

**SMITH'S WOOD PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 4.30PM.**

Those present

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Lloyd.

Councillors: Cllr D Cornock, Cllr G Craig, Cllr H Hendry.

Officer: Mrs K Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Miss S Nasreisfahany, Cllr K S Paul and Cllr J Wilson.

2. Minutes of the Previous Full Council Meetings.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting held on Monday 30th January 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising.

a.) Minute number 6.c.) Teresa Farrell - Lily's Parlour.

Members were informed that Teresa Farrell was due to attend the meeting, but had not arrived. Members agreed to take the information home and contact the Clerk if they had any queries.

b.) Minute number 6.d.) David Balme (Solihull MBC) - Solihull Connected Transport Strategy Consultation.

Cllr Hendry informed members that he had accessed the survey via the webpage link and stated that transport links from the north of the borough to the HS2 Hub at Stonebridge Island had been included in the survey.

c.) Minute number 6.f.) SASS - Request for hall hire and other issues.

Members were informed that SASS had asked for clarification on the hall hire charges for the proposed Easter Event on 8th April. Members agreed that a charge of £10 per hour per hall be charged for this event.

d.) Minute number 6.g.) SASS - Community Building for Smith's Wood.

Members were informed that no response had been received to date and that a number of issues raised in the past six months had not been addressed by Solihull MBC. Members agreed that the Clerk to contact the political group leaders at Solihull MBC regarding the inaction from their officers.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public

5. Borough Councillors.

a.) Cllr Jean Hamilton.

Cllr Hamilton informed members of the following reports from the Borough Councillors for Smith's Wood.

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a.i.) Report from Cllr Mark Wilson.

1.) Anti-Social Behaviour from some Solihull College students, throwing bricks at squirrels and pets and littering; trying to get bins along Windward Way to Birmingham Road footpath; work with College and Clean and Green to start. 2.) Planning approved the building of 14 one bed apartments on old GP site at Arran Way. 3.) Speeding and traffic numbers on Buckingham Road; work with P Tovey know and are involved in. 4.) Seems to be a proliferation of abandoned vehicles being reported around North Solihull; reported to police; can't be towed away if taxed, but checks are needed, as cars could potentially be stolen. 5.) Collector Road embankments to be littered pick and cleaned from 20th February.

a.ii.) Report from Cllr Jean Hamilton.

1.) Work progressing on the new school, The Heights, at the old Bosworth School campus; on schedule to be open for students September 2023; on the same site, Summerfield School, now call Daylesford School after being taken over by the Solihull Academy Trust, moves to the newly refurbished Daylesford Infant School in Lyndon this week, in preparation for pupils returning after spring half term; Cllr Hamilton remains on the LAB (Local Advisory Board). 2.) Cabinet approval has been given to Solihull MBC Education Department to use the old Sure Start Centre in Wheatfield Close as a satellite school catering for pupils with SEND issues, consultation to follow soon. 3.) Consideration currently being given to Elmwood Place as a potential Family Community Hub, which would be open weekdays, weekends and evenings and cater for the needs of families and young people aged 0-25. If the case can be made to Cabinet and Cabinet feel that this is a viable proposition then Cabinet approval could be given to go out the community and interested parties for consultation. 4.) Following a request at Full Council would the Parish Council fully support a call for Lanchester Park to be considered for Green Flag Status. Cars Area Together are supportive and willing to work to help where possible if the park achieves this. 5.) Parking issues, flytipping and littering issues are ongoing. Clean and Green volunteers and other volunteer residents work very hard to improve things and Solihull MBC have recently been carrying out a deep cleanse across Smith's Wood and respond to requests for flytipping and litter to be removed beyond routine cleaner greener environmental work. 6.) Continuing with supporting the Cars Area Together. To mention just one of their many activities, they hold monthly Warm Welcome days, which consist of litter picking, hot drinks, hot meals, bingo and finishing again with hot drinks. We are working closely together with Solihull MBC on the Bosworth field to ensure it remains for use by the community and will be consulting with the community on how they'd like to see the field being used. 7.) Neighbourhood police team seem more active and engaged with Sergeant Sam Dale taking up the vacant post in Smith's Wood. I am reliably informed PCs and PCSOs pop into Auckland Hall now and again. Regular patrolling is going on. This has been following requests from me firstly to talk to The Cars/Street Connectors who are aware residents are concerned about the fact the drug dealing seems to be going on, very publically and very openly and people are concerned. Intelligence has been or is being given and it appears no action is being taken by police, but I'm hoping with mounting

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pressure from us as councillors and other community groups, we'll start to see a big reduction in these activities. Positive signs indicate this is the case. 8.) Working with residents in Windward Way over the latest application from a resident whose properties front Chester Road and back onto Windward Way. This resident (or consortium) owns 2 neighbouring properties that I am aware of on the Chester Road. An application has recently been submitted to build an office type structure at the bottom of the garden, exactly the same as the previous one built next door, which permission was granted for. However, installing a plate glass window looking out onto Windward Way from this new 'office' structure and a gate, which means accessing his property across the grass verge in Windward Way hasn't gone down well with those living near by or with Solihull MBC's Environmental Green Spaces team. Residents are very upset that another application for exactly the same thing in the next door property has been submitted for planning approval. Planning officers say it's within permitted planning regulations. 9.) Much time is spent liaising with Council on behalf of residents unhappy with the lack of education provision being offered for their children with additional needs. The numbers of households affected has reached unprecedented levels. The problems are complex.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hamilton for attending and giving them a report. Cllr Hamilton left the meeting at 5.07pm.

6. Correspondence.

- a.) West Midlands Pension Fund - Re: Important information regarding the 2023 Funding Strategy Statement Consultation.
It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.
- b.) Graham Frost - Re: Smith's Wood Littering.
It was **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the College regarding the litter being left in the streets by students.
- c.) Andy Hunter (Solihull MBC) - Re: Kings Coronation.
It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.
- d.) Solihull MBC - Re: Asset of Community Value Nomination - Smith's Wood Playing Field.
It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.
- e.) Solihull MBC - Re: Asset of Community Value Nomination - Auckland Hall.
It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.
- f.) Business Rates (Solihull MBC) - Re: Non-Domestic Rates Bill 2022/23.
It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.

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- g.) Society of Local Council Clerks - Re: NJC Unions Present Pay Claim.

It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.

- h.) Solihull MBC - Re: Stay Connected: Latest News 31 January; Solihull Economic Strategy - Consultation; Latest News 1 February; Latest News 3 February; Latest News 6 February; Solihull Connected 2023 - Have your say!; Latest News 7 February; Latest News 10 February; Latest News 13 February; Latest News 14 February; Latest News 15 February; Latest News 17 February.

It was **RESOLVED:** That these items be received and noted.

- i.) West Midlands Police - Re: Neighbourhood Alerts - Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Free Webinar Series; Theft of External Spare Wheels from JLR Defenders; Crime Update; Man Arrested and Charges with Vehicle Cannibalism Offences; Chop Shop Located in Solihull.

It was **RESOLVED:** That these items be received and noted.

- j.) Solihull MBC - Re: Community Development Team - Community Updates.

It was **RESOLVED:** That these items be received and noted.

- k.) CAVA - Re: Solihull Bulletin.

It was **RESOLVED:** That this item be received and noted.

7. Planning Applications.

There were no reports received.

8. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

9. Reports from Outside Bodies.

There were no reports submitted.

10. Members Requests at the Chairman's Discretion.

- a.) Motorbike Accessing Alleyway at rear of Greenfinch Road.

Cllr Mrs Lloyd informed members that a motorbike was being ridden along the alleyway that was at the rear of house numbers 63 to 85 on Greenfinch Road at approximately 8 30am every Sunday morning.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact Solihull Community Housing and inform them of this incident.

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11. Dates of Next Meetings.

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Members discussed setting up a Gym Task Force to discuss all things gym related. It was agreed that all members of the Parish Council would sit on this committee.

It was **RESOLVED:** That the dates for the next meetings are as follows:

Gym Task Force Committee Meeting: Monday 6th March 2023 at 4.30pm.

Full Council Meeting: Monday 20th March 2023 at 4.30pm.

12. Exclusion of Public and Press.

It was **RESOLVED:** That in accordance with Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the following Agenda item: Private Section of Minutes.