

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

Present: Cllr McCaffrey (Chairperson), Cllr Thomas (Deputy and running Zoom), Cllr Myers and Cllr Headison.

Natalie Gettings (Clerk)

Guest Speaker: PCSO Suzy Tether

Approx 20 members of the public including residents of Ridge, plus viewers on Zoom, including a Hertsmere Electoral Services officer.

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Ref 2021/22

- 64 Welcome from SMPC's Chairperson who read the mission statement.
- 65 Apologies for absence – Cllr Toni Johnson
- 66 Declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to Agenda items – None
- 67 The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the Chairperson signed.

**Community:**

- 68 PCSO Gave an update on local crime including catalytic converter theft, warning that the gangs were violent and should not be approached but phone 999/101. Also when reporting any issues to the Police use 101 rather than the PCSOs phone numbers to ensure the incident is fully logged and in case they aren't on duty. Other issues discussed were off road bikes, the illegal parking by vehicles at the service station roundabout and school parking.
- 69 It was noted that Hertsmere have launched a Community Governance Review looking at Parish Boundaries. It is in two parts, the first is about Aldenham. The second is in regard to Ridge, Shenley and South Mimms as Ridge no longer has a functioning Parish Council. Flyers will be put through all doors and residents are encouraged to submit a response via the website. Options will be for Ridge to merge with South Mimms or Shenley, be un-parished (so only have one meeting a year with Hertsmere) or for all three Parishes to merge. It was agreed by all present that a super parish of Shenley, Ridge and South Mimms was entirely unsuitable as not only would the result be too big but also the villages had very different profiles and needs. Given that Shenley is already considerably bigger in size the South Mimms Councillors agreed that from their perspective it made more sense for the two smaller parishes to merge, especially as the housing in Ridge is much nearer South Mimms homes. There will be a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February to discuss further at the Ridge Village Hall.
- 70 The Village Hall Committee are holding a quiz night on 5<sup>th</sup> March. £5 per person, bring your own food and drink. Money goes to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Contact Linda Hedison for more details.

## **71.Planning & Planning Enforcement:**

The following Planning Applications were noted with no public representations made:  
11 Brookside South Mimms

Single storey rear extension (revised application). Certificate of Lawful Development (Proposed). Ref. No: 22/0054/CLP

Clare Hall Laboratories P Block Blanche Lane

Installation of new plantroom adjacent to P Block comprising of 4 vertical stema boilers and all associated plant equipment and controls Ref. No: 22/0023/FUL

Land adjacent to No 49 Blanche Lane. (Revised Application).

Demolition of garage and construction of 2 storey detached, 4 bed dwelling Ref. No: 21/2453/FUL

54 Brookside South Mimms

Single storey side extension and erection of porch to front. Ref. No: 21/2400/HSE

New Grange, Blanche Lane detached 2 bed cottage, continued C3 use with subdivision of plot

**72** It was noted that re the White Hart Pub, no applications at the time of agenda publication. The Public Enquiry in to Aggregates Site next to Romani house was postponed yet again by the Planning Inspectorate and Hertsmere have not been given a new date yet.

**73** The suspension / apparent cancellation of the Draft Local Plan at the recent Hertsmere full council meeting, was discussed and Cllr Myers explained that the SMPC await clarification of the current situation as it is unclear if this process was even legal at this stage. There will be housing and a Local Plan, but the danger is now that this current situation leaves all of Hertsmere open to speculative and excessive planning applications that are likely to be approved by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal. South Mimms Parish Council have already written to Cllr Bright and the Local Plan Team to request to ringfence the South Mimms Plan to protect the plans for the school expansion and ensure that future plans do not increase the level of proposed housing beyond those already outlined, receipt has been acknowledged by the Hertsmere Officers but no response has been received from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Bright. Also, no formal statements have been issued by Hertsmere at this time despite these actions making National News on the BBC website. Whilst the volume of responses to the plan clearly indicated that revisions to the plan were necessary, SMPC is very concerned at these rash actions.

## **74 Finance:**

The budget for the next Financial Year was APPROVED at £19,317. The working hours of the Clerk are to be changed to two days a week. To help mitigate this increase, no application for community events or grants will be made for the next Financial Year, as these can be met from reserves. It was also noted that Hertsmere have again increased the tax base slightly this year.

## **75 Any Other Business:**

Any items at the discretion of the Chairperson:

- Rhys our grounds man is back to work following his accident but on light duties.
- The salt still needs moving from the White Hart
- Cllr Thomas gave an update on the clearing and maintenance of the brook at Brookside, initial requirements have now been identified by Hertsmere and works will be carried out once the spend is approved.
- Work on both sets of Hertsmere garages are due to start in May.
  
- The news that the 84 bus route is under threat was discussed. Metroline the current franchise holders had attempted to get a subsidy from Hertfordshire CC and when this was not approved, they have announced they will stop the service. Cllr Myers has already written to Hertfordshire CC and has support of Hertsmere Council Leader, Cllr Bright, who is pursuing this. This is a vital service for South Mimms and SMPC will do everything they can to protect it.
  
- Next Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

Meeting finished at 8.40pm and Cllr McCaffrey thanked everyone for attending.