

SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Teresa Murphy

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th November 2021

Present:

CLlr Adam Quinney	Chairman
CLlr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
CLlr Peter Taaffe	
CLlr David Shaw	
CLlr Nick Moon	
CLlr Peter Hencher-Serafin	SDC (Studley with Mappleborough Green
CLlr Justin Kerridge	WCC
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

There were 12 persons present.

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Neil Edden
2. **Changes to Disclosure of Interest:** None
3. **Welcome to Nick Moon, recently elected Councillor for Sambourne North**

The Chairman welcomed Nick Moon as a member of Sambourne Parish Councillor. CLlr Moon then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2021

There was one omission in the minutes of 20th September. A parishioner had requested that, following the statement that had been read out by Mr Duddy, a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Bond. This action has now been completed.

With this amendment, the minutes were approved and signed by the chairman.

The chairman wished to add clarification to the statement he made at the beginning of the September meeting:

This is not a change to the minutes but a clarification. The minutes of the meeting are not a verbatim account, but they are a true record of what was said, not what one wishes to hear. The chairman has been contacted by members of the parish who did not agree with what was reported in the minutes. The apology the chairman made was a general apology for all the upset that has gone on in the village. He could not make an apology for individuals, it was the

individual's responsibility to make their own apologies. With regard to those who had been contacted directly, that was referencing those who were involved in the present council and not the previous members of the parish council and does not relate to any private conversations or emails. The chairman stated he would now like to draw a line under this subject.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 20th September 2021:

Letter of thanks to Mr Bond: The chairman confirmed that he has sent an email to Mr Bond thanking him for his statement and hopefully the parish council can now move forward in a positive manner.

Donation to the upkeep of Coughton Cemetery: The chairman reported that he has contacted the chairman of Coughton parish council concerning the donation towards the upkeep of the cemetery. Unfortunately parish councils are unable to give financial support to an 'open graveyard' as this would be deemed as donating towards a religious organisation. Donations can only be made once the cemetery becomes closed. We would like to find an alternative way of supporting the cemetery and the council will give the matter some thought.

Ongoing

6. Community Speedwatch and proposal for purchase of speed gun

Cllr Taaffe reported that the first Community Speed Watch took place in September, using a speed gun borrowed from Alcester SNT.

Since the last meeting Cllr Taaffe has been in dialogue with our local parish councils to investigate the possibility of jointly purchasing a refurbished speed gun. Following these discussions it became obvious that purchasing our own speed gun is the way forward, giving Sambourne the flexibility of when we carry out speed checks. At present we have three confirmed sites and two further sites have been requested.

Advice has been sought from Warwickshire Police Road Safety Unit and Cllr Taaffe asked for a proposal to vote for the purchase of one Ultralyte 100 speed laser. Cost of refurbished unit £899.00 + vat.

The chairman proposed the vote, it was seconded by Cllr Taaffe and there was unanimous agreement.

Action: Cllr Taaffe

7. Proposal to form an Intergenerational Working Group

At the last parish council meeting the chairman suggested that the Parish Plan should be reviewed. The Plan is some ten years old and, although still relevant, may be in need of a refresh and the people of the parish asked what they think the parish council could do on their behalf. It need not necessarily be councillors who carry out this review, it should involve people in the wider community. The revised Plan should be a simple, straightforward, two page document.

The chairman is looking for volunteers to be involved. He will put together some details about the purpose of the group and what they hope to achieve. This will be put on the website and hopefully a plan can be put together by Christmas, ready to start in the New Year and to be reported by March 2022.

Action: Chairman

8. Purchase of litter bin for lay by in Node Hill

A parishioner raised a request for the placement of a litter bin in the layby at the crossroads by Rutters, travelling towards Redditch. This question had been raised a few years ago by a previous Studley parish councillor. If SDC were to place a litter bin there, the cost to the parish council would be £375 plus £114 per year to empty it. A layby on the highway is the responsibility of SDC and it was considered, therefore, that this is not the responsibility of the parish council.

There could, however, be other areas of the parish where a litter bin could be sited. There is a particular problem with dog waste in Sambourne Lane, at the entrance to the field opposite the cricket club. The chairman agreed to look at the possibility of siting a dual litter/dog waste bin in this area.

Action: Chairman

9. Commemorative Plaque for Willis Ward on the circular bench

The family of Willis Ward have been consulted and they have requested that we leave this decision until a later date.

Ongoing

10. Accounts

(i) Draft Budget

A Draft Budget has been prepared for the financial year 1st April 2022-31st March 2023.

The budget shows a deficit of £1393.00 . The parish council has reserves to deal with this but, with in-year savings and likely extra income, this deficit will be reduced.

The chairman went through the budget line by line, giving an explanation of the different headings.

- I. The chairman formally proposed the budget for 2022/23
- II. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed.

The agreed budget will be displayed on the website.

(ii) To set the Precept for 2022/23

- I. The Chairman proposed that the Precept remains the same at 17,500.
- II. This was seconded by Cllr Taaffe and unanimously agreed.

The clerk will complete the relevant forms, when they are received from SDC.

The following payments were authorised:

Cllr Taaffe	Expenses and mileage	58.49
Clerk	Salary	713.40
Clerk	Home working allowance and mileage	72.30
Clerk	Zoom payment	14.39

Action: Clerk

11. Planning

A planning Grid showing applications received since the last meeting is attached to these minutes.

The chairman declared an interest in planning application no 21/03303/COUR and requested Cllr Jones to take the chair for this item and to take questions.

Several questions had been submitted under public participation concerning application no 21/03303/COUR and it was agreed these questions would be taken under planning. The clerk was asked to read out the questions.

Luke Egan : I would like to ensure please that the above application is discussed, as a matter of public record, and for the parish council to confirm what actions they have or will be taking.

Bob Drysdale: I believe that the parish council should object to the proposed planning application because the change in use of the building will lead to an increase in traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles, through the village and along Whitemoor Lane. Furthermore, the noise and traffic to the site would limit my enjoyment and use of footpaths in the area around this building. I currently enjoy these paths while walking my dog. I fear this change in use would be detrimental to my health and ability to exercise safely in and around my home of Sambourne.

Cllr Jones responded:

- SPC has not reached a final conclusion, but an objection is likely to be made on a similar basis to our comments on the previous application and using the views of the previous refusal appeal inspector.
- The previous comments made by SPC largely relate to implications for traffic and noise.
- The conclusion of the inspector's report was: The proposal has the potential to result in significant harm to the character and appearance of the area and to the efficient use of the surrounding public highway network. In these regards the development would conflict with the development plan taken as a whole.
- Cllr Taaffe has met with the applicant to discuss the application. We understand the motivation behind the application and have sympathy with the objectives, but we must be mindful of the possible long-term implications for the village.
- SPC note the objections already made.

Luke Egan expressed his concern about the Prior Approval Notification aspect of the Planning application. He felt if this were approved it could give rise to further potential expansion in the future, which would impact on traffic through the village and noise from the site.

A discussion then took place between Luke Egan and David McMullen concerning the procedure for Prior Approval, each voicing their concerns about future development.

Bobby Green was present at the meeting and he explained that the application was for diversification – a farmer's change of use. The barn in question is at present a grain store and he has no plans to change the structure of the building. He also gave the assurance that all noise would be inside the building. All the concerns that have been raised are to do with what may happen in the future.

Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin said that SDC takes on board the comments of parish councils and gives them due consideration. Cllr Justin Kerridge commented that, because of the type of planning application this is, it is unlikely to go to planning committee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for the cordial discussion.

Greg Duddy: What does the parish council see as the implications of Prior Approval for planning applications, and its consequences?

- This question was largely dealt with in the previous response.
- The chairman encouraged people to look at the planning section of the parish council website, where planning applications and the parish council comments can be viewed.
- Greg Duddy made the point that Sambourne is a beautiful place to live and parishioners wish to do all they can to protect this environment.
- The chairman acknowledged this fact and will take the 'sense of, and feeling for, Sambourne' to the group modifying the Parish Plan.

Laurence Evans: Blocked storm water culverts under roads, in particular the one close to my house in Oak Tree Lane, but others need addressing. This is not directly a parish council issue but probably either District or County but it needs to be logged as a concern and action sorted.

Cllr Taaffe responded:

- Cllr Quinney has cleared the culverts just below Laurence's house which will hopefully solve the problem. The plan is for Adam to cut down the three trees whose roots are entering the culvert that takes the stream water off the road. He will then dig them out to open up the culvert. The silt has now cleared under the bridge.
- During the heavy rain on the weekend of 30th October it was noted that a considerable amount of water was entering the property of Southfields in Middletown Lane. This had been previously reported to WCC and they have since jetted the gullies but reported a damaged drain. Cllr Taaffe has been in communication with WCC and it has been confirmed that a job sheet has been raised.
- A site visit has been requested to discuss other drains around the green which appear blocked. This meeting will take place on 11th November.

It was agreed that a list of blocked culverts should be kept and forwarded to WCC Highways. The question was asked as to whether there is a map of all the culverts in Sambourne. This needs to be investigated.

Cllr Kerridge encouraged people to report blocked drains or culverts on the Report It section of the WCC website.

Action: Chairman, Cllr Taaffe

10. Correspondence

Almost all correspondence is received through email and the decision has been taken to keep a log of emails received, under different categories. To give a flavour of the type of emails received, a summary of this log will be shared at each meeting of the parish council.

Action: Chairman, Clerk

11. Chairman's business: None

12. Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.00 pm

Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm