

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting 8th July 2025

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

Members of the public and other organisations: 8 members of the public, County Councillor Hill

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
Councillor Taft, District Councillors Lowe and Haines.

2. 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.

3. To determine which items if any on the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.
None.

4. Chairman’s communications (if any)
Councillor Cuming advised that a lot of people have been in touch with the Council about the works in Chapel Street. He advised this is not a parish council matter and they have no powers in this area. County Councillor Hill has been sent some correspondence and is aware of the issue.

5. Clerk’s report
Before the end of this financial year the Parish Council will need to purchase a gov.uk domain and at least a generic email account for the clerk but recommend that all Councillors have a gov.uk email to comply with FOI and GDPR. Clerk will obtain quotes for the September meeting.

6. Opportunity for public questions and comment (10 minutes)
A speed watch volunteer advised that on Friday it is national community speed watch day. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time for future speed watches please contact Councillor Cuming.
The resident that has had work completed on the corner of Chapel Street, apologised to anyone that had been distressed by the work. Their intention was to improve their property and make space for their cars to park off road.
Some other residents spoke about the works and comments that have been made.
The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had no powers around this and that if anyone wanted to make comments to the appropriate authorities, they should contact South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.
The Lengthsman reported that there are more pot holes on Forties Lane.

7. Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2025
Resolved, all Councillors approved the minutes, and the Chair signed them as a true and accurate record.

8. Approval of minutes from Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2025

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

9. Current Account Debit Card

Resolved, all Councillors agreed for the Clerk to apply for a debit card for the current account.

10. District and County Councillors Communications

County Councillor Hill advised that control has changed at the County Council and a new cabinet is now in place. She is the cabinet member for highways and pot holes. There are three councillors in South Derbyshire. Gully cleaning is now back in to DCC from SDDC. Councillor Cuming advised that there have been issues previously but since Councillor Taft has been in touch they have got better. She is going to get a timetable for the work. Local government reorganisation currently has an open consultation.

11. Parochial Charity Communications

Trustee Dickens advised that the charity try to use their funds for the betterment of the villages. They are changing from charity status to a CIO, which will mean more of a company arrangement and will protect the trustees. This is with the charity commission to approve hopefully before September. They are looking to find areas to spend money on, anyone is welcome to contact the charity with ideas. Christmas hampers for the over 60s, they are going to ask for renomination, which will go out soon. They are also offering the option of donating rather than receiving hampers. They are currently in a position to offer funding in the following areas, people just need to approach the charity to request this. Student funding, this can be learning at any age. Winter fuel payments. Any one struggling or know of anyone struggling please talk to the charity.

12. Aircraft Noise Nuisance

Councillor Cuming advised that two consultations on routes which airplanes are allowed to fly and where they fly are currently open. The Parish Council have been involved in this for a few years, and this should go to public consultation soon. He encouraged people to complain if they are affected, directly to EMA.

13. War Memorial

A member of public advised that someone had approached her to speak on their behalf at the Council meeting and would like the war memorial to be lit. Councillor Cuming advised he would take this away and speak to the person requesting this to be considered.

14. Pinfold

Councillor Cuming advised that the bench needs to be moved back now that the Pinfold has been tidied and the tree replaced. Councillor Dickens offered to bring her tractor down if people could assist in moving the bench. A resident has been caring for the replacement tree and put a collar on as something has been eating it. Councillor Cuming thanked them for the work they have done. He also advised this tree is owned by SDDC. It has been suggested that an information board be installed at the Pinfold. Councillor Cuming asked a resident present if they would like to design this.

15. Playground Inspections and Repairs

The Clerk reported that nothing is showing as more than a low risk on the inspection report, no further action needed at this time.

16. Highways

Councillor Cuming advised that there is nothing new to report. DCC have still not re-erected the signs that have been knocked over on the crossroads of Heath Lane and B5006. County Councillor Hill took away an action to chase this issue. Councillor Cuming agreed to send her copies of all the case numbers that have been reported with no action taken.

17. Speed Watch

See 6.

18. Newsletter

The last newsletter went out a few weeks ago. The Council will be starting to write the next one soon, please send through any contributions to the Clerk. Once Councillor Taft leaves the Council, they will be looking for someone to take over the editor role.

19. Jubilee Field BBQ

Councillor Cuming advised that there is to be a picnic, which was mentioned in the newsletter on Saturday 2nd August. This is open to all from the village to attend and the hope is that it will spark discussion on what people want from the field. Councillor Sullivan asked for any ideas and if there was anyone to assist her in designing the new ideas, bearing in mind any ongoing maintenance costs the Council would have to take on. A volunteer is happy to help in any way they can and also suggested there are volunteer groups that may be able to assist with some of the maintenance work.

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

No comments on the applications seen in the agenda.

21. Dates of future meetings

9th September, 11th November 2025

22. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

Date	BACS/C heq no	to whom paid	Particulars of payment	Total (£)	VAT (£)	Paid under delegate authority to the Chairman and Clerk
02/06/2025	Bank transfer	Clerk	May 2025 salary			Yes
02/06/2025	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	June grounds maintenance (inv32521)	333.56	55.59	Yes
02/06/2025	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground Inspection and Minor Maintenance May 2025	65.58	10.93	Yes
02/06/2025	Bank transfer	The Parochial Charity	Jubilee Field rent	320.00		Yes
02/06/2025	Bank transfer	Amazon (via clerk)	Printer cartridge	18.41	3.07	Yes
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	Clerk	June 2025 salary		260.24	
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	July grounds maintenance (inv32781)	333.56	55.59	
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground Inspection and	65.58	10.93	

			Minor Maintenance June 2025			
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	Lengthsman	Lengthsman	66.67		
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and PAYE	195.20		
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	SDDC	Annual Playground inspection	90.00	15.00	
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	Microsoft (via clerk)	Microsoft 365	104.99	17.50	
08/07/2025	Bank transfer	Kilworth Machinery	Newsletters	41.16		

23. Payments Received

i.	26/06/2025	Kilworth Machinery	One years' newsletter advert	£50.00
ii.	01/07/2025	Bluebell Arboretum	One years' newsletter advert	£50.00
iii.	30/04/2025	NatWest interest on Business Reserves Account		£6.30
iv.	30/05/2025	NatWest interest on Business Reserves Account		£6.33
v.	30/06/2025	NatWest interest on Business Reserves Account		£6.55
vi.	04/07/2025	SDDC 2nd precept payment		£3,911.00

24. Bank Balance

- i. Current Account = £7,481.81
- ii. Business Reserves Account = £7,019.18

25. Communications received since last meeting

- i. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 11; Local Councils Explained
- ii. DALC: Newsletter x 2; Reminder: May Forum – Dealing with Difficult People and Situations (21 May 2025); Upcoming Forum – Preparing for AGAR & Digital Data Compliance (26 June 2025)
- iii. DCC: Newsletter x 3; Extension to b_line Discount Travel Scheme & School Crossing Patrol recruitment; Holiday Activities
- iv. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 3; Chair of South Derbyshire District Council Civic Service save the date 5.10.25; Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy Review; Commissioner's Grant; Derbyshire local government reorganisation - public consultation open
- v. South Derbyshire CVS: Funding Bulletin x ; Community Bulletin x 1
- vi. East Midlands Airport: East Midlands Airport Sustainable Development Plan Consultation; Sustainability Strategy Launch!
- vii. Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service: FW: Your Fire Service - Your Views
- viii. District Councillor Haines: Parklife 2025 Leaflet; Gully Cleansing
- ix. Derbyshire Immediate Justice Scheme: Derbyshire Newsletter May 2025
- x. Burnaston Parish Council: SDDC
- xi. County Councillor Hill: Highways Patching; Safety Concern
- xii. Safety Concern
- xiii. Jubilee Field
- xiv. Gov.uk Domain
- xv. Banking

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 9th September 2025 in Smisby Village Hall at 19:30.

Signed: Date: