

Minutes of Smisby Parish Council Meeting 21st July 2025

Smisby Parish Council Attendance: Councillors Cuming (Chairman), Dickens and Brooke

Members of the public and other organisations: County Councillor Hill and 3 members of the public.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Councillor Sullivan, District Councillors Haines and Lowe, Clerk Caroline Crowder all offered their apologies.

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. Councillor Vacancy

Resolved, all Councillors agreed to co-opt Stuart Lowe as a Councillor. Clerk to send out acceptance of office form to Stuart Lowe.

5. Chairman’s communications

The Chairman reported ongoing concerns regarding racing on the A511. Councillor Cuming has been communicating with Derbyshire and Leicestershire Police, and the matter is now being taken seriously – especially following the recent associated motorcycle accident in the village. Inspector Craig has facilitated engagement between Leicestershire and Derbyshire Police, which appears to have been effective. Any residents may call 101 to report an incident or call 999 where there is an immediate danger or active road racing, or indeed if there is no answer on 101 as has recently been the case.

6. Clerk’s report

A new mobile phone has been obtained for dedicated Parish Council use.

Files stored in the village hall are being reviewed. Clerk to contact County Records Office following the review for storage of the files.

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

A query was raised regarding the football pitch, including the goals and the net behind them. A costed proposal has been put forward by a member of the public which also explored the option of a more sophisticated system at a cost of around £530 or less. Each new goal net is expected to cost £43, and replacement backing nets cost £107; VAT should be recoverable by the Parish Council. It was agreed that this would fall within the pre-existing decision to carry out essential repairs whilst not prejudicing any long-term decisions about Jubilee field facilities and Councillors Cuming and Brooke were tasked with further research and also authorised to spend up to £530 in order to carry out the repairs swiftly. County Councillor Hill offered funding towards this project from the

community fund. It was agreed that a funding application email should be sent to County Councillor Hill's email address explaining that this would be a one-off cost.

8. Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2026
Resolved, all Councillors approved the minutes, and the Chair signed them as a true and accurate record.

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10. District and County Councillors Communications
District Councillor Haines had provided a written update on local government reorganisation, and the clerk and councillors had also received the same information during the preceding week. County Councillor Hill explained that the changes may result in additional responsibilities for Parish Councils but that further details were not yet available. Implementation dates will be April 2028.
New elections are expected in May, followed by a one-year period for new councillors until April 2028. The proposals refer to 83 councillors in total, compared with 230 district and borough councillors currently.

11. Parochial Charity Communications
The Parochial Charity lunch for senior citizens was noted.

12. Road Racing
See Chairmans communications.

13. Visit by Derbyshire Police Representative
Inspector Craig has agreed to send a police representative to a PC meeting, but no-one was available on this occasion.

14. Smisby Lockup
No matters raised.

15. Aircraft Noise Nuisance
No update was reported, other than a reminder of the reporting procedures. It was agreed to repeat this information once again in the upcoming newsletter.

16. War Memorial
Nothing to report

17. Pinfold
The member of the public who has been watering the new copper beech tree has moved. Councillor Cuming will take responsibility for watering during the current dry weather going forward.

18. Playground Inspections and Repairs
The overall risk is increasing, and the slide roof now at higher risk. Running repairs have been made to the fence. The slide roof is in poor condition. Councillor Brooke is obtaining quotes for cleaning, repair and repainting works.

19. Highways

Councillor Hill reported that approximately 2,000 potholes are being addressed each week, with 89% receiving permanent repairs. A new elastomer material made using recycled tyres is being used. It has a shiny black appearance. The relevant landowner who owns the overgrown hedge at Heath Lane has been identified. Councillor Hill has not yet heard from highways when they will repair the last remaining road sign and will follow up once the relevant contacts details are passed on. Clock Island in Woodville and the nearby A511 are due to be resurfaced.

20. Speed Watch

The annual "all out" day took place recently. 5 sessions were completed by Smisby Speed watch and approximately 2,000 vehicles were observed. Around 30% of vehicles were recorded as speeding, with 11% significantly over the limit. Details of 101 vehicles were sent to the police. The data were approximately 80% accurate, and 80 letters were issued to motorists by police. A police motorcycle should be deployed for speeding enforcement. The Derbyshire CREST team has advised when the road is busiest, and a potential new enforcement location is to be inspected which would allow enforcement vans to be used.

21. Newsletter

The Clerk has requested contributions.

22. Jubilee Field

See public section.

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

- a. DMPA/2025/0574: Listed Building Consent for replacement windows at Pitts Farm, Main Street, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2TY – amended application
- b. DMOT/2026/0781: The pruning of trees at The Byre, Main Street, Smisby, Ashby De La Zouch, Derbyshire, LE65 2TY
- c. DMOT/2026/0708: The felling of 2no Conifer trees at Saint James Church, Annwell Lane, Smisby, Ashby de La Zouch LE65 2TA

No comments on any of the applications.

24. Dates of future meetings

22nd September, 10th November 2026

25. To approve payment of accounts as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment method</u>	<u>To Whom</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Total (£)</u>	<u>VAT (£)</u>	<u>Paid or for Approval</u>
13/05/2026	Bank transfer	Clear Council	Insurance	638.49		Paid
01/06/2026	Bank transfer	Clerk	May salary	268.66		Paid
01/06/2026	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	June grounds maintenance (inv35673)	346.91	57.82	Paid
01/06/2026	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and Minor Maintenance May (inv81192164) plus annual inspection	155.58	25.93	Paid
01/06/2026	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and PAYE month 2	67.20		Paid

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment method</u>	<u>To Whom</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Total (£)</u>	<u>VAT (£)</u>	<u>Paid or for Approval</u>
01/06/2026	Bank transfer	The Parochial Charity	Field rent	320.00		Paid
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	Clerk	June salary	268.66		For information only
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	Shed Grounds Maintenance	July grounds maintenance (inv)	354.67	10.93	Paid
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	SDDC	Playground inspection and Minor Maintenance June (inv)	155.58	25.93	Paid
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	HMRC	NI and PAYE month 3	67.20		For information only
14/07/2026	Card Payment	Tesco Mobile	Pay as you go mobile phone	24.00		Paid
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	Lengthsman	Lengthsman	66.67		Paid
04/06/2026	Card Payment	Tesco Mobile	Top up voucher	10.00		Paid
14/07/2026	Bank transfer	X2 Connect Ltd (via Councillor Cuming)	Phone box paint	45.60	7.60	Paid
23/06/2026	Bank transfer	The DefibPad Safelincs Ltd (via a volunteer)	Defib pads	82.19	13.70	Paid
24/06/2026	Card Payment	Microsoft	365 subscription	104.99	17.50	Paid

26. Payments Received

- a. 15/05/2026 £50 into current account from Bluebell Arboretum for magazine advert
- b. 26/06/2026 £722.97 into current account from HMRC for VAT reclaim
- c. 30/06/2026 £5.28 into business reserves account interest
- d. 03/07/2026 £4,477.71 into current account from SDDC for 2nd instalment of precept

27. Bank Balance

- i. Current Account = £3,774.47
- ii. Business Reserves Account = £7,086.28

28. 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 22nd September July 2026
in Smisby Village Hall at 19:30.

Signed: Date:

DRAFT