

South Mimms Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting 3rd November 2022

Present: Cllr Myers – acting as Chairperson, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Hedison, The Clerk Ms Gettings
Cllr MacCaffrey via Zoom.

Eight members of the public

2022/2023 Ref:

54. Cllr Myers welcomed everyone and read the mission statement.
55. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas.
56. A declaration of Councillors' interests pertaining to Agenda items was noted for Cllr Hedison regarding the Village Hall Grant, as his wife is on the Village Hall Committee. The SMPC Clerk is temporarily acting as Secretary for the Village Hall Committee
57. The minutes of the last meeting (October 2022) were approved and the meeting's chairperson signed them.

Community

58. Two local PCSOs spoke to attendees about the recent violent incident at the flats in Brookside, as well as general crime and safety issues. They explained that Catalyst Housing required records of actual convictions to remove troubled tenants. She suggested that residents write to their local MP.
59. Events Noted: Remembrance Sunday - 13th November, wreaths to be collected from the Village Hall from 10.45am (teas available), after the event at the war memorial, there will be a Church Service at St Giles. Book Swap is on Friday 18th of November from 2pm-4pm in the back room of the Village Hall. The Village Hall Christmas Afternoon Tea will be on 4th December 2pm-4pm. Places can be booked with Linda Hedison of the Village Hall Committee. There will be Carols around the Christmas Tree on Sunday 11th December 3-4pm, followed by mulled wine and hot drinks in the Village Hall.
60. It was noted that the refurbishment of the Hertsmere Garages will commence this month with tenants clearing out their belongings by the 14th.
61. Works to reinforce The Brook will commence 1st November.
62. **Planning & Planning Enforcement – the following was noted:**
 - No new applications at time of drawing up agenda (including nothing for The White Hart).

- Hertsmere have issued a new call for sites for housing, which encourages owners of ‘brown field’ sites to come forward.
- The public enquiry into the Aggregates Site takes place on 6th December at 10am at Hertsmere’s Offices and SMPC have requested to attend.

Finance:

63. A Grant of £2975 to the Village Hall Committee for the purpose of completely refurbishing the wooden floor in the main hall (having been turned down by Hertsmere for a further grant) was considered. Given that this can be funded from CIL reserves that was granted on a majority vote.
64. The purchase of a bench for the green area in Blackhorse Lane that a resident has kindly tidied up was provisionally approved at £200, exact costs to be investigated. This would also come from CIL funds.

Any Other Business:

65. Any items at the discretion of the Chairperson:

It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary is to be aligned with scale point 31 in line with the NALC guidelines, as it is currently sitting halfway between two grades and this is to be recorded in her contract. Her salary will then increase to the new remuneration agreed in October 2022 by the unions for the year April 22-March 23.

It was noted that resident Richard Starky had asked the clerk to raise the issue of the future of Meadows site. The English Garden Co are leaving and because the owner’s planning consultants had previously sent a letter asking residents if they would prefer it be used for housing or a waste transfer site, Mr Starky was seeking support. The Clerk had already written to the site’s owners to make clear that the Parish Council will not support industrial use of the site.

POST MEETING ADDENDUM – The Clerk has now spoken to the site owner’s planning advisor who informed her that there was historic evidence of legal waste transfer on the site and that he felt confident that this would be re-granted if applied for. However, his company have already gone through two pre-application consultations with Hertsmere for housing (which is far more profitable) and have been advised that Hertsmere would find a maximum of seven detached four-bedroom homes acceptable on the site. This would remove all commercial activity on the site and a traffic survey they have undertaken indicated a reduction of impact with a change to residential use. The planning consultant has agreed to attend the February 2023 Parish Council Meeting and present plans for new homes for residents to view. Mr Starkey has been informed of this.

It was notes that the next Meeting is on Thursday 1st December 2022, (then 2nd February 2023.)