



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Meeting of
Seighford Parish Council held
at Derrington Village Hall on
Monday 16th September 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 D Price
Councillor R Wilkes
Councillor M Turnbull
Councillor P Brown

SCC Jeremy Pert
SBC Jack Rose

Members of the Public - 10
Kelly Day – Clerk

16/09/24/1

To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences:

Cllr Mark Hodgkins (apologies)

16/09/24/2

Declaration of interests:

None declared.

16/09/24/3

Co-option: to the available vacancy in the Great Bridgeford Ward

David Burgess was co-opted. Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Turnbull.
Unanimous.

16/09/24/4

Public Open Forum:

- Footpath 20, Seighford: bridge repaired and replaced, but electric fences remain and direction signs are missing.
- Footpath 34: footbridge over drainage ditch in a poor state and unsafe.
- Appointing a new Rights of Way Officer at SBC.
- Gullies still blocked through Seighford, so flooding still an issue in heavy rain.
- Lots of old road work signs need removing.
- Path over the footbridge at the Ford, Seighford has eroded.

16/09/24/5

Updates from Borough/ County Councillors:

SCC Cllr Pert:

- Acknowledged that Footpath 34 could be a health and safety issue and will follow that up. **Action: Clerk to forward details and incident number to Cllr Pert via MOP.**
- Repeated flooding at the bottom of Whitgreave Lane has been resolved. Still some remedial work needed to prevent further flooding.
- Highways update: the wettest winter in over 100 years took its toll on the roads, so lots of flooding issues (gullies) and poor condition of the roads. An extra £8 million has been allocated to resolve these issues and SCC has deployed 10 teams across the county.
- Commented that other Parish Councils do take responsibilities for their own local gullies. Recommended Clerk speak to Swinnerton PC about this.
- Acknowledged the continuing problems with the kerbs and parking in Great Bridgeford. Is still waiting for a site visit, but will continue to apply pressure.
- New Government (Labour) is bringing back mandatory housing numbers, which will increase from 358 – 782 a year in Stafford Borough. Public consultation currently out on this, so urged people to contribute to express any concerns.
- Scrapping of the Winter Fuel Allowance: concerned about the impact on this, so hoping The Borough Council will write to Prime Minister to express its feelings. Cllr Pert wants to encourage pensioners to claim all eligible benefits.
- Cllr Wilkes raised the danger of Worston Bridge. Cllr Pert said he is waiting for a meeting with Network Rail to discuss how to improve its safety.

SBC Jack Rose:

- DriveMe update: Cllr Rose reported that SBC enforcement is now in contact with the tenants and has requested noise monitoring records. Cllr Brown said it would be sensible if SBC set a deadline in which they have to provide this information to stop it dragging on any longer.
- SBC passed a recent motion calling for equal priority for all roads, regardless of size and location to streamline repair and maintenance efforts.

15/07/24/6

Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th July 2024:

- a) The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Brown. Unanimous
 - b) Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda
 - c) To discuss actions and outcomes from previous meetings
- Housing Needs Survey update – Clerk is compiling the results.
 - Seighford Village Green Benches: Cllr Price reported that Rev. Doug Heming dedicated the new benches in memory of the late Councillor George Brown and a brass plaque has now been fixed.
 - Item 5 – footway on Eccleshall Road. Cllr Pert noted SCC's 2 year moratorium on pavement repairs due to broadband infrastructure work.
 - Item 7 – Silt build-up on footway adjoining A5013. Clerk to send incident number to Cllr Pert who will notify SBC Environmental Team for action.

16/09/24/7

Planning matters:

None to report

16/09/24/8

Parish Councillors Report:

Derrington

Cllr Brown

- Community First Responder project still on-going. Has asked local First Responder team if they will offer some local training to all Wards.

Cllr Wilkes

- Derrington park sign in poor condition and needs replacing. Will be removed as part of the new Gill Cox memorial.
- The two 'slow cyclists signs' have been removed and need replacing.

Cllr Hayward

- The 'pick up after your dog' sign has gone missing.
- Goal net has been replaced.
- Sign on the humpback bridge is twisted and obscured by hedge. **Action: Cllr Hayward to send picture to Clerk.**

Great Bridgeford

Cllr Turnbull

- Community Speed watch: have recruited two more volunteers. At least 20 cars speeding per session are being reported to the police. The new speed guns funded by the Parish Council are working well.
- Great Bridgeford VH committee held horticultural show in August which was well attended.
- Parking on pavement on Cherry Tree crescent causing accessibility problems by people accessing park. No dropped kerbs for people to manoeuvre round cars.

Cllr Price

- Attended Great Bridgeford Horticultural Show on the 18th August, which was well supported. Cllr Price suggested we write to Angie Williams to congratulate her on its success. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
- During recent check of fixed assets, came across a bench on The Green in Whitgreave Lane, Great Bridgeford which does not appear to be on the asset list. Bench is in disrepair and in need of attention. **Action: Clerk to add to register.**
- Great Bridgeford playing field needs attention ready for next summer. This includes re-painting the original equipment and completing the laying of the safety tiles to the double swing and igloo. With some fine weather this autumn, work on relaying the safety tiles could be continued and asked if Cllr Burgess would be able to assist.

Seighford

Nothing to report.

15/07/24/9

Chairman's report:

- Installed the 'slow cyclists' signs in Derrington.
- Two Willow trees on the right hand side of Blackhole lane are potentially hazardous. This year, two branches fell, blocking the road and they appear to be rotten in the middle.
- Speed watch – looking for more Derrington volunteers.
- The new benches are now in the Seighford play field and look good.

16/09/24/10

Highways, footpaths and playing field matters

- **To report on progress made with the application for planning permission and the preparation of the draft 10 year lease.**

The application was submitted but SBC planning requested additional information which needs to be provided by the Parish Council. The 10-year lease is ready to be drawn up for signing but the Parish Council need to agree to pay the £1,250 legal fees. Cllr Price proposed not to take the extra lease as goal posts and benches seem to have made a difference. Cllrs agreed to attend an extraordinary meeting to resolve this.

- Bin ideally needed in Seighford playfield and field needs securing.
- Cllr Turnbull raised several maintenance issues at Great Bridgeford playfield. It was agreed this work can be done by the Cllrs.

- **Discussion and approval of quotes to replace the two benches in the Derrington park.**

The Millennium Green Volunteers offered to make the two benches at a cost of approximately £109.80. Proposed by Cllr Hayward. Seconded by Cllr Busby. Unanimous.

- **To consider quotations for the two new signs at Derrington playfield in memory of Gill Cox**

It was agreed to accept quote of £283+VAT and Councillors agreed to fit signs themselves. Proposed by Cllr Hayward. Seconded by Cllr Brown. Unanimous.

16/09/24/11

To provide an update on the noise at the DriveMe site.

Covered in agenda item 16/09/24/5

16/09/24/12

To discuss a donation to the Millennium Green volunteers in recognition of their efforts in building the new benches for the Seighford playfield.

A donation of £50 was agreed for each bench. Proposed by Cllr Busby. Seconded by Cllr Brown. Unanimous.

16/09/24/13

Discussion and approval of quotes for the 2025 grass and hedge cutting season in all three Wards.

- Grass cutting contracts for 2025/26 - Derrington and Great Bridgeford
 - Streetscene selected as the approved contractor at a cost of £1,470+VAT
- Grass cutting contracts for 2025/26 – Seighford
 - Cllr Mark Hodgkins was selected as approved contractor in Seighford for 25/26 at a cost of £150+VAT

- Hedge cutting contract for 2025/26 – all Wards
 - Dan Ingham was selected as approved contractor at a cost of £160+VAT
- All three quotes were proposed by Cllr Price. Seconded by Cllr Hayward.
Unanimous.

16/09/24/14

Discussion on councillors' interest in attending any training sessions.

To be discussed at extraordinary meeting.

16/09/24/15

To discuss and adopt an amendment to the current Standing Orders with reference to public participation in light of NALC's guidance.

To be discussed at extraordinary meeting.

16/09/24/16

To approve quotes to replace the notice board in Derrington and repair work to the bus shelter in Derrington.

At least two quotes to be presented for approval at extraordinary meeting.

16/09/24/17

Cllr Mark Hayward to provide an update on the financial checks conducted for quarter one, ensuring that all internal finance controls have been accurately recorded and adhered with any recommendations.

To be discussed at extraordinary meeting.

16/09/24/18

To agree and approve asset list for 2024.

To be discussed at extraordinary meeting.

16/09/24/19

Finance – Clerk:

- To approve bank reconciliation
- To receive an update on expenditure against the budget for 2024/25
- To approve accounts for payment (below)

Proposed by Cllr Turnbull. Seconded by Cllr Brown Unanimous.

Chq number	Amount	VAT	TOTAL	Payee	Reason for payment	Meeting item approved
1805	£ 280.00	£ 56.00	£ 336.00	John Busby	Reimbursement for Seighford bench materials x 2 benches	Jul-24
1806	£ 391.00	£ -	£ 391.00	Staffs Parish Council Association	Annual membership and NALC affiliation	Approved via email
1807	£ 236.00	£ 47.20	£ 283.20	Netwise UK	Email provider and domain annual payment	Approved via email
1808	£ 81.18	£ -	£ 81.18	HMRC	July payment	stat payment
1809	£ 166.99	£ -	£ 166.99	John Busby	Reimbursement for new speed device	Jul-24
TOTAL	£ 1,155.17	£ 103.20	£ 1,258.37			
				The above were paid after July's meeting and before the September meeting		
1810	£ 43.21	£ 8.64	£ 51.85	Mark Hayward	Reimbursement for new Derrington goal net and clips	Jul-24
1811	£ 13.89	£ 2.78	£ 16.67	Roy Wood	Reimbursement for Seighford bench materials	Jul-24
1812	£ 550.00	£ -	£ 550.00	Kelly Day	Salary for July 2024	Statutory
1812	£ 350.00	£ -	£ 350.00	Kelly Day	Salary for August (plus bonus for audit)	Statutory
1813	£ 30.16	£ 4.67	£ 34.83	Kelly Day	Expenses	Statutory 2023 elections
1814	£ 89.64	£ -	£ 89.64	Stafford Borough Council	Uncontested election fees - Great Bridgeford Ward	Statutory 2023 elections
1814	£ 70.09	£ -	£ 70.09	Stafford Borough Council	Uncontested election fees - Seighford Ward	Statutory 2023 elections
1814	£ 104.87	£ -	£ 104.87	Stafford Borough Council	Uncontested election fees - Derrington Ward	Statutory 2023 elections
1815	£ 44.20	£ -	£ 44.20	JDM Price (Cllr David Price)	Plaque and brackets for new Seighford Green benches	Clerk's authorisation @ under E250
1816	£ 211.82	£ -	£ 211.82	HMRC	july and August payment	Statutory payment

15/07/24/16

To discuss and agree SPC news in the two church parish magazines

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.

Cllr Hayward successfully used AI to edit the minutes suitable for publication. It was agreed to continue this to give people the highlights from each meeting.

Next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Great Bridgeford Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:33

APPROVED