

Minutes of Smisby Parish Annual Council Meeting 13th May 2025

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Cuming (Chairman), Sullivan, Dickens and Brooke, Clerk Caroline Crowder

Members of the public and other organisations: County Councillor Hill, District Councillors Haines and Lowe, and 7 members of the public

1. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Brooke proposed Councillor Cuming, seconded by Councillor Sullivan.

Resolved, all agreed to Councillor Cuming as the Chairman. Councillor Cuming accepted and signed the declaration of office

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Cuming proposed Councillor Dickens, seconded by Councillor Brooke.

Resolved all Councillors agreed to Councillor Dickens as Vice Chairman. Councillor Dickens accepted and signed the declaration of office.

3. To receive and accept apologies for absence

none.

4. To receive declarations of Interest on items on the agenda (under the Code of Conduct members are reminded that in declaring an interest you should make clear the nature of that interest and whether it is "personal" or "prejudicial").

None.

5. To determine which items if any on the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

None.

6. Councillor Vacancy

Anyone interested in applying should contact the clerk.

7. General Power of Competence

The Council meets the criteria of at least two thirds elected councillors at the time of election, and the Clerk has the CiLCA qualification.

8. Approval of Accounts as of 31st March 2026

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the accounts that the Clerk had already certified as being a true and accurate record. Councillor Cuming signed them as Chairman.

9. Report of Internal Auditor

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to accept the report of the internal auditor.

10. Approval of Annual Governance Statement

Resolved, all Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement. The Chair of the meeting and Clerk signed the statement.

11. Approval of Accounting Statements

Resolved, all Councillors approved statement of accounts. The Clerk had already signed; the Chair of the meeting signed the statement.

12. Approval of Certificate of Exemption

Resolved, all Councillors approved the Certificate of Exemption. The Chair of the meeting and Clerk signed the certificate.

13. Appointment of Internal Auditor 2026 – 27

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to appoint East Midlands Audit Services.

14. Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

All Councillors were reminded that if their circumstances have changed, they need to complete a new form and submit to SDDC.

15. Insurance

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to renew with Clear Council

16. Chairman's communications (if any)

He has met with the ground's maintenance team, nothing to report.

17. Clerk's report

- i. Clerk is on annual leave 10th-19th June and 3rd-16th September.
- ii. Invoices have been issued for the newsletter adverts.
- iii. The Clerk report she has tried to get the old phone number up and running again, still not sorted, suggest a new phone and number is purchased. Cheapest found is £32 for phone and £5 per month for top up with Tesco.

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to this.

18. Opportunity for public questions and comment (10 minutes)

No comments.

19. Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meetings held on 31st March 2026

Resolved, all Councillors approved the minutes, and the Chair signed them as a true and accurate record.

20. District and County Councillors Communications

- i. District Councillor Haines advised there have been some issues with bin collections, but she doesn't think Smisby has been impacted. The food waste collections will be starting soon. Some parishioners have not received their food waste bins; she will feed this back. They are currently experiencing some recruitment issues for waste operatives. The Local Plan part one has another consultation out after a few modifications.
- ii. District Councillor Lowe advised that the District Council housing position paper has been agreed as of 31st March, this has recalculated the 5-year supply.
- iii. County Councillor Hill introduced Mr Stone from the Highways department, he is an officer in the commissioning side. He has been working with County Councillor Hill on the junction signage. The hedge at this junction was cut back on 5th May. Some of the Parish Councillors disputed this, he agreed to look into this. He advised in his opinion the Heath Lane junction cannot stay as it currently is. The approach from Forties Lane, the hedge was trimmed but still can't see the sign, temporary sign will stay until this is sorted. The give way sign is completely in the hedge. The weight limit sign is laying down on the ground. He will speak to the maintenance team to clear the village

sign as it is covered in vegetation. Councillor Cuming advised him that the Heath Lane junction has had a big accident 18 months ago, this was reported numerous times by the parish council. Some work gets done, but it is never completed. There have been four serious accidents in the time since the Parish Council first started to report the issue. County Councillor Hill advised that she has been chasing the open cases up, she went to Mr Stone and got new signs. The rest of the issues will go to the Willington depot. A member of public, advised they thought there was no view to the right of the piston hills junction, they said even at reasonable speed if you don't know there is a junction then it could easily be missed and have an accident. Another member of public believes it should be a stop sign not give way. Mr Stone agreed to look into this. He will also chase the road markings. Hedges are the responsibility of the property owners; Councillor Dickens advised them that we have been asking for this to be enforced for a long time. County Councillor Hill said this is a six-month process. She has asked for an enforcement notice to be served. A member of the public will assist in trying to get the land owners to cut the hedge. Mr Stone agreed to look into if the 40mph limit could be extended to include the junction. Rumble strips will be going in Health Lane, Councillor Cuming advised he thought they are also needed on the main road. Councillor Cuming thanked them for the pot holes done recently. County Councillor Hill says 2000 a week are being completed. She advised that potholes have to be 40mm deep before anything will be done.

21. Smisby Lockup

Smisby Lockup recently appeared in the Derbyshire Life magazine.

22. Parochial Charity Communications

Trustee Dickens advised they are currently checking to ensure they are up to date with GDPR. They are looking for someone to assist them in running the allotments. They are taking back control of a car park at York house in Ashby.

23. Aircraft Noise Nuisance

There was a forum that Councillor Cuming attended recently, nothing new to report from it. Ongoing routes development still delayed.

24. War Memorial

Cleaning of the memorial is still planned to take place in Spring 2026

25. Pinfold

Councillor Cuming has been in touch with a local firm who believe it should cost around about £700 to install the information board. The lengthman was thanked for planting the bluebells by a member of public.

26. Playground Inspections and Repairs

The overall risk is increasing, and the slide roof now at higher risk. Councillor Brooke met with a SDDC representative. They advised that the roof is in need of repair and have suggested a local contractor to contact. Councillor Brooke is waiting for a quote for the repair work. A member of the public asked about s106 contributions, Clerk doesn't believe any are available but will check with SDDC.

27. Highways

See 20a.

28. Speed Watch

Speed Watch has resumed again this year. Local groups all went out on the same day at the same time recently.

29. Newsletter

Councillor Dickens is organising the next issue. Councillor Cuming will put it out on the WhatsApp groups for the village

30. Jubilee Field

Until future plans it was agreed, to continue with agreed ground maintenance, look into new nets and remove the ropes and posts around the wildflower area, along with the repair to the slide roof once a quote has been received.

31. To discuss and agree any response to any current Planning Applications

- i. DMPA/2026/0243: Retrospective Permission for the erection of a new dwelling at Holmleigh, Forties Lane, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2SN.
Resolved, all Councillors agreed to submit an objection to this application. Councillor Cuming agreed to document this.
- ii. DMOT/2026/0562: The felling of a Larch tree at The Poplars, Annwell Lane, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch, Derbyshire, LE65 2TA

32. Dates of future meetings

14th July, 22nd September, 10th November 2026

33. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

Date	Payment Type	To Whom	For	Total	VAT	Paid under delegated authority of Clerk and Chairman
08/04/2026	Bank transfer	Clerk	March salary	£268.66		Y
08/04/2026	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	April grounds maintenance (inv35148)	£346.91	£57.82	Y
08/04/2026	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and Minor Maintenance March (inv81187280)	£65.58	£10.93	Y
08/04/2026	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and PAYE month 12	£67.20		Y
08/04/2026	Bank transfer	DALC	Subscription	£189.52		Y
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	Clerk	April salary	£268.86		
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	May grounds maintenance (inv35423)	£346.91	£57.82	
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and Minor Maintenance April (inv)	£65.58	£10.93	
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and PAYE month 1	£67.00		
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	Lengthsman	Lengthsman	£66.67		
12/05/2026	Bank transfer	Clerk	Mileage for audit	£42.30		

12/05/2026	Bank transfer	East Midlands Audit Services	Annual internal audit	£100.00		
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34. Payments Received

- i. 02/04/2026 First Precept payment from SDDC into Current Account
£4,477.71
- ii. 30/04/2026 April interest from NatWest into Business Reserves Account
£4.94
- iii. 06/05/2026 Newsletter advert from Kilworth Machinery into Current Account
£50.00

35. Bank Balance

- i. Current Account = £3,252.02
- ii. Business Reserves Account = £7,076.22

36. Communications received since last meeting

- i. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 6
- ii. DALC: Newsletter x 2; Update to HR Advisory Service for Members; DALC April Forum: Flood Risk, Response & Emergency Planning; East Midlands Freeport Strategic Infrastructure and Contributions Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation
- iii. DCC: Newsletter x
- iv. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 2; DPI Form; Findern Neighbourhood Plan; ACH Spring newsletter
- v. South Derbyshire CVS: Community Bulletin x
- vi. Smisby Parochial Charity:
- vii. Beacon Race Events: Advance Notice: Runners using National Forest Way footpath – 6 June
- viii. EMA Community Noise Portal; EMA Parish Forum - Monday 11 May 15.00-17.00; EMA Community Flyer & Trust Survey Spring 2026!
- ix. South Derbyshire SNT: Mercia area new neighbourhood priorities set

The Chair thanked the Parish Councillors for attending and declared the meeting closed.
The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 14th July 2026 in Smisby Village Hall at 19:30.

Signed: Date: