

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Seneley Green
held on Thursday 26th May 2022 in the Community Hall,
Billinge Road, commencing at 7.45pm
(to be formally agreed at the Annual Parish Meeting 2023)**

Cllrs Present: S Murphy, Chairman; J Stevenson; B Ashcroft; J Shawcross

APM/1 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: T Nugent and Cllrs: B Pilkington, S Houghton, E Murphy
Resolved: to note the above apologies

APM/2 To confirm the minutes of the last Parish Meeting held 8th April 2021

Resolved: to agree the Minutes as a true record

APM/3 To receive the report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

Councillor Sue Murphy gave the following report:

“During the last year, Parish Council has been involved in the following:

Ongoing liaison re public transport issues including arranging for Cllr Liam Robinson to attend December meeting and undertake presentation on public transport in LCR region and more locally.

Work towards the Miners’ Memorial – planning permission is currently being sought to install at Parish Hall

Liaised with Torus to restore open space at Birch Grove/Leyland Green Road junction

Ongoing liaison over road safety issues at Booths Brow.Leylan Green Road

Supported residents’ request for signage for Downall Green

Part-funded schools crossing patrol, Rectory Road

Decorated the halls for Remembrance period along with lamp post poppies in November

Facilitated NHS mobile unit at Community Hall for a week – to deal with appointments made for early-stage cancer detection

Christmas activities included, illuminations at the halls, a donation to the event at the Bluebell; Santa’s visit to schools (included Parish Council funded selection packs for each pupil) and tour of Seneley Green streets; Facilitated storage/sorting/collection space for the ward councillor’s Christmas Toy Appeal (this Appeal was well-supported by toys/donations from residents)

Mental health Initiative – Parish Council liaised over taking part in the national ‘Time to Talk’ day at the Community Hall, circulated contact information in the December newsletter to assist any residents who may have found themselves struggling over the Christmas period.

Parish Council is involved in the feasibility of a request from Seneley & Garswood Juniors FC to support a development centre

We remain committed to keeping in touch with residents via newsletters, noticeboards, our website and Facebook page. Should residents wish to complain, comment or compliment about anything then they are most welcome to contact us at any time or come along to any meeting and raise in person.

This Annual meeting is the only time residents can raise issues and agree resolutions. Items raised under ‘Public Participation’ at normal business meetings can subsequently be considered and/or included on a future Parish Council meeting Agenda.

All Councillors are thanked for their work in supporting Seneley Green Parish for the past year, along with our members of staff.

We would like to offer our thanks to ex-Members of the Parish Council: Stuart Barton-Ainsworth and Peter Peers for their work during 2021-22 and wish them well in future endeavours.

We would also like to welcome new Members Sue Houghton and Jason Shawcross as we look forward to 2022-23.”

APM/4 Parish Matters

Among items put forward for consideration this evening:

Rail Station – there was discussion relating to reverting back to the pre-pandemic timetable, and work to the bridge that is currently suffering H&S issues. Cllr S Murphy reiterated comments from previous meetings and Cllr Stevenson informed the meeting re a separate issue re the ramp at the station now not being able to be used and that Parish Council are liaising over an appropriate resolution for this. He also commented on his problems with cancelled trains the evening before the meeting. A request to invite Cllr Liam Robinson to a future Parish Council meeting was made.

Resolved: to support Parish Council in their dealings with LCR Transport Committee, Northern Rail and Network Rail and efforts to restore the service and station.

A request for consideration of external defibrillator external to Community Hall to serve the Downall Green area of the Parish. It was proposed to raise as an Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting and in the meantime liaise with doctors over the possibility of their defib being sited externally.

Resolved: to add as an Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting and in the meantime to liaise with Garswood Surgery

The release of farmland for development (in Local Plan) was raised and a query how Parish Council would raise the issues in relation to this. A brief explanation of the planning procedure and the point at which objections can be raised to any application was given. Cllr Murphy confirmed no application has yet been received but commented on the recent consultation on a proposed development (now withdrawn). A request for a date for a public meeting to discuss the possible development was received. Cllr Murphy commented once the application is received then the requested public meeting can be called. Cllr Murphy commented Parish Council would not be supporting any application without appropriate infrastructure and for everyone to work together is the best way forward. Other issues relating to any development were also raised: transport, school, doctors, amount and speed of traffic already in and coming through the area and the impact of increase in the number of local vehicles. A St Helens Highways survey on this was requested – Cllr Murphy replied this would be done as part of the planning process and that this could be inspected at that time. Probable developments close the border in Wigan and the impact on our area; A request for survey by portable air monitoring station was made. The extent of the investigative work was questioned along with the lakes that appear on the now withdrawn consultative plans: Cllr Shawcross commented in his professional capacity re the investigations required for all new developments prior to planning etc. he further commented the lakes would be to take surface water, possibly to be stored in underground tanks to prevent excessive strain on existing drains. A weight restriction on Smock Lane was again requested.

Resolved:

To hold a public meeting when the planning application is received

For the Clerk to request mobile air monitoring from St Helens Council (if available)

For the Clerk to request weight restriction for Smock Lane

Library provision: Cllr Murphy reiterated that councillors are working to retain a library service in the area.

Resolved: to support Parish Council and Ward Councillors in their endeavours to retain a library service in Seneley Green

The meeting ended at 20.45