



**MINUTES OF SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.30PM AT SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs J Jones (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs E Jones
Councillor Mr A Higgs
Councillor Mr A Booth
Councillor Mr T Cox

Councillor Mr R Butler
Councillor Mrs S Gerrard
Councillor Major K McRae
Councillor Mr N Matlock

NOT PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M Wilson-Knight (Apologies received)
Councillor Mr J Walker (Apologies received)
Councillor Mrs M Matlock (Apologies received)

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Councillor S Bellamy
Mrs R Richardson - Clerk
Mrs J Lovatt – Deputy Clerk

322/24-25

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE BY COUNCIL

RESOLVED to accept and approve apologies from Councillors M Wilson-Knight, M Matlock and J Walker. Apologies received from County Councillor R Shepherd and Borough Councillor G Lawrence.

323/24-25

TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor A Higgs Min No 328/24-25 (b)

324/24-25

CLERK'S REPORT

In response to my request to the Rt Hon Edward Argar asking him if he could attend a meeting, with residents, to discuss their concerns and frustrations re flooding in the village, the following email was received: -

“As you’ll be aware, I have been out and about in Sileby on different occasions since the flooding, meeting a number of local residents who had been affected by the devastating flooding we saw across Leicestershire, and particularly in Sileby. As the Parish Council will have seen, the Melton and Syston constituency was the worst impacted by these floods in the country, so I have been visiting and supporting a considerable number of affected communities.

I was very sorry to see the direct impact of the floods once again on Sileby, particularly given the recurrence of the flooding for many, following previous occasions, and have seen first-hand some of the devastation to people's houses. I would also highlight the amazing work done by flood wardens locally, sadly often in the face of abuse or challenging behaviour from some, including in Sileby, and am conscious of the work done on different aspects of this issue over many years by a range of people, the Parish Council, County and Borough Councillors, and many others.

While, as an MP, I have no direct power over flood prevention measures/ flood response measures which fall under the formal responsibilities of a range of different organisations (LCC as the Lead Flood Authority and responsible for gullies under highways land; the Environment Agency for main rivers; Severn Trent Water; Charnwood Borough Council and councillors for decisions on planning applications for big new developments where there may be an impact on flood risk; the Government; and individual private landowners who generally have responsibility for drainage culverts or brooks etc under/ crossing their land), and no direct executive powers to compel any of those parties to take particular actions, there are nonetheless a number of measures that I have already taken.

Immediately following the flooding I raised with the Floods Minister, both directly and via Parliamentary questions, my calls for Flood Recovery Framework funding to be released by the Government to LCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority to support affected communities, though regrettably as far as I am aware the Government has thus far refused to release funding under this framework; for the Government to review the roles of all the different parties above to bring greater clarity and accountability as to who is responsible for what when it comes to flood prevention and flood response; for the Government to set out its assessment of any potential links between increased development and potential increased flood risk; and have also called for local planning authorities and councillors to ensure flood risk is fully addressed/ properly reflected in the decisions they make on planning applications for new developments.

More locally, in the case of Sileby, the PC may also be aware that, alongside these points, I have pressed for gullies/ drains to be regularly kept clear, and the brook to be routinely kept clear of silt, alongside specific measures related to the brook near Cygnet Close.

In the longer term, I have also called on the Environment Agency to look at whether, as a first step from an engineering perspective, some sort of defence a little like the Brentingby dam near Melton might be a practical option, setting aside for a moment whether there would be any funding available for it if it were.

While I think it is important that I am open with the Parish Council and residents that, like local councillors, I have no direct power to draw up a plan that other organisations must follow, or to compel the delivery of particular actions by them, as above I have been very active in raising Sileby's issues with flooding, suggesting potential ways forward (noting that I'm not an engineer) and pressing the Government and other bodies for progress on the issues above. It is a complex landscape with multiple separate organisations with different responsibilities, but I will continue to work hard campaigning for progress in Sileby to reduce the risk of flooding, and look forward to working with the Parish Council, and others, on that shared objective, which we can only achieve by working together.

If there are any individual residents who have been affected, who wish to speak with me about their own situations and circumstances, and who have not contacted me directly this far, and the PC knows of them, please do encourage them to do so, so that I can speak individually with them, if they wish.

I hope this is a helpful update for the meeting itself, and will, as above, copy you both the original response, and provide you shortly with a more formal update that could go on the P.C.'s website with a view going forwards to providing the PC with a monthly written MP update, if the PC feels that would be helpful?"

The Sustainable Travel Team will be hosting its third Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Forum on Monday 3rd March, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. This event is an excellent opportunity for members of the public to receive information on the up-and-coming active travel projects, as well as the chance to network with others. There will be presentations on the Council's Local Transport Plan 4, the Multi Modal Area Investment Plans, the Rights of Way in Leicestershire and the Active Travel Revolution, along with networking and a workshop after the presentations.

This is a public forum which is open to all. The event will be hybrid, with the option to attend in person at County Hall, Glenfield or online via Teams. Please share this engagement opportunity with your divisions and local communities. People wishing to attend can register via the Choose How You Move website - <https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/register-your-interest-in-attending-our-cycling-walking-and-wheeling-forum/>

325/24-25

POLICE MATTERS - INCLUDING CRIME FIGURES AND REPORT FROM POLICE, IF IN ATTENDANCE

No police present and no report received.

326/24-25

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

327/24-25

TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY

Councillor McRae requested an amendment to minute no. 305/24-25 – Public Participation.

The original minute stated *'A resident suggested that 'leaky dams' could be a solution to slow the water down into the village. This had previously been suggested to the EA by the Parish Council but had been dismissed as not a suitable option.'* Councillor McRae requested that the minute should add that Councillor McRae stated *'This in my opinion is incorrect I am aware that the LLFA modelled the leaky dam and the changing the directions of the Brook in the Memorial Park, but they have suggested that the amount of work to do this was inconsistent with the effect it had on the water flow so was not cost effective. The device was now called a Suds in reality as it collected and contained water much as a dam would which it dispersed at the correct surface water rate through a Hydro brake device, the EA with the Water Authority use these devices on all their estates currently where feasible.'*

RESOLVED to accept this amendment and approve the minutes.

328/24-25

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) To note the Income

RESOLVED To note the Income in the sum of £32,801.34.

(b) To approve the Expenditure

RESOLVED To approve the Expenditure in the sum of £196,475.06.

(c) To note the Bank Reconciliation up to 31 December 2024

RESOLVED to note this.

(d) To note the Financial Budget Comparison up to 31 December 2024

RESOLVED To note this.

(e) To approve hire charges, as from 1 April 2025 for the following sites (a) Allotments; (b) Garages; (c) Cemetery; (d) Pavilion/pitch hire; (e) Community Centre

RESOLVED To approve an increase of approximately 3%.

329/24-25

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS IF IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor S Bellamy gave his report, as follows: -

Flooding updates

Geoff has been working with members of the residents' Flood Group that emerged after the last Sibley PC meeting to work out how it would be best organised. It seems likely a small number of sub-groups will be formed to work on particular objectives that were voiced by residents that attended the SPC meeting on 6th February. Geoff encouraged the group members that met on 13th February to connect with those residents and councillors who are known to have done some work in that same area previously, e.g. lobbying for better maintenance of, and improvements to, the brook channel; planning matters and maintenance issues associated with SUDS infrastructure. In relation to the Flood Group's objective to create opportunities for Natural Flood Management measures to slow down the flow of water from the Sibley Brook catchment during heavy rainfall events, Steve has contacted Trent Rivers Trust and is awaiting a response.

Steve attended the meeting called by residents of Cygnet Close on 7th February with Edward Argar MP and Cllrs. McRae & Butler. Edward Argar indicated that he had arranged a call with the Environment Agency to discuss the matters raised and promised to give feedback on the

outcome. He would also be contacting Leicestershire CC and Cllr. Richard Shepherd to see if proposals around Cygnet Close (footbridge and non-return valves for drain outfalls) can be accelerated. He also indicated that his team would be writing to Sileby PC in response to the meeting request.

Naomi has continued to press CBC Planning to ensure that no work starts on the Cossington Road development until David Wilson Homes have met all planning conditions relating to flood mitigation, drainage scheme and finished floor levels.

Following the Jan 6th flooding Steve contacted Miller Homes about flood damage near Kempson Close on the Haines Drive estate. Miller Homes have now responded to say that they have assessed the damage, and repairs will be undertaken over the next few weeks.

Charnwood Air Quality Strategy

The draft Air Quality Strategy is open for consultation until 24th March 2025. Actions being considered include declaration of Smoke Control Areas, incentivising taxis to use low or zero emission vehicles as well as information campaigns.

<https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/airqualitystrategy>

LCC have completed more work on street sign lights which weren't working across the village. Sign lights in Brook Street and King Street have been fixed. One reported issue outside Tesco remains to be resolved.

330/24-25

TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED OR REPORTS RECEIVED – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Nothing to report.

331/24-25

TO CONSIDER AND AGREE COMMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS: -

(a) **P/25/0213/2** - Erection of hip to gable end roof extension and installation of rooflights to front and rear of dwelling - 69 Seagrave Road, Sileby, Leicestershire, LE12 7TW.

RESOLVED No objection.

(b) **P/25/0044/2** Proposed conversion of garage into Hair Salon with changes to fenestration - 15 Jenham Drive, Sileby, LE12 7DP.

RESOLVED No objection.

(c) **P/25/0293/2** Section 73 Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Application ref: P/21/2131/2 (Outline planning application with all matters reserved (except for access) for the development of up to 175 dwellings with associated infrastructure, accesses, landscaping and open space). Variation to consist of revision to Tree Planting Design Code - Peashill Farm, Ratcliffe Road, Sileby, LE12 7QB.

RESOLVED No objection.

(d) **P/25/0300/2** Installation of a dropped kerb to allow for access onto driveway. 105 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby, LE12 7PU

RESOLVED No objection.

332/24-25

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT PARK! WORKING PARTY

Councillor Higgs updated the Council on progress. The older children's play area construction should be completed by next week, it will then be surfaced and landscaped. Councillor E Jones suggested that signs should be erected at the children's play areas requesting that owners keep their dogs on a lead in the play areas.

RESOLVED to site signage.

333/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A RESPONSE FROM LCC RE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL BUS REVIEW ROADSHOW SESSION

RESOLVED to note this.

334/24-25

TO APPROVE A DATE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED to take place on Thursday, 1 May at 6.00 pm.

335/24-25

TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF TWO TREES IN THE MEMORIAL PARK

RESOLVED to approve the re-positioning of two trees which are close to the football pitches.

336/24-25

TO APPROVE AND CONSIDER HAVING THE PRIMARY ROOM DECORATED

RESOLVED to approve having the Primary Room decorated.

337/24-25

TO RECEIVE A REQUEST TO HIRE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISER

RESOLVED To approve this request, free of charge.

338/24-25

CONTENT FOR PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ARTICLE

Update on Project Park! (Councillor A Higgs)

Edward Argar MP article

339/24-25

TO REVIEW ACTION STATUS REPORT

This was reviewed and updated accordingly.

340/24-25

FUTURE PLANNING

To receive a presentation of alternative website options (Councillor A Booth)

Meeting closed at 7.37 pm.

Chairman's Signature: Date: