 January at 6.00 pm in The Wesleyan Room.

### 302/23-24

#### POLICE MATTERS - INCLUDING CRIME FIGURES AND REPORT FROM POLICE, IF IN ATTENDANCE

The Beat Report for December was circulated to councillors. During the month of December 2023 in Sileby: - 2 x ASB, 1 x Criminal Damage, 5 x Theft, 7 x Public Order offence, 0 x Burglary Residential, 1 x Burglary Business and Community, 10 x Assaults reported. These figures do not include private domestic related incidents or harassments. No other significant crime patterns have been identified. For more detailed data, please visit <https://www.police.uk/>

Councillor K McRae had attended the OPCC meeting at Leicester Police HQ for Parish Councils on the 15th of January 2024.

Councillor S Gerrard has asked PCC Rupert Matthews to attend a Parish Council Meeting, and he confirmed that he would be able to attend on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Councillor S Gerrard to arrange a walk around the village prior to the meeting. Councillors were asked to prepare any questions or comments for the PCC and submit them to the Clerk.

**303/23-24**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None present.

**304/23-24**

**TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2023**

**RESOLVED** To accept as a true record and these were duly signed.

**305/23-24**

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) To note the Income

**RESOLVED** To note the income in the sum of £169,386.82.

(b) To approve the Expenditure

**RESOLVED** To approve the expenditure in the sum of £67,253.77.

(c) To approve renewing our membership with the CPRE

**RESOLVED** To approve renewing membership at a cost of £60 for the year.

(d) To approve a cost to supply and change 9 existing Emergency Lights, plus new cabling for 2 new Emergency Lights – one at the Main Entrance and 1 at the Hall Entrance in the Community Centre.

**RESOLVED** To approve a cost of £1,050 plus VAT, from Zonal Fire Services.

**306/23-24**

**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS IF IN ATTENDANCE**

The Deputy Clerk read Councillor Shepherd's report, as follows: -

**Flooding**

"Flooding has of course been a subject of great concern during recent weeks. I have been forwarding emails giving information and links to websites on which further details may be found.

In one of the emails, referring to Sileby in particular, Ann Carruthers, the County Council's Director of Environment and Transport, writes: "For Sileby/Syston area we do have a plan which is being led by the Environment Agency. The intention is to set up a meeting in the community with reps from all responsible bodies although I imagine the impacts of Storm Henk may delay this."

**Budget**

I have also been forwarding information about the County Council's budget proposals, given the pressure on Council finances. It has been described as the "toughest budget."

The most recent details of the situation facing the Council, given its low funding and service pressures, are given in a document I forwarded yesterday, "Response of Leicestershire County Council to: Local Government Finance Settlement 2024-25 Consultation".

It is notable from the table in that document showing a Core Spending Power Comparison that the extra funding Leicestershire would receive if it had the same spending power as Islington would be £533 million, or even the same spending power as North Northamptonshire, £12 million.

The final proposals for the budget will be considered at a County Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February.”

Borough Councillor G Lawrence gave his report:

### **Flooding Response and Support**

We were saddened and alarmed about the extent of the recent flooding, particularly on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Sileby is a very resilient community, and we did what we could to support the community response on the ground on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We also supported residents with the clean-up, including requesting special bulky waste collections and additional street cleaning to remove mud and flood debris. Sadly, due in part to climate change, it seems likely that events like this will continue to happen and it raises very significant questions around the continued expansion of the built-up area of Sileby. Geoff is awaiting a reply to a question he asked at the full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January, i.e. will the Planning Dept now seek to ensure that the Environment Agency urgently update their flood risk assessments so that no future developments are approved where the probability of flooding episodes is likely to be much higher than it was when they conducted their last risk assessments. Naomi has also raised our specific concerns with the Planning Dept about the flooding of the Cossington Road development site.

CBC recognises that communities now want answers as to why the flooding was so bad across the borough and what can be done to mitigate the impacts in the future. CBC has set up a Scrutiny Panel to urgently review what happened and make recommendations in relation to its own response and to feed in to cross-agency investigations (such as the County lead flood authorities referred to in Richard Shepherd’s report). Parish Councils will be consulted, but it could be quite a short deadline, so the Council may wish to consider starting to prepare a response so it can be agreed before the consultation deadline. As Ward Councillors, we have asked the Borough Council to actively lobby the Environment Agency to both improve and maintain the Sileby Brook channel to help prevent an increase in flooding events.

Residents of Avenue Rd & Kendal Rd concerns about lack of functioning balancing pond at the lowest point of Cemetery Road development site; Geoff has referred developer Elemento to Planning Enforcement at CBC.

Seagrave PC (and Thrussington PC) are working towards setting up an Action Group to campaign for the re-modelling or partial closure of the dangerous Seagrave junction on the A46 to make it safe. A previous online survey of local residents by Seagrave PC showed that significant numbers of Sileby residents are concerned about road safety at the junction. Request that Sileby Parish Council back this campaign and, if and when an Action Group is set up, nominate a rep to represent concerned Sileby residents.

### 307/23-24

#### TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED OR REPORTS RECEIVED – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Councillor K McRae previously reported his attendance on minute no. 302/23-24.

### 308/23-24

#### TO CONSIDER AND AGREE COMMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS: -

- (a) **P/23/2290/2** Change of use from Use Class C3 (b) Supported Living to Use Class C2 Children's Home - 74 - 76 Cossington Road, Sileby, LE12 7RP.

**RESOLVED** No objection.

- (b) **P/23/2363/2** External alterations to include raising ridge height, installation of 2no. box dormers, solar panels, rooflights and new fenestration to facilitate the permitted educational use within the building (to be confirmed) Unity Hall, 109 Swan Street, Sileby, LE12 7NN.

**RESOLVED** No objection.

- (c) **P/24/0005/2** Discharge of condition 3 (Materials) of Planning Application ref: P/21/1484/2 (Conversion of outbuilding and change of use to office space (Use Class E) Maltings Hub, 22 High Street, Sileby, LE12 7RX.

**RESOLVED** No objection.

### 309/23-24

#### TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT PARK! WORKING PARTY

Councillor A Higgs gave an update on a site meeting he had attended with the Clerk and Edwards & Edwards to inspect the work carried out on the park to date. Unfortunately, there are several issues with the work completed, and the Clerk is in the process of dealing with these issues and will update Council accordingly.

- (a) To receive and consider quotations for the planting scheme along the driveway.

**RESOLVED** Clerk to email the information to all Councillors, and then a meeting will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (Parish Council Office) to discuss the best option to go for. This will then go on the next agenda for approval by full Council.

- (b) Sports Pavilion - Howdens have partnered with the FA to invest £3m into improving Grassroots club's kitchens.

- (i) To approve applying for the 'Game Changer Programme' for a Howden's Kitchen

**RESOLVED** To apply for this grant.

- (ii) To consider whether the Parish Council should apply for a Howden's Kitchen or SJFC apply

**RESOLVED** Sileby Parish Council and Sileby Juniors Football Club will apply for the grant jointly. Clerk to arrange a site meeting at the Pavilion with the Architect on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 at 10.00am (subject to availability) to discuss the revised internal layout requirements for the Pavilion.

### 309/23-24

#### TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON LAST WEEK'S FLOODS AND TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Councillor R Butler reported on the recent floods. He felt that there was no coordination or support from agencies. Road closures needed to be in place, but the police would not attend

as it was not life threatening, and Highways were dealing with all the other flood incidents throughout the area. The Fire Service were also unavailable. Councillor Butler and volunteers received abuse when asking drivers not to go through the floods, as it was having an effect on the properties. Councillor M Wilson-Knight commented that she had read that Derbyshire Authority has given their Flood Wardens delegated powers to be able to close roads, subject to the relevant training. **RESOLVED** Councillor R Butler to send a report of the issues to the Clerk, and the Clerk will then write to the relevant agencies.

**310/23-24**

**TO NOTE THAT 2COMMUNE WILL NO LONGER BE OUR WEBSITE PROVIDER AFTER 31 MARCH 2024. RESOLVED** To note this and this will be further discussed at the Finance and General Purpose Working Party Meeting on 1 February.

**311/23-24**

**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM SILEBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
**RESOLVED** To note this.

**312/23-24**

**TO APPROVE APPLYING TO “AWARDS FOR ALL” FOR A TEEN SHELTER**  
**RESOLVED** To apply for a grant for a 5 pod Teen Shelter at a total cost of £8,600 plus VAT.

**313/23-24**

**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A DONATION OF £50 TOWARDS THE CEMETERY AND TO CONSIDER WHAT TO PUT IT TOWARDS**  
**RESOLVED** To put this money towards the Memory Christmas Tree.

**314/23-24**

**TO NOTE THAT THE RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE PINFOLD WAS CARRIED OUT IN DECEMBER AND THERE ARE NO CONCERNS**  
**RESOLVED** To note this.

**315/23-24**

**CONTENT FOR PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ARTICLE**  
Police Crime Commissioner (Cllr K McRae)

**316/23-24**

**TO REVIEW ACTION STATUS REPORT (APPENDIX I)** This was reviewed.

**317/23-24**

**FUTURE PLANNING** - New Parliamentary Boundary Commission area for Sileby MP.

**Meeting closed at 7.49pm**

Chairman’s Signature: ..... Date: .....