

South Mimms Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr McCaffrey (Chairperson), Cllr Thomas (joined at 7.40pm), Cllr Myers and Cllr Hedison.

Natalie Gettings (Clerk)

10 members of the public, plus 1 viewer on Zoom

Ref 2021/22

76 Welcome from SMPC's Chairperson who read the mission statement.

77 Apologies for absence – Cllr Toni Johnson (and initially Cllr Thomas)

78 Declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to Agenda items – None

79 The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

Community:

80. Cllr Hedison and the Clerk had attended the church service on the previous Saturday hosted by the Bishop of Hertford to welcome Rev. Ayoob Adwar, who is the new Assistant Curate for the Parishes of South Mimms and Ridge.

81. An update was given on Community Governance Review following presentations at Ridge Village Hall . A discussion, led by Cllr Myers who attended both sessions, covered the following points:

- For Ridge to be without a parish would mean that all residents would have to go direct to Hertsmere with any issues, although this would be a slightly cheaper option for residents in terms of over all Council Tax bill as this would not have a Parish element.
- Ridge could merge with Shenley, but Shenley have expanded dramatically over the last twenty years and Ridge would likely get one Councillor compared with the current 9 at Shenley.
- Similarly, if all three villages merged councils, South Mimms would likely only get 2 representatives.
- For Ridge to legally run their own council is prohibitively expensive and would be an administration burden on such a small number of households. HBC think that this is not a viable option.
- It was noted that as the Clerk of SMPC has just had her hours increased, she has enough capacity to look after the additional Ridge homes - sharing that cost between both villages would actually be more cost efficient.
- That the homes in Ridge are much nearer the homes in South Mimms and the two communities have much closer existing links through the school and churches.
- As much of the proposed Bowmans Cross development falls under Ridge's Civic boundaries, Cllr Myers suggested that perhaps Shenley Parish Council's interest in merging with Ridge was enhanced by the prospect of the vast sums of CIL money that will come from the new development.

Signed by Chairperson:

Date:

It was therefore agreed that the residents of Ridge and South Mimms would both be better served by combining to form a ‘South Mimms and Ridge Parish Council’.

South Mimms Parish Council respects the wishes of Ridge residents, whichever option they prefer, but wishes to extend a warm invitation to join forces.

82. Work has now been started by Hertsmere contractors on clearing The Brook to alleviate flooding. Follow on works will seek to reinforce the banks. The Clerk and Head of Parks and Street Scene visited the works last week as well as reviewing the play areas and most of the Village Centre to identify areas for improvement. **ACTION: Clerk** to chase up the timing of this with HBC, particularly in light of the residents’ fences that are down and leaving their gardens unsecure and unsafe and to inform HBC Arborist of cracked trees behind 25 Brookside.

83. The following motion to South Mimms Parish Council was proposed by Cllr Chris Myers and was AGREED:

This Council was disappointed to learn that the 84 bus route is being decommissioned by the current operator. This bus route serves St Albans to the north and New Barnet to the south. Its loss will sever the link between city of St Albans and the tube network at Barnet, will inconvenience countless residents and in particular will make it very difficult for residents in the parish to access vital NHS services at Barnet General Hospital.

This Council welcomes news that South Mimms based operator, Sullivan’s Buses, have stepped into save part of the route that runs between Potters Bar and St Albans.

However, this council believes that the route should be maintained, in its entirety, and will seek to work with the existing operator and others to ensure that residents do not lose this vital transport link.

84. A reminder was given that The Village Hall Committee were holding a quiz night on 5th March in aid of Platinum Jubilee celebrations and that there will also be a Family Bingo and Games afternoon on 21st May from 4pm – 7pm.

Planning & Planning Enforcement:

85. No new applications since last meeting.

86. It was noted that:

i) White Hart Pub, no applications yet.

ii) The Public Enquiry in to Aggregates Site next to Romani house no new date received from Planning Inspector. **ACTION: Clerk** to contact HBC Environmental Health re mud on road (and Highways) and collapsed fencing.

iii) No further news on the suspension of the current Draft Local Plan by Hertsmere. SMPC have written to Head of the Council, The Planning Team and our MP seeking

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details of a new plan of action so that Hertsmere isn't left at the mercy of developers. The Clerk has received another 'holding' email.

Finance:

87. SMPC approved an application by the Village Hall Committee for a Grant Request for the South Mimms Jubilee Celebrations of £1000. Their next planning meeting is on 23rd March. **ACTION: Clerk** to transfer funds.

Any Other Business:

88. The Village Hall committee was congratulated on the recent refurbishments, including all new ceilings and flooring in the newer parts of the building, as well as being painted throughout.
89. Litter picking will be on Sunday 20th March – contact Cllr Johnson for details. Resident SB said that free litter pickers are available from HBC. **ACTION Clerk** to inform Cllr Johnson and also contact Welcome Break Community Manager.
90. Resident SB requested that something be done to retain the grass verge at the end of Blackhorse Lane which is being eroded by people parking on it to access North Mymms woods – **ACTION Clerk**.
91. There will be a coffee morning fund raiser at St Giles Church on 11th March for victims of the war in Ukraine.
92. The next meetings will be 7th April and 5th May (AGM). It was noted that the June meeting is being moved to the 9th due to the Jubilee Bank Holiday.
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The meeting finished at 8.15pm and the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: