

SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Sambourne - Warwickshire
www.sambourneparish.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Room

Present:

Cllr Adam Quinney	Chairman
Cllr Rob Clarke	
Cllr Mike Bailey	
Cllr Caroline Jackson	
Cllr Alison Wheway	
Cllr Neil Edden	SDC Studley South
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

In attendance: Cllr Stuart Keighley - SDC Parish Champion

There were 8 parishioners present

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin and Cllr Luke Cooper

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 13th May 2025

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

A much quieter year in the parish with no new projects started. The first stage of footpath improvements, primarily for access, has been completed. The new footpath gates were purchased, with the assistance of grants from Warwickshire County Council and the Ramblers Association. We hope in the near future to add further gates, to give improved access.

The community speed watch (CSW) continues regularly throughout the year, when weather allows (rain impacts on the speed gun as well as the volunteers!). The parish council is very grateful to Peter Taaffe, who is no longer a councillor, for his organisation of the CSW.

The parish council continues to monitor updates from Stratford District Council on the proposed area of development to the West of Studley. The original proposal for 1600 homes as part of the strategic district plan has been changed, with the possibility of a smaller area to be developed adjacent to Node Hill. There is a long way to go before these proposals are firmed up and we will continue to work with Studley Parish Council to have a development plan best suited to the area.

In March the parish council organised a village litter pick. A large number of parishioners came along and cleared roadside rubbish along the lanes in the parish. As this will be an annual event the Parish Council purchased appropriate litter picking equipment and a supply

of hi-viz vests. Luckily the weather was dry and people enjoyed themselves, whilst at the same time doing good work!

The state of the local roads still gives much cause for concern, although it is pleasing to see maintenance of drains and new road markings around the village. A great deal more maintenance is needed on the road drainage and potholes.

We will continue to press for speed-activated signs in the parish - but we may have to wait for the reorganisation of local authorities before we can make progress.

During the year Teresa Murphy, the parish Clerk, announced that she wished to finish after 21 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry for all the hard work she has done for the parish over that time. Duncan Mathison has been appointed as Clerk. Duncan already clerked at another parish, so comes with experience.

4. To receive a Report from Cllr Luke Cooper – WCC

Cllr Cooper was unable to be present at the meeting but had forwarded a Report. The items that affected Sambourne were:

Speeding:

- Cllr Cooper had requested a WCC feasibility study concerning the purchase and installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS) for Sambourne. Subsequently, he discussed the results of the study with the Parish Council. He continues to pursue the issues around Sambourne Parish Council purchasing and maintaining a VAS sign.
- Cllr Cooper is undergoing discussions with WCC concerning a speed reduction on the Slough.
- He has also requested a feasibility study to improve signage on Hangingswell corner.

Flooding:

- Cllr Cooper has met with the Head of Highways to discuss the need for urgent drain clearing. He reported that the drain clearing works were scheduled for July 2026.

In February, Cllr Cooper requested the return of 'animal crossing' signs in Sambourne.

5. To receive a Report from Cllr Neil Edden – SDC Studley South

Recycling Achievement

Stratford District Council has been ranked first in England for household recycling in 2024/25, achieving a 63.9 recycling and composting rate.

Local Government reorganisation as Mandated by Central Government

SDC has submitted a formal proposal for two new unitary authorities. This differs from the opinion of Warwickshire County Council who chose to support a single unitary authority.

Health and Well-being

SDC strategy targets physical activity, mental health and preventative care. One of the key initiatives is the provision of subsidised health screening events offering discounted PSA, diabetes and cholesterol testing. Tests typically cost around £14 and are available at local screening events.

Environment and Climate Action:

- £150,000 was added to the Community Climate & Nature Fund to support local environmental projects.
- Funding secured for the Wilder Communities Project (£20,000) to plant trees, hedges and wildflowers.
- Additional funding for Free Trees for Farmers (35,000) and tree planting for parish councils (£50,000).
- Stratford on Avon District Council ranked second in Warwickshire for climate action, improving its score by 12%.

SWLP

- SWLP is a 25-year plan, which runs to 2025. During this period up to 2050, it is anticipated that approximately 28,000 houses will be built in the district.
- The SWLP is entering its six-week Regulation 19 Public Consultation from 12th June - 27th July. Statutory submission to the Government is legally required by 31st December 2026.
- Neil explained that we need a local plan – otherwise the Secretary of State will decide and ‘just choose’ for us with minimal or no consultation.

Effect on Sambourne:

Jill Lane: 6.5 hectares for possible Local Growth Employment.

The area could hold up to 406 homes:

Middletown Lane -137

Brickyard Lane – 53

Land on the South of the Slough - 216

These are not ‘preferred sites’, but are an option. SDC has stated that they do not expect early applications from developers, although some interest has already been noted.

The normal NPPF rules apply. The area is still Green Belt; however, officers have assessed the areas as ‘Grey Belt’ – parcels of land that are underutilised or have minimal environmental or strategic value.

What can be done to resist:

We can try and argue that the area is Green Belt. Key disadvantages should be stressed. For example:

- School places and medical capacities
- Access and flooding on the employment site on Jill Lane and Brickyard Lane
- Stress Highways matters. Both ends of the A435 are overstretched. An extra 400 car movements in either direction, per day, is going to push the capacity at both ends. As a neighbouring area, Redditch will also be consulted.
- The higher capacity directly impacts on Sambourne, Coughton and surrounding areas.

The chairman believes the response to the Public Consultation from the Parish Council will be crucial and he proposed that a joint response with Studley Parish Council is submitted.

A Personal Note from Neil

It has been a challenging year in terms of councils, with wide ranging challenges passed down by Central Government in terms of housing numbers and local government reorganisation. However, I remain committed to supporting and looking after the best interest of local residents first, as best I can, in an ever-changing environment. I remain of the opinion that by working together with residents, local authorities, local groups and charities, we have the best chance of achieving success, progress and generally looking after our community by supporting each other and going the extra mile whenever we are able.

As always, there is so much work that goes on in the background by us as councillors that we often can't relay into the public domain due to confidentiality and data protection, such as general case work where we help individuals and families with a wide range of issues, often very personal or sensitive to them. This is in addition to the larger strategical projects or obligations that are evolving or changing or being imposed.

As ever, I am here to help, so please do get in touch if and when required. I will do my best.

The chairman thanked Neil for his report and also for all that he does for the Parish of Sambourne.

6. to receive a Report from Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin (SC Studley North)

Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin had submitted apologies for the meeting.

7. Cllr Stuart Keighley – Parish Champion

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Stuart Keighley, who is SDC Parish Champion for the West of the District. His primary role is liaison between the District Council and local Parish/Town Councils. His role in SDC is Chair of the Planning Committee and he is also on the Advisory Group for the SWLP.

Stuart gave a broad outline of the processes involved in the delivery of the SWLP:

We are approaching the final publication of a new development plan for the district. It is being worked upon jointly with Warwick District Council.

The Labour Government's drive is to build 1.5 million homes. Our share of the government target is based on a standard methodology devised by them, from a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA).

Where do we put all the houses?

The Plan has been in operation for 3 years. Proposals have been scoped and revised and responses from Consultations reviewed. Technical Evidence and new Draft Policies have been discussed.

In early 2025 the Team asked for feedback on sites which had been put forward. From the earliest stages, and because of the sheer number of houses to build, it was agreed that there should be a strategy of focus on one or more new settlements (small new towns of 5000 or more) and strategic growth in sustainable locations around existing towns. This would be preferable to dispersing the large numbers around countless rural villages, because this would neither be sustainable nor provide essential infrastructure needed for the growing population.

Three years on, the Team are nearly ready to reveal the final 'best solution' from this very difficult challenge. The publication draft will out in mid-June and we will be able to see where the plan proposes development and the infrastructure to go with it.

Representations to this final draft will be made by many organisations, housing developers, Parish Councils, businesses and residents. They will all be provided as evidence for the Planning Inspector to consider, when the plan is in 'public examination' stage in 2027.

In conclusion, Stuart reiterated that having a plan for 28,000 homes and many hectares of employment land, is far better than not having a plan. Previous experience has taught us that when developers choose to build houses in an unplanned way the outcome on local communities can be disastrous.

Stuart recognises the fact that we are very fortunate to live in such a great area. We have a wide range of amenities, great connectivity, access to the Cotswolds, historic towns and villages and good quality jobs. It is the reason we are such an attractive place to move to and why demand to live in South Warwickshire is high.

There followed a discussion on various topics – in particular concerning the connectivity of the road system in South Warwickshire and the fact that more roads should be built before housing.

The chairman thanked Stuart for his very informative talk and insight to the planning process.

8. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust 2025/2026

David MacMullen gave the following Report on behalf of the Sambourne Trust:

David outlined the history of the Sambourne Trust. In 1710 Sambourne was a very small hamlet on the fringe of the Throckmorton Estate. It was a poor area and a Trust was set up to help the 'poor children of Sambourne'. Charitable donations continued to be made over many years and by shrewd investment two more cottages were built in Victorian times and four new bungalows in the 1980's.

With the agreement of the Charity Commission the Trustees officially changed the name of the charity to the more modern 'Sambourne Trust'. Its objectives remain essentially unchanged – to provide affordable housing and other assistance for those 'in need'.

The Trust now administers and maintains 10 properties, which are let to people with connections to the village. If opportunity presents itself, it is hoped to increase this number in the future.

The main area of support is to children and young people, for example by providing a laptop for students, books or help with accessing specialist educational courses. The Trust can also give help to people who are disabled, need mobility aids or have personal problems.

David encouraged parishioners to contact the Trust if they feel they would benefit from support or if there is another service the Trust could provide. Requests will always be considered.

There are five Trustees. Their names are on the website: www.sambournetrust.org.uk

If anyone would like to consider becoming a Trustee, please contact the Trust at: contact@sambournetrust.org.uk.

The chairman thanked David for his Report. He expressed his thanks to the Trustees for giving up a great deal of their personal time to make the Sambourne Trust as successful as it is.

Report from Sambourne Village Association – Mike Waplington

The Sambourne Village Association is a group of residents who meet to provide and arrange social events for the village of Sambourne.

These events include:

Shakespeare on the Green, the annual MiniFest, Easter Egg Hunt, Comedy night, pub quizzes, wine tasting, Halloween party and the Christmas lights switch on.

There are approximately 10 members, who meet around 5/6 times a year. The Village Association needs new members to help organise new events or activities in the parish - or to help with the regular events. Further details are on the parish website and also on the SVA Facebook page and the notice boards.

The chairman thanked Mike for his Report and thanked the SVA for all their hard work for the parishioners of Sambourne.

9. Other matters raised by an Elector of the Parish: A question had been submitted concerning speeding in Sambourne.

Peter Taaffe gave the following update from Community Speed Watch:

Since September 2022 we have checked over 10,000 vehicles across 4 locations, of which almost 800 were clocked at speeding at 35mph and above.

The location is decided by Warwickshire police, whereby they carry out a health and safety and risk assessment for each area; we can only operate in areas where the speed limit is 30mph.

I am grateful to my current team of 8 and those past members who have given their time up freely to support me in this important parish activity, without them we would not be able to monitor speeding through our village. Each session works with minimum of 3, however it's much better when we are 4 or more.

We have got off to a slow start this year mainly due to volunteers on vacation or poor weather conditions. But we are planning on ramping this up during the next few weeks. We continue to look for more volunteers, therefore if you would like to join our team, please email the clerk through the parish website or contact me direct.

Finally, my thanks to the Parish Councillors for their continued support.

The chairman thanked Peter for his report and encouraged more parishioners to volunteer to join the CSW team. Speeding is an ongoing problem in Sambourne and the Parish Council will continue to work with WCC to implement safety measures.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm

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