



## **South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council**

Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm

At Ridge Village Hall

Present: Cllr Chris Myers (Chairing the meeting) Cllr Mark Heddison, Cllr Ralph Bania

Clerk: Natalie Curran-Gettings 6 members of the public and 4 people on Zoom.

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Ref 23/24

42. Cllr Myers welcomed everyone and read the council's mission statement.
43. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from both Cllr Becker and Cllr McCaffrey who joined via Zoom.
44. There were no declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to Agenda items.
45. The minutes of the last meeting (July 2023) were approved and signed.
46. The Parish Council's draft action plan for the next 12/18 months was presented by the Clerk for consideration. No additional items were suggested by those present. This will be kept updated on a rolling basis to act as a focus for the Council's activities.
47. It was noted that a meeting with Hertsmere's Head of Street Scene and our Project Manager from Hertfordshire Highways was being held the following day. Views were sought on practical solutions to parking issues.
48. It was noted that an application to build 8 new homes at The Meadows (off Blanche Lane) previously the site of workshops / various light industrial businesses is being submitted. Plans have been received directly from the developer similar to those shown at their previous presentation to the Parish Council. Hertsmere reference is not available yet. The plans were discussed with those present. It was noted that (provided that water, sewage and access issues are all addressed), the immediate neighbours are generally supportive of this development as it will be less noisy and disruptive than the skips company currently using the site.
49. The Clerk gave a brief recount of the meeting she and Cllr Becker had with the promoters for the proposed distribution site at the Services. Possible improvements to the service area that could be requested as part of the community improvements were discussed, including the need for enforcement of the current parking restrictions that are still being ignored and are dangerous. Also, lights at the HGV fuel station to show which pumps are free as the trucks cant always see when queuing.

- 50.** Cllr Myers reported that the new legal Enforcement Notice for the site next to Romani House is due back from the Barristers next week. This time a multi-pronged approach will cover not only planning but environmental issues at the site.
- 51.** The installation of cameras and notices to deter fly-tipping was discussed following the Clerk's meeting with Harry Tuck from Hertsmere. An initial spend of £100 for one camera was approved, so that image quality etc. could be checked before buying others.
- 52.** The insurance renewal quote from Zurich of £304.30 was approved
- 53.** It was agreed that the PC would replace the missing football nets at the Park, as the ones recently purchased from the Community Account by the SMVHC was destroyed by the Traveler children last month (from CIL).
- 54.** There was an update from the Clerk on repatriating the residual funds of the old Ridge PC from NatWest's archived accounts division She has now submitted the evidence three times so hopes to get this resolved soon.
- 55.** The next Book Swap is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September in the 'Parish Room' in the South Mimms Village Hall.
- 56.** It was noted that Mr and Mrs Johnson have said that he will be unable to co-ordinate the Remembrance Sunday arrangements any more due to work demands. The Clerk will take this task on unless there are any community volunteers who would like to form a working group for this annual event. Action: Clerk to email Church Wardens.
- 57. AOB**
- a. It was noted that Ridge Village Hall now has free Wi-Fi for all users and residents.
  - b. It was suggested that the parking bays in Brookside be white-lined. Clerk's note post meeting: both representatives from HBC and HCC said that this isn't done as they find that when wider vehicles straddle 2 bays it causes neighbour arguments.
  - c. It was noted that the keep clear sign at the entrance to The Meadows was not repainted after resurfacing. The Clerk will raise this with HCC.
  - d. It was suggested that additional 'Speed Kills' signage be requested from Highways.
  - e. It was noted that there is a history talk in South Mimms Village Hall 2-4pm on 16/09/23.

With no other business, the meeting ended at 8.37pm and the Cllr Myers thanked everyone for attending.