



**Minutes of the Meeting 7th December 2023 South Mimms Village Hall**

Attending: Cllr Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Cllr Daniel Becker, Cllr Ralph Bania, Cllr Mark Hedison.

Natalie Curran, Clerk. 15 members of the public, plus 4 via Zoom.

Guest: Mark Pengelly of Hertsmere Planning Department

**Ref: 2023/24:**

88. The Chairperson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She directed attendees to see the Mission Statement on the Agenda.
89. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Myers who was at a Mayoral event.
90. There were no declarations of interest pertaining to Agenda items.
91. The minutes of the last meeting (November 2023) were approved and signed by the Chairperson.

**Planning & Planning Enforcement:**

92. An update on the South Mimms Conservation Area (CA) Appraisal was received from Mark Pengelly (MP) of Hertsmere Borough Council Planning Department. CA Appraisals are outsourced by Hertsmere to a company called Place Services, who had only returned a revised version of the report to Hertsmere that morning, so it remains a working version only. Based on the presentation, the current version included none of the revisions SM&RPC had asked for and in fact withdrew from the previous version that had added New Grange in Blanche Lane. The justification for leaving out sections of the old village hangs on the premise that proximity to the CA and to listed buildings and in the vicinity will offer a level of protection. However, as Cllr DB pointed out this has not been the case with the current new build in Blanche Lane. After much discussion and disappointment expressed by residents, the Clerk summed up the reasoning behind SM&RPC's previously expressed opinions and undertook to send to MP the details of the planning application in Blanche Lane which Hertsmere had granted, it would appear, in contravention of their own guidance on building adjacent to CAs and listed buildings. MP said that a blanket Tree Preservation Order over the whole village is also something that could be considered. The Council awaits further clarification and a copy of the revised CA report.
93. Planning Application/s noted with any public representations on these items in italics:
  - 93.1 South Mims BP connect service station Bignell's Corner. Redevelopment of the whole site including electric charging points and a new larger retail building. *23/1625/FUL. Concerns over the disruption to traffic during the works were discussed and clarification was given by a member of the public over the different types of EV charging.*
94. The Clerk gave an update on enforcement issues:



## South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council

94.1 Site next to Romani House – An appeal to the latest Enforcement Notice was received on the very last day available. Hertsmere Borough Council has yet to validate the legality of the submission.

94.2 The Meadows – The Clerk has spoken to the Hertsmere Planning Officer for the application to build 8 houses and relayed that the current Enforcement Notices on the site are holding up the planning application. The Clerk said that she had informed the Officer of the council's and the residents' wishes to see the issues resolved quickly because as soon as the house building can start (if granted) the sooner the enforcement issues become a moot point.

### **Finance:**

95. A grant was approved for £400 for the Village Hall Charity for the provision of the village Christmas tree. This will be off-set by a £50 Grant from Hertfordshire County Council, making a net donation of £350.

### **Community:**

96. The next Books Swap and coffee afternoon is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm-4pm in the South Mimms Village Hall.

97. The free Residents' Christmas Afternoon Tea is on 10<sup>th</sup> December followed by 'Carols Round The Tree' (in South Mimms). The majority of the food for this year's event is being supplied free of charge from Welcome Break.

### **Any Other Announcements and questions from the public**

98. Any items at the discretion of the Chairperson:

98.1 A member of the public enquired on progress with fly tipping issues. Cllr Bania said that testing of the new camera was in progress. Cllr McCaffrey undertook to put the freestanding signage she has on Blackhorse Lane, where the recent tip has just been cleared up.

With no other business the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_