



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Meeting of
Seighford Parish Council held
at Seighford Village Hall on
Monday 15th July 2024
Starting at 7.30pm*

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

Present

Councillor J Busby (Chairman)
Councillor M Hayward (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor M Hodgkins
Councillor D Price
Councillor R Wilkes
Councillor M Turnbull
Councillor P Brown

SCC Mark Winnington

Members of the Public –10

Kelly Day – Clerk

1	15/07/24/1 To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences SCC Jeremy Pert SBC Jack Rose
2	15/07/24/2 Declaration of interests: Cllr Busby declared an interest in item 6
3	15/07/24/3 Public Open Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent residents meeting re the lack of parking and increase in cars on Bramall Close, Seighford. MOP thanked Cllr Hodgkins for coming to offer his support.• Footpath 20 Norcroft is still in poor condition – 4 fixed wires which are sometimes live, sometimes not and bridge is in a poor state. The Chair said this was raised with highways. Action: Clerk to raise again to Highways.• Footpath 34 – bridleway – bridge at Moor Lane to Cresswell. Footbridge unsafe and dilapidated.• Noise levels at the Seighford airfield continue to be high. MOP suggested contacting the new MP. The Chair said SBC Cllr Jack Rose is still trying to contact the airfield owner to address the issue.• The benches are now in place on the village green and look really smart. MOP thanked Cllr Hodgkins and Cllr Price for their assistance in getting the benches fitted and secured.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road from Clanford towards Bunns Bank is in very poor condition, with many pot holes. Cllr Winnington acknowledged the poor state of the road and offered to follow up on the issue.
4	<p>15/07/24/4</p> <p>Updates from Borough/ County Councillors:</p> <p>SCC Cllr Winnington</p> <p>One of the biggest concerns currently for SCC is the poor condition of the roads particularly pot holes and drainage problems. Highways are getting round to repairing them, but there are many that require attention. As a result, more resource has been allocated to the roads.</p>
5	<p>15/07/24/5</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting held on the following dates in 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extraordinary Meeting – 26th March 2024 Annual Meeting - 20th May 2024 Extraordinary Meeting – 24th June 2024 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the draft minutes for approval as a correct record and sign Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda To discuss actions and outcomes from previous meetings <p>The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded Cllr Brown. Unanimous.</p> <p><u>Actions and Outcomes from Previous Meetings</u></p> <p>Re Item 15 at the meeting on the 10th May. Cllr Price confirmed the benches on Seighford village green have now been installed and the dedication service is likely to take place on the 25th July. Cllr Price suggested writing a letter of thanks to Mr Horton for the benches, which was agreed. Action: Clerk to write and send letter on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Re item 16 at the meeting on the 10th May. Cllr Price said he had since received two quotes to improve the footway joining A5013 Eccleshall at 34k and 27k and asked if the Parish Council wished to pursue any of these or refer it back to SCC. SCC Cllr Winnington advised that highways have paused work to roads and footpaths due to ongoing utility work, so this could prove a risk to the Parish Council if it then had to be dug up again. Cllr Price stated that he will speak to SCC Cllr Pert about the situation and report back.</p> <p>SCC Cllr Winnington enquired about the outcome re the installation of dropped kerbs in Great Bridgeford. Cllr Turnbull provided an update stating that dropped kerbs were needed on Heather Close to improve accessibility for people in wheelchairs. However, he was told by SCC that there was no funding available even though he had been previously told otherwise. Cllr Winnington suggested applying more pressure on this matter.</p>
6	<p>15/07/24/6</p> <p>Planning matters:</p> <p>23/38214/FUL</p> <p>Land North East of Billington Farm, Billington Bank, Stafford.</p> <p>Proposed pick your own facility, farm shop, café, children’s activity area, dog walking area and associated parking. Deadline 24th July.</p> <p>Cllr Busby declared an interest and left the room.</p>

Cllr Price proposed that the Parish Council should feedback and recommend that there will need to be an improvement at the Newport Road junction to enhance safety. All councillors agreed. It was also suggested that improved lighting should be installed on the Newport Road for both cars and pedestrians. Overall, the councillors agreed the proposed facility will be beneficial for the area and seems to have been welcomed by the community.

7	<p>15/07/24/7</p> <p>Parish Councillors Report:</p> <p>Derrington</p> <p><u>Cllr Brown</u></p> <p>Is keen to establish a Community First Responders network within the Parish and has done some research. Cllr Price explained that Great Bridgeford is under Eccleshall First Responders and, possibly Seighford as well. Councillors agreed it wasn't so convenient for Derrington and quite a large area for Eccleshall to cover considering they are volunteers and there isn't cover at all times. SCC Cllr Winnington applauded the Parish Council for taking on the initiative and Cllr Brown said he will report back. Cllr Winnington suggested that CPR training might also be beneficial for the community.</p> <p><u>Cllr Wilkes</u></p> <p>Recently met with Diane Firkins from SCC and have agreed where to put the new slow cyclists signs on the Derrington track. The recent Derrington fete was a success.</p> <p><u>Cllr Hayward</u></p> <p>Received a quote of £145 for a new notice board in Derrington which needs to be added to the next agenda. Repair work is also needed on the bus shelter so will also need to be included on the next agenda.</p> <p>The Millennium Green seems to have seen an increase in motorbikes during the evening.</p> <p>Dog fouling on the track is still an issue so more signs have been put up.</p> <p>Great Bridgeford</p> <p><u>Cllr Turnbull</u></p> <p>Gt Bridgeford fete was well attended with many stalls. He thanked Chair of the committee, Phil Causer for pulling it all together and also to the Parish Council for their £50 donation.</p> <p>Staying Well and Digital Skills Team visited Great Bridgeford VH on the 24th June. They continue to receive many referrals regarding local peoples' mental and physical health.</p> <p>Digital Skills Team did a presentation on spotting scams and cyber security which was well received and pitched at the right level. Looking for both teams to return in the autumn.</p> <p>Great Bridgeford VH will hold its quarterly litter pick on the 27th July which has proved successful in the past and they have been successful with recruiting more volunteers.</p> <p>The horticultural show will take place in August and the Burton Manor School Jazz Band will perform in October.</p>
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	<p>The local Community Speed Watch had a stall at the fete and successfully recruited 5 more volunteers.</p> <p><u>Cllr Price</u></p> <p>Flooding on Eccleshall Road has now been drained away by SCC. Silt has built up on the A5013 footway so the Parish Council needs to write to SCC about this. The path between Great Bridgeford and Cresswell is narrow and dangerous. Action: Clerk to chase SCC over footpath.</p> <p>The flooding issue in Whitgreave has now been resolved.</p> <p>Seighford</p> <p><u>Cllr Hodgkins</u></p> <p>Parking issues on Bramall Close. Attended recent residents' meeting to discuss a solution. Suggested putting some signs up to see if it makes any difference.</p>
8	<p>15/07/24/8</p> <p>Chairman's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped with the set-up at the recent fete in Derrington which raised £2,032 • Helped at Millennium Green and created some extra parking • There has been interest in vacant seat on Great Bridgeford ward • Horse signs needed on the Derrington bridge and this needs chasing as to whether horses are allowed on that bridge • Need more speed watch volunteers in Derrington
	<p>15/07/24/9</p> <p>To agree a suitable memorial to remember Gill Cox in recognition of her work to the Derrington community</p> <p>Pictures of the proposed memorial signs to replace the current entrance to the Derrington play field were presented. Entrance will also be tidied up Action: Cllr Price to source quotes for the new sign.</p>
10	<p>15/07/24/10</p> <p>Highways, Footpath & Playing Field matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an update on the proposed playing field in Seighford <p>Solicitor responded with update on Head of Terms and recommended the Parish Council go for the longer term lease. Cllr Busby asked if all Cllrs now agreed with the solicitors response to the Head of Terms. It was agreed to instruct solicitor to draw up the new tenancy agreement at a cost of £1,250 to the Parish Council, so it can be checked and finalised.</p> <p>SBC responded to the planning application and raised five questions that need addressing before it can be approved. Planning Agent, John Heath responded to four of the questions but said he unable to answer question 5 which refers to the area being a Heritage Site so this will need to be looked into by the Parish Council. Cllr Price expressed the opinion that this isn't relevant to the application, so recommended we go back to SBC planning department about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To revisit the proposed cricket wicket project at Great Bridgeford children's playing field

	<p>Cllr Price proposed the installation of a professional cricket wicket at a cost of £7,000. He suggested applying for a grant of £5,000, with the Parish Council covering the shortfall of £2,000. Cllr Brown requested a risk assessment be conducted before considering the proposal and Cllr Turnbull raised concerns about the potential for danger of injury to children and other people using the field. He noted that there are plenty of established professional cricket clubs in the area. Cllr Wilkes echoed these concerns. In light of the discussion, Cllr Price withdrew the proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve prices for benches in Seighford play field <p>Cllr Hayward presented three quotes for benches in the proposed Seighford play field. It was agreed to proceed with the local Millennium Green group who have offered to build two benches at a cost of £198 plus VAT per bench, plus £20 plus VAT for fixings. Proposed by Cllr Hayward. Seconded by Cllr Brown. Unanimous.</p> <p>Whilst on the subject, Cllr Hayward presented the three quotes for the replacement goal net which was approved at the meeting on the 20th May. The cheapest quote was £41.90, including net and clips. Cllr Hodgkins recommended a local supplier and Cllr Hayward said he would look into it or would go with the cheapest quote.</p>
11	<p>15/07/24/11</p> <p>Housing Needs Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To decide how to report back the findings from the surveys to Stafford Borough Council <p>Cllr Price noted that the 2020-2040 consultation is no longer active and, therefore responses cannot be submitted at this time. He also highlighted this could also change under the new Labour government plans. It was agreed for the Clerk to consolidate the responses ready to submit to SBC later in the year. Cllr Winnington mentioned if the plan does collapse it could affect the proposed Meecebrook development, potentially increasing the need to find an alternative location for more housing adding more pressure on the villages. Action: Clerk to consolidate all surveys by 16th September meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Affordable Housing Needs Survey for Great Bridgeford <p>Cllr Price said the Great Bridgeford surveys strayed into the Seighford Ward and thinks there is potentially 24 properties who didn't get surveys but it is unknown which properties these are. He expressed concerns that the Great Bridgeford consultation might be considered invalid due to these omissions, which could lead to complaints.</p> <p>However, the councillors emphasised that it is more about the consensus and majority of opinion in the surveys, so it was agreed to review the survey responses to determine if there is a split of opinion.</p>
12	<p>15/07/24/12</p> <p>To discuss the Speed Watch radar devices and procurement of replacements to replace the broken ones</p> <p>Cllr Turnbull reported that the speed gun in Great Bridgeford is broken and presented 3 quotes with the cheapest costing £166.99 including postage. This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Busby. Seconded by Cllr Hayward. Unanimous.</p>

13	<p>15/07/24/13</p> <p>To review and adopt council policies as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Financial Regulations. These were adopted. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded Cllr Hodgkins. Unanimous b) To agree a plan on how to monitor current assets and plot them for approval at a future meeting <p>Councillors need to check all assets against the asset list, so it was agreed to split the list between all Cllrs and for them to report back at the September meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) To discuss an amendment to the current Standing Orders with reference to public participation <p>Cllr Price emphasised the need to comply with regulations regarding public participation. He clarified that the meeting isn't a public meeting, but a council meeting and governed by certain protocols. He recommended asking NALC for their latest guidance on this which the other councillors agreed with. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Hodgkins.</p>
14	<p>15/07/24/14</p> <p>To nominate and authorise an additional payment signatory</p> <p>Cllr Price nominated Cllr Brown. Proposed by Cllr Price and Seconded by Cllr Hayward. Unanimous. Action: Cllr Price to arrange this with the bank.</p>
15	<p>15/07/24/15</p> <p>Finance – Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To approve bank reconciliation b) To receive an update on expenditure against the budget for 2024/25 c) To approve accounts for payment <p>Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Busby. Unanimous.</p>
16	<p>15/07/24/16</p> <p>To discuss and agree SPC news in the two church parish magazines</p> <p>The copy date for both magazines is the 15th of the month. Members to email the Clerk their contributions. Members to email the Clerk their contributions to the publications.</p> <p>Cllr Hayward suggested we trial putting minutes into AI suitable for print, get Cllr's to approve and then send to editors of local magazines. It was agreed to give this a trial.</p>
	<p>Next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Derrington Village Hall on Monday 16 September 2024 at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:32</p>