

# Foston and Scropton Parish Council

## Minutes of Foston and Scropton Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. V. Blackshaw Cllr. P. Groom Cllr. A. Dolley Cllr. N. Hickman Cllr. L. James Cllr. S. Meghani Cllr. J. Patten Cllr. G. Andrew
<b>OPM090124/01 – To receive apologies for absence:</b> ➤ Cllr. J. Davies	
<b>OPM090124/02 - Variation of Order of Business (if required)</b> OPM090124/14 – Watery Lane Incident: was discussed as needed response from Cllr. Patten	
<b>OPM090124/03 - Declaration of Members’ Interests appertaining to agenda items</b> ➤ Cllr. Pete Groom item 10 - Allotment review Village Hall	
<b>OPM090124/04 - Public Speaking, including County, District and Police Representation.</b> <b>CLLR SUNDIP MEGHANI – SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</b> Footpath in Scropton: Initially we had council officers clear a section of the path and then we arrange some follow up work for the remedial clearing to be undertaken. Flooding Schemes: There is a government flooding scheme for the installation of flood defences for properties prone to flooding. The scheme is being administered by Derbyshire County Council details are on DCC website at <a href="https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/communities-affected-by-flooding/flood-repair-grant-scheme/property-flood-resilience-repair-grant-scheme.aspx">https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/communities-affected-by-flooding/flood-repair-grant-scheme/property-flood-resilience-repair-grant-scheme.aspx</a> There is also a separate scheme run by South Derbyshire District Council, which offers individuals and households the chance to apply for a post flooding community recovery grant. There is also a council tax discount scheme on offer. Details of these opportunities and schemes are on the South Derbyshire District Council websites: <a href="#">Flood recovery relief   South Derbyshire District Council</a> Planning All of us were surprised by the sudden emergence of plans to build a large new business development on the periphery of Hilton village. A company called Trenport is consulting on proposals for a big development north of Derby Road, which include a major new supermarket, a drive through coffee shop and multiple business units. This proposal is entirely separate to the planned ALDI relocation which would be adjacent to the Trenport development site.	

The feedback I have been receiving is generally positive, however local concern is regarding increased and excess traffic congestion which would be created. I will give further updates in future.

Trent Barton local bus service:

I had many residents contact me being fed up and frustrated by poor quality bus service being administered by Trent Barton. The service is consistently poor and unreliable.

I asked this bus company to be called in for questioning by the Scrutiny committee raise the concerns of constituents, to see if we can get some answers as to why the service has deteriorated.

Following my previous update on buses, and receiving so much evidence regarding the poor service, I understand the strength of feeling and I am planning to seek an in person meeting with Trent Barton's management board in the near future to escalate this matter.

SDDC Budget:

I've been attending various talks and events organised by SDDC in relation to the council's budget shortfall. Council Officers have been trying to encourage Councillors from all parties to

- A) understand the extent of the financial difficulties facing councils and
- B) to put forward ideas and proposals to help plug the funding gap. The funding gap for 24/25 is around £650,000 and we've been told that the money from council reserves will be used to pay that figure to meet that particular funding gap. The funding gap is set to grow and some sensible ideas and proposals need to be found.

Questions.

How many new houses been built in the last 12 months?

The new homes bonus been a major part of South Derbyshire's finances for the last 15/20 years. This has already been factored into growth to help from its business. The government's been encouraging house building by giving councils extra money if they have more homes built.

Further information to be supplied as to the number of houses built over the last year for additional income from Council Tax.

The forecast projected deficit about six months ago they we're going to need an extra £2,000,000 out of reserves. That's now about 650,000 due to review of services, etc.

Concerns were raised over SDDC wasting money:

project in Swadlincote

poor management of grass verges e.g. mowing of in December!

#### **CLLR JULIE PATTEN – DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DCC: £31,000,000 deficit This is the biggest costs, children in care, just over 1020 children and is increasing. The pressure is on finding placements. Shortfall of basic foster carers and have to put children into independent fostering agencies and they just charging what they like because there's no cap. There is also adult care and all that goes with that along with children services and also the cost of staff salaries. We budgeted 4% staff salaries which came out at 7.5%. We are looking at senior management roles in our organisation. We are looking at senior management roles / staff structure, there will be some redundancies.

#### **DERBY ROAD CROSSING**

The final line painting took place just after Christmas and at last all is complete. It was a challenging time with the holidays and bad weather.

#### **DRAINS**

With the number of storms which seemed to be one after the other and some blocked gullies, our teams have been out cleaning out drains filled with debris.

**TREES**

Again with the unusual high winds, and already soaked ground, we had fallen trees all over the county. No sooner had I reported one, then another one had come down. Thankfully no one was injured and our teams quickly responded.

**FLOODING**

The flooding came so quickly and so many of our areas across South Derbyshire were affected with Scropton and Repton being completely closed off. The island at Aldi also flooded but we did have an alternative route through the village for access. Sadly, people still tried to get through flood water in all areas, not only is it dangerous, but causes bow waves which in turn increase water into peoples’ homes and also means further pressures on our emergency services through these actions.

**POTHLES**

Due to the wet weather the potholes appearing have been deeper and worse than anything I have ever seen before. I also became a victim of a pothole with a damaged tyre and alloy. I have spent so much time reporting these in wherever they may be in the County, as you can imagine there are lots to get filled, and priority for filling will be addressed depending on where they are. The teams are out at weekends and were out over Christmas to fill them. {please report in to DCC <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads-traffic/road-maintenance/potholes/potholes.aspx> or myself if you find one, rather than just commenting on social media, the sooner we know the sooner we can get them fixed.

Question:

Flood Signs query - needs to be referred at Area Forum meeting on 23/01/24 as police are attending.

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM ANDREW – SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

There is a funding gap which is being funded from reserves.

I was able to arrange meetings with people from the District Council, Parish Council, County Council and highways regarding drainage problems in Hilton. They were all on site working together to try and find solutions.

Joint update from Cllr. Jane Davies who is at the planning meeting tonight. she will give us an update on F&SPC planning objections during the course of this P.C. meeting.

**OPM090124/14 – Watery Lane Incident**

Request to Cllr. Patten if she has received a report from the Police – No.

**OPM090124/05 To Confirm and agree as a true record the minutes of the Ordinary Foston and Scropton Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Approved

Proposed: Cllr. N. Hickman

Seconded: Cllr. A. Dolley

**OPM090124/06 – Finance**

**Parish Council Expenditure cheques to be approved:**

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
09/01/2024	J. Allen	Parish Clerk Wages	£153.60
09/01/2024	M. Hayes	Lengthsman wages	£136.50
09/01/2024	HMRC	Month 9	£38.40
09/01/2024	J Allen	Expenses	£11.00

**Parish Council Income :**

Date	Name	Description	Amount
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**Parish Hall Expenditure Cheques to be approved:**

Date	Name	Description	Amount
09/01/2024	Yu Energy	Invoice Period: 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023	£168.60

**Parish Hall Income:**

Date	Name	Description	Amount
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Proposed: Cllr. N. Hickman  
Seconded: Cllr. A. Dolley  
All agreed.

**OPM090124/07 - Planning Applications**

- **Application ref. DMPN/2023/1343:** Prior approval for the erection of a steel-framed agricultural building at Guinea Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Hatton, Derby, DE65 5PX  
No Observation
- **Application ref. DMPA/2023/1326:** Approval of reserved matters for appearance, layout, landscaping and scale of outline permission ref. DMPA/2019/1198 on Land north of Scropton Lane, Scropton, Derby  
No Observation - public space
- **Application ref. DMPA/2023/1496:** The variation of Condition 2 (relating to approved plans) of permission DMPA/2022/1345 (relating to the erection of storage and distribution buildings (use class B8) (units DC2 and DC3) at ATL Warehousing, Hanger House, Woodyard Lane, Foston, Derby, DE65 5DJ ATL Warehousing, Hanger House, Woodyard Lane, Foston, Derby, DE65 5DJ  
No Observation
- **Application ref. DMPA/2023/1428/1429/1430/1431:** Erection of one non illuminated fascia sign at Plot 3a, 4, 10a, 10b Dove Valley Park, Foston  
No Observation
- **Application ref. DMPA/2023/1614:** Formation of a new access onto the highway, to serve an agricultural building and hardstanding on Land SK2029 3587 off Scropton Lane, Scropton, DE65 5PS  
  
Initial planning application DMPN/2023/1010 is for an agricultural building which was approved under condition A.2(2)(vi) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.  
  
Foston & Scropton Parish Council have asked for clarity, Cllr. Grahame Andrew took this as an action.  
  
Response from Cllr. Grahame Andrew: For this application there is a discrepancy between the description of the purpose of the application and that provided on the plans, e.g. it is described as an agricultural building on one and a "rural business unit" on another. This development appears to part of a series of developments that will join Scropton to Hatton with a least some sort of building in each field, forming an informal apparently unplanned development corridor.
- **Application ref. DMPA/2023/1587:** Two storey side, rear & front extension and altered access at The Homelands, Scropton Road, Scropton, Derby, DE65 5PS  
No Observation
- **Parking on Woodlands Drive**  
No enforcement can be carried out through planning conditions. Option to keep reporting to Police.
- **DMOT/2023/1341:** The felling of a cedar tree covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order 507 at Hawthorn House, Main Street, Scropton, Derby, DE65 5PP. This application will now be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 09/01/2024.  
Report from Cllr. Jayne Davies via Cllr. Graham Andrew: I would like to bring to the committee's attention the following points:-

1. TPO's are placed on trees after careful consideration and their value to both the wider community and ecologies in the area.
2. Their value should not be diminished by constant approvals felling them. They should only be felled where there is a clear case there's danger to people or either dead or disease beyond hope. This tree forms part of the local landscape. Has done so for many years. It is a mature, relatively rare example of its type in the area.
3. The logic of felling it relating to potential damage to its roots on the driveway construction for another nearby development makes no sense to me. It's amounts to saying that the tree may get its roots damage, so the best thing is to kill it. This doesn't appear to reflect the Council's policy on biodiversity, net gain or its recent motion to support the action on Ecology Emergency.
4. I support Foston and Scropton Parish Councils view that they value the amenity value of the tree as part of the entrance to the village. I recommend the committee consider refusing the application so that we maintain the integrity of the issue of TPO's and our joint commitment to the Ecology emergency Motion approved full council.

Update received from Cllr. Jayne Davies via Cllr. Graham Andrew advised the application got accepted. Approval being: tree branches could damage cars, persons or property as close as it is to the House.

➤ **MEG meetings - Dove Valley Park**  
Noted

**OPM090124/08 – 2024 Budget/Precepts**

Agreement to proceed with the draft 2024/2025 precepts.

Proposed: Cllr. A. Dolley  
Seconded: Cllr. L. James  
All agreed.

**OPM090124/09 – Internal Auditor**

Agreement for an external auditor to be appointed.

Proposed: Cllr. P. Groom  
Seconded: Cllr. L. James  
All agreed.

**OPM090124/10 – Allotments Review**

Thanks to Cllr. Pete Groom for producing a detailed drawing and cost analysis of the allotment ground based on m<sup>2</sup> measurement.

We now have a maximum of 20 full size plots with the facility to split each plot into ½ or ⅓ plot sizes.

It was agreed that the 2024 renewal fee for existing plot holders to be as detailed in column ALLOTMENTS ONLY of the Allotment Charging spreadsheet. The Parish Clerk to issue renewal notices which are also to include a date when the Allotment Annual Meeting is to take place.

Cllr. Pete Groom is contacting the new tenants for allocation of plots but for plot 3 the Parish Council will require immediate fee due to the ground being previously worked on.

It was proposed that during the next financial year (2024/2025) the Parish Council sits down and carries out a full review of allotments. Date to be confirmed.

Proposer: Cllr L. James  
Seconded: Cllr. V. Blackshaw  
All agreed

<p><b>OPM090124/11 - Flood Plan Draft</b></p> <p>Email dated 08/01/2024 attaching draft Community Flood Plan Need a couple of Councillors / villagers to take this on as a project to ensure it gets finished.</p> <p>Cllr. Pete Groom will arrange delivery of sand for when the sand store needs restocking. The sand will be delivered loose and asking for volunteers to help. Contact details to the Parish Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/12 – Policies</b></p> <p>1. New Fire Safety Policy Agreed to review all policies for 2024/2025 year. Date to be set by Parish Clerk</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/13 – MCLS Grant / Playground Fencing Quotes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ashdale Fencing Ltd - £3,416.40</li> <li>○ DGR Landscaping Ltd - £4,475.52</li> </ul> <p>Cllr. V. Blackshaw to obtain updated quotes.</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/14 – Watery Lane Incident</b></p> <p>See item: OPM090124/04</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/15 – Action Tracker</b></p> <p>1. Meeting with Lengthsman (Martin Hayes) to confirm job description. Annual oiling or painting of the picnic bench to be included in job description.</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/16 – Chairman Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warm space grant approved: £1049 for 2023 and 2024. Thanks to Cllr Julie Patten for the funding to support the new fencing in the park.</li> <li>▪ Burns Night/Bingo 26<sup>th</sup> January.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>OPM090124/17 - Clerk’s Monthly report/Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🚧 Noticeboards installation (new/existing poles at Foston) – <b>New Poles</b></li> <li>🚧 RAD – affiliate member £30 annual fee - <b>No</b></li> <li>🚧 Quiz night 1/12 – <b>Didn’t take place</b></li> <li>🚧 Virgin Money Card application form – Councillor signature – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>🚧 Register of Electors – <b>SDDC Electoral Team will forward</b></li> <li>🚧 Report to Streetscape poor quality of wood on picnic bench</li> <li>🚧 Next playground inspection (ROSPA/DSK) to take place with Cllr. Pete Groom.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>OPM090124/18 - Date of Next Parish Council Meeting</b></p> <p>➤ 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024</p>	
<p><b>OPM090124/19 – Exclusion of the Press and Public Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</b></p> <p>➤ None</p>	

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Date of issue:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024