



**MINUTES OF SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 6 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 J Walker
Councillor Mr N Matlock
Councillor Mrs M Wilson-Knight

Councillor Mr R Butler
Councillor Mrs S Gerrard
Councillor Mrs M Matlock
Councillor Major K McRae
Councillor Mr T Cox
Councillor Mr A Booth

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Councillor G Lawrence
Mrs R Richardson - Clerk
Mrs J Lovatt – Deputy Clerk
Members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members resolved to move item 10 to item 4, and item 11 to item 5.

300/24-25

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE BY COUNCIL

Apologies received from County Councillor R Shepherd and Borough Councillor S Bellamy.

301/24-25

TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor M Wilson-Knight Minute No 312/24-25.

302/24-25

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk has emailed Edward Agar asking for a day and time for him to attend a public meeting to discuss flooding in the village. Councillor S Gerrard has also contacted him – to date an automated acknowledgement only has been received.

Alpine House Surgery (Mountsorrel) is organising a 55km Charity Cycle Ride around local villages on Sunday, 18 May in aid of two charities; **C.A.R.S** (Cancer Active Recovery Support), a locally based charity and **MIND** which is a UK charity that provides information and support for people living with or affected by Mental Health problems. They have written to inform us that the route will come through Sileby and a few days prior to the event, an Alpine House volunteer will put up some A4 signs at certain points (on lamp posts) to assist the riders, to ensure they are on the correct route. Once the event is over the same volunteer will take all the signs down no later than 2 days after the event

303/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE AN EMAIL FROM THE LEADER OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL RE THE RECENT FLOODING IN CHARNWOOD

The Chairman read out the letter from Jewel Miah.

Please click on link below to view the letter:

[https://www.silebyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/appendix-iv-240125-charnwood-flooding-letter-to-agencies-\(ccd\).pdf?v=1738586438](https://www.silebyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/appendix-iv-240125-charnwood-flooding-letter-to-agencies-(ccd).pdf?v=1738586438)

RESOLVED to note this.

304/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A RESPONSE TO THE LEADER OF CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL FROM THE ACTING LEADER OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RE THE RECENT FLOODING IN CHARNWOOD

The Chairman read the letter from Deborah Taylor

Please click on the link below to view the letter:

<https://www.silebyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/appendix-v-letter-to-cllr-jewel-miah-28-january-2025.pdf?v=1738586506>

RESOLVED to note this.

The Deputy Clerk read out the section on Flooding from County Councillor R Shepherd's report:

On 7th February the County Council's Cabinet will consider a Report about flooding. The whole Report is available to read on the Council's website. It is Item 9 on the Agenda for the Cabinet Meeting on 7th February and is headed "Flooding in Leicestershire in January 2025 and implications for Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Highway Authority". Its purpose is described as "...to provide information on the impacts of the unnamed storm which affected Leicestershire on 6 January 2025, highlight the County Council's ongoing work as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and set out proposals to support the LLFA's statutory duty in managing local flood risk. It also outlines the discretionary efforts by the County Council to aid local residents and businesses, and updates on the activities of the Local Highway Authority (LHA) regarding recent flood events and proposed actions to manage increased pressure on highways assets and resources." (The words are quoted from Paragraph 1 of the Report.) The County Council is of course the LHA as well as the LLFA.

Some points in the Report are:

During the storm “...significant rainfall led to the worst flooding event in recent history in Leicestershire. This is measured on the number of properties (both residential and business) that were subject to internal flooding. To date, an estimated 1000 properties across the LLR region and a confirmed 702 in Leicestershire have flooded internally; it is likely this number will increase.” (Paragraph 24). The LLR is the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

Despite the severe impact of the storm on Leicestershire “...the impact was not so severe across the rest of the country. This has meant that the National Flood Recovery Framework has not been activated. Leicestershire County Council will continue to lobby the Government to provide support to affected communities;” (Paragraph 4).

(A media release referred to below, headed “Fresh budget proposals factor in major flood clean up”, outlines some actions proposed by the County Council.)

“Where the number of properties flooded hits the relevant thresholds, the LLFA is required to undertake a formal investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As a result of the above, many Section 19 investigations were triggered. Whilst investigations have been undertaken and reports completed or in progress, there remain several others that still require significant work. In addition, the LLFA is progressing business cases to seek funding from the Environment Agency for a number of flood alleviation projects.” (Paragraph 29).

“The role of the LLFA during a flood event is supporting the response through engagement at multi-agency meetings, as well as attending the various enacted incident cells. The other key role of the LLFA during the incident is the coordination of internal flooding records used to inform the Government.”

There is a lot more information available in the Report.

An appendix to the Report, also on the website, is a strongly worded letter to the Minister for Water and Flooding, Emma Hardy MP. The letter is signed by the Acting Leader of the County Council, the Leader of Rutland County Council, and the Leaders of all seven Borough and District Councils in Leicestershire.

The letter sets out forcefully the situation people are facing locally. Among other things, the letter calls for:

“Immediate funding support to affected local agencies and communities to deal with incident and immediate aftermath;”

“Additional funding accessible to a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to enable investigations, adaptation and project identification to happen at pace rather than over a number of years – and drive the delivery of small-scale alleviation projects, quick wins that can make a big difference”:

“Review of role of LLFA to provide powers over risk management authorities to enable

delivery of solutions where multiple parties involved”.

The letter also says that “Current regulations and funding mean we are doing a major disservice to those many devastated communities up and down the country.”

305/24-25

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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.

Residents are keen to start an Action Group, and the Parish Council said they would fully support the group and help where possible. It was reiterated to residents that the more residents you can get onboard to complain and push issues forward, the better chance the village has in trying to alleviate the flooding.

Borough Councillor G Lawrence reported the following regarding flooding:

- a) Followed up with CBC on behalf of residents who had issues with booking bulky waste collections.
- b) No reply to email written to the EA requesting that they provide more information to SPC, flood wardens, etc. on what we have been given to understand is a funded plan that they have to improve the effectiveness of flood mitigation measures.
- c) Reply received from LLFA (LCC) with no additional information about the EA’s plans. Stated they are supportive of the right Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures installed in the right places and would welcome ideas but have limited capacity to coordinate NFM schemes.
- d) Wrote to Edward Argar MP to ask him to intervene with the EA in relation to the brook blockage at Highgate Rd, and to accept any invitation received from SPC to attend a meeting with residents to discuss representations that we are asking our MP to make to the Government’s Floods Minister and the EA on behalf of the village in relation to making more funding available for the improvement of flood defences.

306/24-25

TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED To accept as a true record and these were duly signed.

307/24-25

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS, IF IN ATTENDANCE

The Deputy Clerk read the report on behalf of County Councillor R Shepherd: -

County Council Election

After a period of uncertainty, it has now been confirmed that the County Council Election will take place as planned on 1st May. The media release referred to below, headed, “Council pledges to work with stakeholders on reorganisation plans”, includes information about the matter. The Council’s Cabinet will consider an update about the situation when it meets on 7th February.

Recent information

I should like to draw attention to some of the media releases and other information which I have recently forwarded. They are:

A media release headed “New 2040 transport blueprint for Leicestershire goes live”, forwarded on 29th January.

Information from the Environment Agency about updated flood risk maps, also forwarded on 29th January.

A media release headed “Fresh budget proposals factor in major flood clean up”, forwarded on 30th January.

A media release headed “Council pledges to work with stakeholders on reorganisation plans”, forwarded on 5th February.

Please let me know if there are any matters which the Parish Council would like me to follow up or about which more information is needed.

Councillor G Lawrence gave his report on behalf of the Borough Councillors, as follows: -

Rural Charnwood Bus Network Review (this is a summary of email sent to Parish Clerk & Cllrs Butler, Wilson-Knight & J Jones on 24th January)

Steve & Geoff attended the LCC Roadshow in Loughborough on Thursday 23rd January 2025

- a) LCC Review team said they would consider trialling a Sunday service to Loughborough, but demand and staffing are both issues for Kinchbus. On demand service might be the eventual solution.
- b) Kinchbus are open to extending route 2 to Birstall to link with park and ride and other services into Leicester, but LCC is resisting.
- c) Geoff advocated adding a loop around Homefield Rd/Greedon Rise to the no.27 LCC-supported service.
- d) Emma Odabas from the Review Team is happy to be invited to meet SPC representatives to give their views direct.

Flooding 6/01/25 updates

Report given at Public Participation section (minute no. 305/24-25)

Charnwood-maintained ditch between 96-112 Ratcliffe Rd and Ratcliffe Gardens SUDS Pond

Advice from Severn-Trent Water SUDS inspector about the water flowing in this ditch on 6th January given to Geoff, Cllrs. McRae & N Matlock on 15th January. Geoff has contacted CBC officer that supervises the idverde contract to ask for this section of ditch to be restored to proper operation.

308/24-25

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

Councillors M Wilson-Knight and R Butler attended the Walking and Cycling Meeting held at Quorn Old School on Wednesday, 5 February. The next meeting is scheduled for four weeks' time.

309/24-25

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

- (a) **P/25/0013/2:** Reserved Matters application to include appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to Outline Application ref: P/20/2393/2 (Development of up to 130 dwellings, provision of land for school expansion, open space and children's play area.) (to be confirmed) Land to the rear of Derry's Garden Centre, Cossington, Leics
RESOLVED Sileby Parish Council supports comments raised by Cossington Parish Council.
- (b) **P/24/1633/2** Change of use of outbuildings to ancillary accommodation (including associated alterations including the insertion of windows/doors, enclosure of covered area and addition of porch) and ancillary workshop/office (Use Class E (g)) to Hanover Lodge, 256 Seagrave Road, Sileby, LE12 7NJ.
RESOLVED No objection.
- (c) **P/25/0121/2** Extension to front entrance of main school to form new reception and offices, demolition of existing mobile classrooms, erect new modular building extension comprising 2 classrooms plus ancillary spaces - Highgate Primary School, Heathcote Drive, Sileby, LE12 7ND.
RESOLVED No objection.
- (d) **E/23/0418** A resident had contacted Sileby Parish Council to ask for support in objecting to a development at the bottom of Slash Lane/Mountsorrel Lane
RESOLVED to note that after receiving an explanation from the Enforcement Officer at Charnwood Borough Council this matter is still being processed.

310/24-25

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT PARK! WORKING PARTY

The Clerk and Councillor Higgs attended a Progress Meeting on Thursday, 30 January with Red Kite and Mac. Good progress is being made, work is taking shape, but work has slowed down.

Councillors J Jones and A Higgs met with the Community Garden Committee on Saturday, 25 January.

- (a) To approve the Safeguarding Policy of the Community Garden Committee
RESOLVED To approve this Policy, Safeguarding of Adults, but to include Children on the policy.
- (b) To approve the Health & Safety Policy of the Community Garden Committee
RESOLVED To approve this policy.
- (c) To approve the proposed Agreement between the Community Garden Committee and Sileby Parish Council
- (d) **RESOLVED** to approve the Agreement with the amendments that Sileby Parish Council recommend.
- (e) To receive and consider a Grant Application in the sum of £200 to purchase a wooden secure store for the Community Garden Committee
RESOLVED to respond that we approve awarding a Grant but that the store purchased is to be made from fire resistant material.

311/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER AN EMAIL FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR G LAWRENCE GIVING FEEDBACK ON LCC SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL BUS REVIEW ROADSHOW SESSION

Councillors M Wilson-Knight and R Butler also attended this Roadshow on 23 January 2025.

RESOLVED Clerk to write to County Councillor R Shepherd to the reasons why LCC are opposing suggestions for the Kinch bus to link up with the Park and Ride to enable residents better access to Leicester City centre, hospitals etc.

312/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM SILEBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In their Report the Library has ask the Parish Council to consider adding the Christmas lights to the tree at the front of the library.

RESOLVED to note this Report and for Councillor M Wilson-Knight to enquire further to their request.

313/24-25

OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN THE VILLAGE UPDATE

Councillor A Higgs produced the Title Deeds from the Land Registry confirming that STWA own the land off Gibson Road.

RESOLVED to note this.

314/24-25

TO APPROVE THE SPECIFICATION, AND LOCATION OF FENCING REQUIRED ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN THE CEMETERY AND THE ALLOTMENTS

The Building and Assets Working Party had met earlier to discuss options which were then put before the council. Some members required further clarification and said they would like to actually visit the cemetery.

RESOLVED to meet on Monday, 10th March at 11.00am.

315/24-25

TO CONSIDER HAVING A "FLOODING" SECTION ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

RESOLVED to add a 'Flooding' Section to the website.

316/24-25

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER COSTS TO REPAIR THE SKATEPARK

RESOLVED To appoint CF Construction at a cost of £2,184, plus the cost of Heras Fencing, if required.

317/24-25

TO CONSIDER HOW TO MARK THE GRAND OPENING OF THE OLDER CHILDREN'S NEW PLAY AREA ON THE MEMORIAL PARK

As the children of Highgate Primary School were involved in choosing the equipment of the new play area, it was **RESOLVED** to ask them to be part of this event. The Clerk to contact Mike Roberts, Communications, at Charnwood Borough Council.

318/24-25

TO RECEIVE A REPORT RE THE KNOTWEED ON LAND OFF SEAGRAVE ROAD AND DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO BE TAKEN

This piece of land has been treated for seven years and The Knotweed Company recommended one more treatment at a cost of £1,100. Councillor Higgs holds a certificate for spraying and volunteered to do the spraying.

RESOLVED Councillor A Higgs will carry out the spraying.

319/24-25

TO APPROVE A DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON 2026

RESOLVED to take place on Friday, 27 November 2026

320/24-25

CONTENT FOR PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ARTICLE

Article 'What is the point of a Parish Council?' – Cllr J Jones

321/24-25

FUTURE PLANNING

➤ To approve the removal of two trees in the Memorial Park (Councillors Higgs & Walker)

Meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Chairman's Signature: Date: