



## Minutes of the Meeting of Seneley Green Parish Council, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.45 pm. held in The Parish Hall, Montrey Crescent

Present: Cllrs S Murphy  
B Ashcroft  
S Houghton  
E Murphy  
B Pilkington  
J Shawcross  
J Stevenson

- 2023/79 To pass as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12<sup>TH</sup> October 2023**  
The Clerk proposed two amendments to the Draft Minutes  
**Resolved: to approve the requested amendments and for the Chairman to then sign the amended copy as a true record of the above meeting**
- 2023/80 To Note Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies had been received from Cllr J Pearson  
**Resolved: to note the above apology**
- 2023/81 To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members**  
Declarations of interest were received from Cllrs: E Murphy and S Houghton in relation to Agenda item 13 'Grants Application from FoSG'  
**Resolved: To note and receive the above declarations**
- 2023/82 \*To Receive any Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's Updates**  
The Clerk reported receipt of an anonymous letter relating to inconsiderate parking by those attending the Parish Hall. It was noted that Parish Council is unable to reply to anonymous communication.  
**For information only. issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting.**
- 2023/83 To Resolve to accept the Update from Planning Committee**  
The following have been received over the past month:  
APPLICATIONS  
P/2023/0598/FUL The Meadow Garswood Old Road St Helens WA11 7LZ - 3no containers on land to provide changing and toilet facilities for young people accessing outdoor activity based provisions.  
DECISIONS  
P/2023/0487/CLP Garswood Road Ashton In Makerfield St Helens WN4 0TU  
Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use as a children's home for 1no young person.  
Granted  
It was proposed by Cllr S Murphy that we comment on P/2023/0598/FUL expressing concern over the containers being used only in relation to permitted use and to request monitoring of this should permission be granted  
**Resolved:**  
**to note the above information**

***to agree for the above proposed comment to be submitted on the Planning Application***

**2023/84 Financial Matters**

**To Resolve whether to authorise payments listed below on the Schedule of Accounts for 10<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

23116	Utilities - CH gas Oct	377.56
23117	Pension	227.05
23118	Contractor payment - website relate	750.00
23119	Contractor payment - CCTV annual maintenance	115.20
23120	Contractor payment - install power (x4) to kitchen and store	253.20
23121	Utilities - gas PH oct	112.95
23122	Utilities - elec PH	49.07
23123	Contractor payment (clear and repair gutters)	150.00
23124	Utilities - alarm line and broadband – quarterly	200.09
23125	Staff payment - Nov Salary	1,280.68
23126	Staff payment - Nov Salary	493.81
23127	Staff payment - Nov Salary	1,037.18
23128	Clerk - expenditure reclaim 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	220.92
23129	*deposit (entertainment for tree lighting)	50.00
23130	Contractor payment (misc. Community Hall)	60.00
23131	Pension	227.05

***Resolved: to agree the above schedule of payments totalling £5604.76 and the S137 payment of £50 included in the total (in relation to the tree lighting event)***

**2023/85 Miners Memorial**

Cllr Shawcross updated that memorial remains in need of finishing off but given both the weather and his current commitments to Santa Sleigh events, nothing further will be done at the moment. The Clerk reported she will be collecting last submission for the time capsule on Monday so this will be ready and waiting to be included in the memorial.

***Resolved:***

***For the Chairman to offer thanks to Cllr Shawcross for his work and commitment to this project***

***To receive and note above update***

**2023/86 Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update**

**8.1 Library** – those at the meeting were already aware that Garswood Library will close at the end of January 2024. The Clerk reported Parish Council had not had official notification of this but media statements from St Helens Council had been released. Cllr S Murphy proposed for the Clerk to write to St Helens Council to express our concern at the absence of direct information.

The Clerk further reported 12 volunteers had now come forward and a meeting with Libraries at St Helens Council is planned to take place in January and Cllr S Murphy

proposed to invite concerned residents to join that meeting  
Cllr S Murphy shared her concern on the health and wellbeing of the area if Holy Trinity were to be earmarked for closure. She spoke of the importance to local residents including the impact to Rectory CofE Primary School. Cllr E Murphy further commented that the church had scored well on community involvement but that the cost of the building repairs was a factor being considered. She further commented on consideration of the churchyard and its upkeep if the church were to close. Cllr S Murphy proposed writing to the Archdiocese in support of Holy Trinity, express our concerns and ask for a response to these concerns.

**Resolved: To note and receive the above updates**

**For the Clerk to write to St Helens Council in relation to official notification of library closure**

**For the Clerk to update residents expressing concern of the date/time/location of the meeting in January**

**For the Clerk to write to the Archdiocese in support of Holy Trinity (as proposed above)**

## **2023/87 Estates Working Group**

**9.1 Fire Safety Policy** – Members had received a copy of the Fire Safety Policy compiled by our Health & Safety advisor and asked to consider adoption of this new policy.

**9.2 Kitchen** - Cllr E Murphy updated: the splashback tiling is almost complete and some bits of painting will also be done; once the cooker has been relocated to the Community Hall the area will be complete. Lottery Funding signage will be erected and a proposal to hold an 'open day' type event at some point was made. She would like an 'open day' to residents to view the kitchen and also thanked Ryan Sharples for his time freely given to work on the kitchen. The hot water temperature is to be addressed. Cllr S Murphy formally recorded thanks to FoSG for their work in securing funding and the successful completion of the kitchen.

**Resolved:**

**To note and receive the above updates**

**To agree adoption of the new Fire Safety Policy**

**To agree the completion work required and erection of Lottery Funding signage**

**To note proposal for an 'open day' event**

**To formally thank Ryan Sharples for his work and for the Clerk to arrange for him to receive a certificate of thanks**

**To formally thank FoSG for their work and for the Clerk to arrange for them to receive a certificate of thanks.**

## **2023/88 Public Transport Working Group**

**10.1 Railstation:** Cllr S Murphy reported no further update on accessibility. She noted comments made under Public Session relating to regular cancelling of trains (which has significant impact on passenger numbers/use of station if services cannot be relied upon) she proposed the Clerk write to both Northern Rail and LCR Mayor Steve Rotheram in relation to this.

**10.2 National proposal to close ticket offices update** – Cllr S Murphy updated that ticket offices will now remain open (nationwide) and thanked all those who had taken time to sign petitions to support this outcome

**Resolved:**

**To receive and note the above updates**

**For the Clerk to write to Northern Rail and LCR Mayor re interruptions and cancellation to rail service**

**To record thanks to those who supported petitions to retain ticket offices.**

## **2023/89 Communications Working Group**

**12.1 Website:** The Clerk reported the new website was now 'live' and also the new email address. Forwarding of emails from the existing email had been set up and the move to the new address would be publicised but expected to be gradual.

**Resolved: To note and receive the above update**

## **2023/90 Events Working Group**

**12.1 Tree Lighting event** Cllr S Murphy confirmed all arrangements are in place for the event at the Community Hall beginning at 6.30pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Cllr Stevenson proposed no hot drinks should be served at the event.

**Resolved:**

***To receive note the above***

***To agree no hot drinks to be served at the event***

## **2023/91 Grants Application from FoSG**

Copies of the application form and supporting documentation for £450 to fund the 'purchase of materials for six substantial planters' for our area was considered by Members. It was proposed for this application to be granted and it was requested that permission of landowners be obtained prior to installing the planters.

**Resolved: For the application for £450 be granted**

**The Meeting ended at 9 pm**

## **PUBLIC SESSION - held just prior to the start of the meeting.**

### **Statement (if any) from Merseyside Police**

The Clerk gave the crime report for October: Burglary – 1, Criminal Damage – 1, Robbery – 1, Theft from MV – 0, Theft of/Unauthorised taking of MV – 0, Anti-social behaviour - 2

Cllr S Murphy gave a brief report of the recent break in at Hamilton Road shops.

The Clerk then updated that the current PCSO for our area is leaving next week but we had received no notification of replacement. The Chairman requested the Clerk write to Merseyside Police in support of the return of our former PCSO to the area.

### **The public may speak of any matters of concern**

Among items raised this evening included:

Library – a resident commented that given a number of residents had come forward, she further commented on the viability of a volunteer-led service and the estimated two years it would take for it to be up and running, she further commented that she feels the area is unsupported by St Helens Council. There were comments re the feeling that St Helens is paying lip-service to this area given the number of initiatives/ideas put forward that are not able to be done. She asked the question if cuts to libraries were needed then why not close all libraries and create an 'all-singing, all-dancing one' in the town centre?

There was general agreement with this. She further commented she felt little is being done to get residents' voices heard. SM agreed with this frustration. Cllr S Murphy said she would ask for an interim provision which may include delivery of books an online provision. Cllr Stevenson commented a mobile service is needed but that investment by St Helens Council would also be needed for this. Cllr Pilkington commented (as a regular visitor to libraries) he felt those taking this decision do not use the service. He further commented – if they did, they would see children visiting after school to use facilities they obviously do not have access to at home and he cannot understand why St Helens Councillors would vote to withdraw this in any area.

Tree lighting event: query re Santa's Sleigh and whether it would be attending the FoSG Christmas Fayre. Cllr Shawcross answered that whilst Santa will be there, the sleigh won't be (due to his previous commitment out of the area) but that children would have ample opportunity to see the sleigh due to visits to local schools and the tour of the streets planned for December.

Cllr Stevenson drew the attention of those present to a St Helens Council resident survey ending 13 November which had already been shared on social media – hard copies are available at the Library.

Problems with the road surface on Garswood Road at the junction with Liverpool Road was reported. Clerk will report.