

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting 14th January 2025

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

Members of the public and other organisations: District Councillor Haines and three members of the public.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Councillor Brooke. County Councillor Muller and District Councillor Lowe.

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)

- i. The Repton Area Forum meeting is next Tuesday 6.30pm in Newton Solney, it is open to the public. Councillor Taft will be attending.
- ii. A bollard on the village green has been knocked over. Third such event and no note left by the perpetrator. Councillor Cuming has tried to fix it and is going to be assisted by another volunteer to rectify the issue.

5. Clerk's report

i. Data Protection and Freedom of Information Training

Clerk wishes to attend training; the cost would be £110.00 **Resolved; all Councillors agreed.**

ii. Clerk Annual Leave

20th-28th March, 27th-30th May, 16th-20th June, 29th September – 3rd October, 5th-12th and 29th-31st December.

6. Opportunity for public questions and comments (10 minutes)

A member of the public was concerned about the planning application to build more houses along the bypass, with respect to facilities and noise. The Council noted this and will be discussing it further under the planning section. They also wished to report that there are several road signs that have fallen or are damaged. Councillor Taft advised that he had reported already them, but he encouraged everyone in the community, to report issues via the DCC Highways Hub. The more people report issues, the quicker they'll be addressed. Another member of the public wished to report that part of a tree branch has fallen in the Jubilee Field. They also believe the hedges need cutting. Councillors Cuming, Taft and Sullivan agreed to inspect the field and ensure that appropriate action is taken.

7. Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2024

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

8. Parochial Charity Communication

Ongoing activities, nothing new to report.

9. District Council Communications

District Councillor Haines also provided an update on the area forum to be held tomorrow. The government have altered the submission dates on the local plan, this means that SDDC will need to submit part two earlier than they planned, this will include details on settlement boundaries.

10. Budget Approval for 2025 – 26

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the budget set in the Finance Meeting.

11. Precept for 2025 – 26

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the precept set in the Finance Meeting of £8,369.54, which is a 7% increase. The Chairman and Clerk signed the precept demand which will be returned to SDDC.

12. Grounds Maintenance 2025 – 26

Quotes had been issued to the Councillors before the meeting. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the quote from Shed Grounds Maintenance**

13. Aircraft Noise Nuisance

Councillor Cuming advised there were no updates. He asked people if they hear any nuisance noise to report it to the airport. There is a four-year noise action plan, and this is now one year in. He doesn't believe we have received any response to the Council's last email, Clerk to chase. The future airspace programme will go to public consultation soon, and this will focus on the routes that they fly. Will hold an event in the village hall to update people.

14. War Memorial

Councillor Taft advised that the parish war memorial needs cleaning. He's been in contact with the War Memorial Trust, who have advised that cleaning should only be accomplished with fresh water and a natural bristle brush. No pressure washing or use of cleaning agents, herbicides or preservatives should be used. He has volunteered to clean the monument in the spring. Anyone wishing to assist, please let him know. Councillor Taft has also found, on the War Memorials Online portal, that there's record of a hand-written Roll of Honour, signed by 50 school children. If anyone knows of the existence or whereabouts of this document, could they please let him know, such that local and national records can be updated. The War Memorials Online portal also confirmed that the Copper Beech tree, recently felled by SDDC, had been planted on the 21st February 1920 by Mr C Higgins and members of the community, and was dedicated to the fallen in WWI. Given that the tree has been replaced by a Copper Beech sapling, Councillor Taft thought the Parish Council may wish to have it re-dedicated i.e. small plaque installed. This would complement the memorial bench, which faces the memorial green.

15. Pinfold Ownership and Restoration Plan

i. Quotations for Restoration

Quotes had been distributed to the Councillors before the meeting. **Resolved, all Councillors agreed to the quote by Archer Landscapes, authorising up to £1,000 as cement repairs are needed to a plinth and they need to ensure there are no trip hazards.**

16. Playground Inspections and Repairs

The Clerk reported that nothing is above a low risk at the moment, therefore no work is needed at the moment.

17. Highways

Following the recent accident on the 4th of January, Councillor Taft has photographed all the signage deficiencies and reported them to DCC Highways, no response received. He feels they ought to consider escalating the crossroads from 'GIVE WAY' to 'STOP'. Councillor Dickens says there is a pothole that may have contributed to the accident. Councillor Taft agreed to raise the issue at the area forum next week, District Councillor Haines will forward the details to the safety team at SDDC.

18. Speed Watch

Nothing new at this time.

19. Newsletter

The winter newsletter was circulated just before Christmas.

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

i. Application Reference 24/01617/OUTM

The application was discussed and concerns raised over noise protection, provision for schools and doctors, pedestrian access over the road at the roundabout, the current slip lane roundabout is unpopular and hazardous, bus and cycle pathway and walkways, speed limit, pollution, wildlife hazards, hedges lost. Councillor Cuming agreed to draft a response, which he would circulate to all Councillors for approval. The Clerk would then submit this objection to Northwest Leicestershire Council.

21. Dates of future meetings

11th March, 13th May 8th July, 9th September, 11th November 2025.

22. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

Date	Method of Payment	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Total £	VAT £	Already paid under Clerk and Chairman Delegated Authority
09/12/2024	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (November 2024)			Yes
09/12/2024	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and minor maintenance (November 2024)	65.58	10.93	Yes
14/01/2025	Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary (December 2024)	356.79		No
14/01/2025	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and minor maintenance (December 2024)	65.58	10.93	No
14/01/2025	Bank transfer	A person	Lengthsman	60.00		No
14/01/2025	Bank transfer	McAfee Antivirus (via clerk)	Antivirus software	31.49		No
14/01/2025	Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE and NI	81.20		No

23. Payments Received

None

24. Bank Balance

£9,892.26

25. Communications received since last meeting.

- a. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin x 10; Newsletter x ; our chair has penned an open letter to parish and town councils.
- b. DALC: Newsletter x 1; Budget changes to NI contributions; Training Sessions and Martyn's Law Forum Details; Professional Development Courses : 2025
- c. DCC: Newsletter x 8; Derbyshire's Holiday Activity & Food Programme: Winter 2024; School Travel Planning; Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) News No 5
- d. SDDC: Playground Inspection Report x 2; South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan Part 1 Review; South Derbyshire District Council Flood Liaison Meeting - Thursday 21st Nov -10am; SDDC - Notification of Parish Precepts 2025/26; Polling District and Polling Place Review; Notification of Parish Precepts 2025/26 - Smisby Parish Council; January 2025 Repton Area Forum meeting; Parish Forum Event; Budget Consultation 2025/26; Seasons Greetings from The Chair of South Derbyshire District Council; Repton Agenda Pack – January 2025; Summer Holiday Provision
- e. South Derbyshire CVS: Funding Bulletin x 2; Health and Wellbeing Bulletin x 1; Our Handy Person & Safer Homes Services
- f. A Person: Protecting our rural villages - SDDC's Draft Local Plan
- g. District Councillor Lowe: Household Waste & Recycling Centre Registration System update DCC
- h. East Midlands Airport: MAG and East Midlands Airport CSR Reports for 2023-24
- i. CPRE: Breaking News - Pylons and Planning Training
- j. Clear Councils Insurance: Important Notice for our Customers
- k. Pinfold Restoration Quotes
- l. Grounds Maintenance Quotes
- m. Derbyshire Police: Updates x 2
- n. Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Consultation

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 11th March 2025 in Smisby Village Hall starting at 19:30.

Signed: Date: