



# SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Derrington Village Hall  
Starting at 7.30pm*

Kelly Day & RFO: Tel: 07931 167 081 E-mail: clerk@seighford-pc.org.uk

Present: Cllr John Busby (Chairman), Cllr Mark Hayward (Vice-chair), Cllr David Price, Cllr Mark Turnbull, Cllr Richard Wilkes

In attendance: Kelly Day (Clerk), SBC Cllr Jack Rose + 30 members of the public

Apologies: SCC Cllr Mark Winnington, SCC Cllr Jeremy Pert, SPC Cllr Mark Hodgkins

## **1) Introduction and welcome by the Chairman**

The chairman opened the meeting at 19.30, introduced the councillors and welcomed residents.

## **2) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Hayward. Seconded by Cllr Price.

## **3) To consider any matters raised by parishioners**

1. MOP said it regularly floods from the bus shelter in Great Bridgeford towards Hartley's farm entrance. Cllr Busby said it is SCC Cllr Pert's jurisdiction and the council will pass information onto him. The daffodils along Newport Road have been crushed by a tractor. The Gt Bridgeford to Stafford pavement is now impassable due to flooding. Mr Robert Eld made an observation that when highways came out to see the lane, they made it clear there was no budget for these sorts of issues for at least two years.
2. The footpath from the bus shelter on Eccleshall Road towards the turning into Worston Lane needs resurfacing.
3. Seighford footpath 20 – MOP commented that the bridge is now up, but the direction signs have disappeared.
4. MOP observed what a difference it had made to Derrington lane now the verges had been cut back. They enquired as to whether it would be possible for the hedges to be cut back to be make the approach to Derrington more visible.
5. MOP Mr Richard Nowles said Butterbank Lane is in a poor state and is now under water despite having the water personally drained from there. The lane is impassable with 15 category 1 pot holes. He reported that he has video footage of Cllr Busby's van drivers throwing litter outside and his vehicles damaging hedgerows. Cllr Busby made it clear that this was Parish Council meeting, not an opportunity to discuss issues his private business and Mr Nowles said he would like to speak to Cllr Busby to discuss other issues and work together to resolve problems and reinstate lane. Cllr Busby agreed it would be better to speak separately over concerns Mr Nowles had.
6. MOP asked the status of the proposed additional parking on Church Lane, Derrington to stop people parking on it. The Chair explained this is still being investigated.
7. MOP Mr Robert Eld asked if the Parish Council could remove the old goal posts in storage from Seighford kickabout field and thanked Seighford Litter Pickers for their

help with recent litter pick. He said that the Bridge had been repaired in Seighford, but electric fences are still there. He asked if the Parish Council can continue to push through the relevant authorities for these things to get resolved or they don't happen.

8. Noise on Seighford airfield. SBC has written to Mr Robert Eld to say that he will be updated on the situation by the end of April.
9. The ditches on Clanford Lane towards Bunns Bank need a drainage system.
10. Newport Road, Gt Bridgeford has been flooded for past few months and needs attention.
11. Mr Robert Eld has reported the leak by pumping station.
12. MOP said that the Parishes of Salt and Hopton are training a first responder and wondered whether it could be adopted by Seighford Parish Council.

MOP thanked all the councillors for the work they have put in over the past year. Another MOP agreed and said there have been some fantastic improvements, particularly in Derrington, so thanked the councillors for all this.

#### **4) To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council from the Chairman**

The Chairman presented the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2023/24 thanking the parish councillors for their support and the efforts that they devote to their duties. He highlighted the main achievements in 2023/24. These included:

##### **Great Bridgeford**

- Funded and installed a new bus shelter on Newport Road.
- Worked with Cllr Jack Rose to remove the graffiti on the railway bridge.
- Helped to resolve the issue on Footpath 26.
- Arranged a civic amenity visit which 18 people benefited from.

The Chair thanked Neil Brown, who recently stepped down as a Parish Councillor for Great Bridgeford.

##### **Derrington**

- Improved access to The Greenway by reducing the gradient and added a safety hand rail
- Widened The Greenway to improve visibility and to provide a safe space for cyclists to pass along with speed control signs.
- Funded and arranged for the phone box and bus shelter to be repaired and repainted and provided a bench for people to use whilst waiting for the bus.
- Working with SCC Mark Winnington, the Parish Council arranged for white posts to be installed outside Derrington Village Hall to stop vehicles parking on the verges.
- Responding to concerns from residents living in Church Lane, the Chairman explained that SPC continues to look at options for improved parking areas and are waiting for SBC planning department to confirm viable options.
- Replaced slippery and unsafe tiles under the igloo in the playground with play bark
- Continue to arrange and fund civic amenity visits to benefit residents in the village.
- Have provided a notice at the bus stop for people to note if buses are not arriving on time or not at all so the Parish Council can report it back to the transport department.

The Chair thanked Carole Allen who recently stepped down as a Parish Councillor for Derrington.

## **Seighford**

- There has been significant progress with the proposed playfield to be located at the existing kick about field.
- Section 106 – this has been an ongoing issue for 13 years and an agreement has now been reached to transfer the land to the Parish Council.
- Progress has been made with the noise monitoring at the Drive Me site at Seighford Airfield. It is hoped this will lead to noise improvements from the site.

The Chairman concluded by saying all of this was only made possible with the help and support of the community and thanked everyone for their contribution. Additionally, the Parish Council is also actively seeking two more councillors to join following recent resignations.

The chair also conveyed sadness at the recent passing of Gillian Cox, a longstanding Parish Councillor who made significant contributions to the community. A MOP asked if something could be done to commemorate Gillian Cox, such as naming the Derrington playfield after her and installing a bench in her memory. The Chairman said it would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

### **5) To receive the reports from the following local community groups:**

- **The Parochial Church Councils of St Chad's and St Matthew's**

#### **St Chad's**

No representation from the church. Ken Anderson, MOP, spoke on behalf of St Chad's. He highlighted that the stone finials were being pointed and thanked the Parish Council for their donation to maintain churchyard.

#### **St Matthew's**

Rev. Cath Brumfitt said it had been another busy year. The church had a recent annual inspection of which no serious concerns were raised. Rev. Cath thanked the Parish Council for its donation which is used to mow the grass. They now have a new group of volunteers who help to keep the churchyard tidy and had a new bench donated. Events continue to be enjoyed, such as Christmas carols and an Easter service. Once a month, a tiny tots and teddies group is held to help parents meet and make friends. The concert with serenity singers and the spring fair was very well attended. The next big project is to install a toilet and a small kitchen area in the church.

- **Village Hall Committees**

#### **Sally Churchill, Chair of Derrington Village Hall**

Mrs Churchill thanked the Parish Council and Cllr Busby for all they do in Derrington. They now have new Trustees who have set up 3 different committees. Since then, they have installed a new central heating system, disabled access door and a new hot water tap. Events committee ran a successful fete and thanked the Parish Council for use of the field again on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. Continue to hold other events such as murder mysteries, quiz nights as well as Christmas events. Yoga, Tai Chi and Post Office also operates from the village hall. Applied for warm spaces grant which saw over 80 people attend. Now also produce a quarterly newsletter which has been well received.

### **Phil Causer, Chair of Great Bridgeford Village Hall**

Mr Causer said it had been a successful year, well supported by villagers, including a Beetle Drive which raised £500 for St Chad's Church. They also hosted the Great Bridgeford Show and another one is planned for this year. The fete is on the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The hall is in good condition, but they want to be greener, so have plans to replace the heating system to make it more efficient and will run off the WIFI so it can be managed remotely. Improvements to the kitchen are also planned, such installing a hot tap and dishwasher, making it more modern. The hall continues to be used regularly and is well managed by Leslie Longstaff who has decided to stand down. This has created the opportunity to try an electric booking system. Moreover, it was mentioned that a PHD student had been engaged to undertake some digital marketing for the village hall on a voluntary basis. He concluded by thanking the Parish Council for all the good work they have done.

### **Robert Eld, Chair of Seighford Village Hall**

This year has been better than last year. Main achievement is that a 15-year lease has now been agreed with the landlord. Experienced problems with the power supply which has been reported to the ombudsman. Have seen an increase in bookings and the annual light up the village over Christmas was a success with over 300 people attending. The choir at Cooper Perry also sang on The Green. Mr Eld announced this was his last year as Chairman.

- **Community Speed Watch Groups at Derrington, Great Bridgeford and Seighford**

### **John Busby on behalf of Derrington Community Speed Watch**

Have 3 volunteers now, but need more. They try and go every fortnight and normally 100 cars pass an hour, but fortunately very few speeding issues.

### **Denise Perry-Miller on behalf of Great Bridgeford Community Speed Watch**

Group was formed in Sept 22 and now has 9 volunteers over 4 prime locations. Each site is firstly risk assessed by the police. The permanent signs have now been put up. Ran 16 sessions in 2022 and 10 sessions last year. Speed device is unfortunately faulty, so no sessions will be held until it is fixed.

### **Jo Humphries on behalf of Seighford Community Speed Watch**

There are 3 teams of 3 people at a time. The worst times are during school collection or drop off or change of shift from nearby business park. Permanent speed watch signs also up now.

### **Roy Wood on behalf of The Millenium Green Trust, Derrington**

In 1998 the money was raised to set up what it now Duddas Wood with the remaining 11.5 acres becoming The Millennium Green. The majority of its upkeep is carried out by volunteers who maintain The Green which continues to be a valuable asset to the community. Mr Wood thanked the Parish Council for its assistance with The Green.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.53pm