

South Mimms Parish Council
Minutes of the Meetings of
Thursday 9th June

Present: Cllr Cathy McCaffrey, Cllr Seth Thomas, Cllr Chris Myers, Cllr Mark Heddison.
Cllr Toni Johnson from 7.38pm with apologies accepted.

Clerk: Natalie Gettings. 7 members of the public in person and 2 members of the public via Zoom.

Part 1 – 7.30 pm *The order of business required at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council .*
Council Ref 2022:

19. Cllr Cathy McCaffrey was re-elected as Chairperson (proposed by Cllr Myers, seconded by Cllr Heddison and carried). Cllr Myers was elected as the new Deputy Chairperson (proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Heddison and carried).
20. There were no vacancies on the Council to fill.
21. The following subscription / regular payments falling to be paid annually were agreed:
 - Membership subscription - Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils
 - Public Liability insurance premium -
 - Registration fee - Office of the Information Commissioner
 - Website hosting and Village Hall Internet
22. There were no deeds or trust investments in the custody of the Council to be accepted.
23. It was noted that each year the smaller authorities Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) needs to be reviewed by an appointed External Auditor. For Hertsmere this is PFK Littlejohn LLP.

As South Mimms Clerk also acts as the Responsible Finance Officer, SMPC appoints an independent and qualified Internal Auditor every year to sign off on our sub-mission. This is to ensure transparency and independence. The current Internal Auditor for South Mimms is Mr Alex Sage who has signed this years AGAR submission along with the Clerk.

All residents have the right to question the Internal Auditor and this can be arranged by emailing the clerk. Audited Accounts and signed AGAR forms are uploaded to the Parish Councils website every year once accepted by the External Auditor and are always thus available for the public. Written copies are also available at any time by request to the Clerk.

The AGAR forms were presented to the Council for approval, this was agreed and the forms signed by the Chairperson. These will now be sent to the External Auditor.

Part 2 – 7.38 pm. Annual Parish Meeting
With Cllr Johnson now joining the meeting there were no absences.

24. As the Chairperson is still recovering from jaw surgery, the Clerk read the Chairpersons report on the Parish Council's Activities in the last year as well as the Council's Continued Mission Statement. Both were accepted.

Part 3 – 7.45pm
The order of business now followed that for an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council

25. Minutes of the May 2022 meeting were approved.
26. Finance: A Grant Application from St Giles School was received requesting funding towards, new library furniture, a new library computer and new library books.

Some members of the public felt that too much money has been given to the school in recent years and that the Grant request for £14,995 should be rejected outright.

However, it was agreed after substantial discussion on the merits of an inviting library and books appropriate to all of the community that a Grant of £500 would be given. This was to be spent 50% on soft furnishings and chairs and 50% on books that ensured that all parts of the community were represented in the books that the children read.

27. Planning:

- Romani Site Public Enquiry now deferred to December – SMPC are challenging the Legality of this and have written to Hertsmere's Head of Legal.
- There has been an application (already on the SMPC Facebook page) for two new buildings to be built at Clare Hall. The Clerk invited members of the public to submit comments to her by the closing date of 21st June.

28. Community: SMPC thanked the Village Hall Committee for their Jubilee efforts.

29. Other Matters Arising:

- Chase up the grass cutting list from Hertsmere
- Bucks Lane pot hols (fixed by time of writing minutes)
- Overgrown hedges by Church
- General debit on ground by layby – Clerk to tell Groundsman.

30. It was noted the next regular meeting will be Thursday 7th July and that there is no meeting in August. The September meeting will be on Thursday 8th as the schools are still on holiday on Thursday 1st.

Signed by Chairperson