

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm at Siddington Village Hall.

Part 1 Public and press present.

Present

Cllr. P Wain (Chairman)
Cllr. D Furness
Cllr. B Smart
Cllr. D. Billington
Cllr. B. Carbutt
Cllr. L Smetham (Ward Councillor)
Mrs. E Worrall (Clerk)

Absent

Cllr. A Meadowcroft (Vice Chairman)

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

1462 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr. Meadowcroft had sent his apologies in advance of the meeting. James Sherratt has stepped down as a Councillor with immediate effect. The Chair will send his thanks to Mr. Sherratt and the Clerk will inform the Monitoring Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** to commence the advertisement of a vacancy, to be potentially filled at the January 2024 meeting.

1463 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

1464 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the 11th September.

1465 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor, if present.

Cllr. Smetham shared an update on the Green Spaces Consultation which does affect Siddington (specifically Redesmere Lane). The Clerk will share the details of this consultation with all Councillors and will share the page reference for the Councillors for their review. There will be a Care Review that will take place in early 2024.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 21st November 2023

Signed

Dated

A consultation relating to Biodiversity Net Gain is under a consultation review. Further guidance will follow in December 2023.

Cllr. Smetham mentioned several planning enforcement issues taking place locally. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with planning currently and that enforcement issues were being reviewed by her.

1466 To receive an update from David O'Connor, Cheshire Constabulary if present.

David introduced himself as the new local beat officer and asked Councillors if there were any underlying issues affecting the Parish and whether he could offer any assistance. 14 crimes have been recorded since the last meeting.

Councillors said that there was a notable spike during the summer months when festivals take place at Capesthorne Estate – David confirmed that the Police were aware of that issue. The police have been monitoring speeding and confirmed that 6 individuals speeding had been caught speeding in a 30-minute period when the TruCam had attended site in Siddington on Salter's Lane. Councillors expressed their thanks to David for the TruCam attending and for the police for addressing this. Councillors suggested several areas in the Parish where the TruCam could be deployed; David will examine the suggested areas to see if they are suitable for TruCam and either he, or the returning PCSO Amy, will provide an update at the next meeting.

Regarding a question on speed limits, David confirmed that this matter is handled by Cheshire East, and he will investigate this further.

David emphasised that the Police are only aware of matters if they are reported and asked Councillors and the Clerk to continue reporting.

1467 To discuss, and resolve to adopt, the co-option of one individual to become a Councillor.

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Sharon Forster to join as a Councillor. Cllr. Forster signed the declaration of acceptance of office and will return the Register of Interest Form to the Monitoring Officer.

1468 To receive updates on village maintenance projects (railings, bench) and discuss painting of the lake platform

It was confirmed by Councillors that the lake platform sits within the Capesthorne Estate property. Power-washing will take place in early Spring. Repairs to the railings and re-painting to be completed as soon as possible afterwards, and by the end of spring if feasible. Cllr. Wain will try to arrange a working party early next year to begin the process of maintaining the area around the railings in preparation for the work later in the year.

The railings sit on Highways owned land – Cllr. Wain will liaise with John Denwood and try to ascertain ownership of the land the railings sit on.

Cllr. Smart will continue the process of gaining a quotation to repair the railings, but this process will be continued in the new year.

Cllr. Smart has received a quotation for a replacement teak bench which was approximately £1,200. Councillors asked for a comparative quotation for repair – Councillor Smart will get a quotation from a joiner for Councillors to discuss at the next meeting.

Boundary signs will be discussed further in the new year – to install one on the boundary with Marton and another on Salter’s Lane. It was **RESOLVED** by Councillors to gain a quotation for moving a pre-existing sign to where a missing sign is located, temporarily, and to proceed with these works as soon as practicable.

1469 To formally review, and resolve to adopt, the budget for 2024 – 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to formally adopt the budget for 2024 – 2025.

1470 To discuss and approve the Council precept application for 2024-2025

It was **RESOLVED** to complete a precept application for £4,000 for 2024 – 2025.

1471 To discuss and consider the implementation of a Council website

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr. Smart to engage with a local supplier and to commence website building. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Smart could instruct the individual to commence work immediately, provided the cost was less than £500. Cllr. Smart will report back to the remainder of the Council if the price is more.

1472 To discuss and consider the implementation of a professional payroll company, to help manage the Clerk’s employment (HMRC, payslips etc.)

It was **RESOLVED** to engage TCS Management to manage the clerk’s payroll ahead at a cost of approximately £16 per month.

1473 To note and adopt a salary increase for the clerk, to fall in line with the new NALC pay scales

It was **RESOLVED** to maintain the clerk at SCP Band 12. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new NALC pay scales as of 1st January 2024.

1473 To consider the arrangements for the internal audit in spring 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to engage John Henry for the audit at a cost of £225 excluding VAT.

1474 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £1,439.27 (as of date of last bank reconciliation)
plus £11,878.85 (reserve account)

PAYMENTS MADE

£48.00	PKF Littlejohn (overdue payment)
£107.65	CHALC Membership
£349.51	Promotional Drinkware (overdue payment - Coronation Mugs)
£96.00	PKF Littlejohn (overdue payment)
£168.50	Meller Speakman (overdue payment – signage)

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£22.50	Siddington Village Hall (hosting) – paid in between meetings
£48.00	PKF Littlejohn – late payment for AGAR submission 2022-23
£410.13	Clerk’s salary September – November (3 months)
£136.51	Clerk’s salary December

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments. It was **RESOLVED** to pay the clerk the three months of owed salary as soon as TCS Management have created the payslip. For



transparency, the clerk will confirm the amount she has been paid to Councillors via e-mail.

Cllr. Wain extended thanks to Cllr. Meadowcroft and the Clerk for their efforts in improving the council's financial reporting and management.

1475 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda

No applications had been published since the agenda.

1476 If applicable, to ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings:

23/3598M- Proposed Garage Building - Redesmere Cottage, REDESMERE LANE, SIDDINGTON, SK11 9PR – 'general observation' comment submitted, regarding location of garage

23/3751M - Proposed cattle shed - Mere Moss Farm, BLACKDEN LANE, SIDDINGTON, SK11 9NA – 'no objections' comment submitted

23/3742M - Extension to cattle shed for housing cattle in winter - SIMONSWOOD, PEXHILL ROAD, SIDDINGTON, CHESHIRE, SK11 9JP – 'no objections' comment submitted

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the above submitted comments.

1477 Any other correspondence

The two surveys that Cllr. Wain wished to discuss had been covered in Cllr. Smetham's report. Cllr. Wain shared a brief report of the local Parish Council Network meeting that he attended, Cllr. Wain and Meadowcroft will attend these meetings ahead, with the next one scheduled for January 2024.

Cllr. Carbutt shared his concerns that several footpaths, adjacent to Highways, had become overgrown and impassable. Cllr. Wain will discuss with John Denwood.

1478 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 30th January 2024

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.