

# Foston and Scropton Parish Council

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## Minutes of Meeting

<b>Parish Council:</b>	Foston and Scropton
<b>Location:</b>	Village Hall, Scropton
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Present:</b>	Cllr P. Groom, Cllr A. Critchlow Cllr C. Robinson CLLR. V. Blackshaw Cllr. P Smith Cllr. J Patten

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. G . Lemmon

**2. Variation of Order of Business:** No

**3. Declaration of Members Interest:** None

### **4. Public Speaking including County, District and Police Representation**

#### **Comments from the Public:**

Watery Lane - houses Nos 1 to 12:-

- Scropton sign top end of Watery Lane before houses.
- Scropton boundary line to include houses 1 -12 Watery Lane
- Speed limit reduce from 40mph to 30mph
- Speed watch/time/manpower
- No footpath – dangerous for residents
- Area Forum / Community Safety meeting (Etwall)

#### **Report from Cllr Julie Patten:**

- Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan Scropton and Sudbury – consultation on website Strong case for objection
- County deals and white paper about levelling up – more powers coming down from government – followed by money to county, early days
- Changes to Parliamentary Boundary / from South Derbyshire to Derbyshire Dales. Response from Heather Wheeler. Not going to happen until next general election.

#### **Report from Cllr Peter Smith:**

SDDC Staffing

Three new drivers have been trained to use the road gully cleansing vehicle (the road sweeper) and three have also been trained in the use of the gully sucker machine (roadside drain cleaner), which will hopefully mean the Council will be able to carry out much needed work on the gullies in and around the area.

Two staff have also received additional training on the use of the compact sweepers.

Also, interviews for a new Grounds Maintenance Operative have recently taken place with a successful candidate accepting the position.

The Council still has a vacancy for an Assistant Tree Officer and Green Spaces Development Officer, which they are hoping to fill in the next few weeks/months.

#### Planning Services - Recruitment and Staffing issues

The Head of Service has successfully recruited two fixed term technician posts within the Planning Team, with one already started working with the Council and the other who started on 1st March.

There are still three vacant positions across Planning Development Team which are either out to advert or being shortlisted for interview. In the meantime, agency staff are proving difficult to source and or retain, and many Council's having the same issues with vacancies.

Planning case numbers per officer, are currently at a very high level with Planning Assistants dealing with between 40-70 applications and Planning Officers dealing with between 80-100 applications. The figure should be around 50 per person (or fewer for less experienced officers) but is testament to the growth of the district.

#### Housing Services

##### Tenant Satisfaction Survey

This year's Tenant Satisfaction survey is underway, with over 200 responses so far.

##### Green Homes Grant

And finally, you can still apply for a Green Homes Grant. You may qualify for home insulation worth anything from £1000 to £20,000. All work will be carried out by Council approved insulation installers. Find out more by visiting [www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/environment/apply-for-a-green-homes-grant](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/environment/apply-for-a-green-homes-grant)

SDDC have been approached by [#SouthDerbyshire](https://twitter.com/SouthDerbyshire) residents asking how they can support people affected by the #Ukraine conflict. See where you can donate here: <https://bit.ly/3IJ5vxj>

East Midlands Airport is encouraging local schools to participate in an eco-garden design competition. The schools whose designs are judged to have the most beneficial impact will be awarded funds of up to £20,000. For further details visit: <https://eastmidlandsairport.com/community/supporting-the-local-community/eco-garden/>

#### **Gillian Lemmon reports:**

##### New Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Details have been published and the details can be found at this link

<https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/news/2022/feb/council-approves-changes-to-council-tax-reduction-scheme?fbclid=IwAR1hY7qQf-34zzktD3y40nzSbtpyBf6G10B6-l0sFprDQCtfLaAFKYxz50>

The scheme will now be banded making it easier for people who make a claim to understand the system and what they are entitled to. From April 1st, anyone claiming Universal Credit will be considered for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

##### Empty Homes Grant

[https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/news/2022/feb/empty-homes-grant-and-support-reminder?fbclid=IwAR24Q4huVk8-Y-pVoV62GecgT\\_VaHsFwRevjxGyV7OI\\_IBj2DnPVDX0Z3u4](https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/news/2022/feb/empty-homes-grant-and-support-reminder?fbclid=IwAR24Q4huVk8-Y-pVoV62GecgT_VaHsFwRevjxGyV7OI_IBj2DnPVDX0Z3u4)

If empty homes are left this way for more than six months there is a grant available of up to £9000. Empty homes can cause blight in neighbourhoods. More details in the link.

Council Tax Increase for April has been confirmed at 2.9 % increase for Council Services.  
Storm Damage Grant for Community Sports Facilities available via Sport England – Up to £15,000 per facility. Contact your local Councillor for details

Play Area: Land Registry response – loads of enquiries and will be dealt with in due course

#### **5. To Confirm and agree as a true record the minutes of the Ordinary Foston and Scropton Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

No amendments

- Proposed Cllr A. Critchlow
- Seconded Cllr. C. Robinson
- All agreed

Additional items to be on agenda: -

- Chairmans report
- Any other business

#### **6. Parish Council Vacancies and Co-option**

Co-option of Alistair Dooley as Councillor (unable to attend meeting)

- Proposed: Cllr. V. Blackshaw
- Seconded: Cllr. L James
- All agreed

#### **7. Finance**

Cheques to be approved:

08/03/2022	Invoice nos: 20491, 20766, 21113, 21349, 21516, 21713	£384.00
08/03/2022	Electrics	£397.10
08/03/2022	PAYE month 12	£95.80
08/03/2022	Lengthsman salary	£109.10
08/03/2022	Locum Clerk salary	£120.00
08/03/2022	Parish Clerk Salary	£153.60
08/03/2022	Training Parish Clerk	£80.00
08/03/2022	Parish Clerk Expenses	£18.91

Discussion took place concerning: -

- laptop protection and if an additional line of protection is required – Windows security and password protection should be sufficient
- Parish Clerk net payment to be referred to Butler and Cook
- Greenwater Services (Legionella Risk Assessment and water samples) check with company when agreement expires if there is one.
- Allotments: - annual payments received from all plot holders
- Chair exercise classes paid up to date

## **8. Planning Applications**

### **APPLICATION REFERENCE DMPN/2022/0039**

Proposed Development: Agricultural building for hay and feed storage

Site Location: Land at Sk2230 3567, Derby Road, Foston, Derby, DE65 5PT

## **9. Flood Update**

- Continue to ask agencies: - Severn Trent, Derbyshire County Council, South Derbyshire District Council, Environment Agency
- Volunteer flood group of 12 people from the village
- Further meeting to be booked
- Walked around village / 11 reports - issues around signage, drains being blocked, pot holes
- Making sure drains are clear
- Poor support from agencies.
- Work has been done on the ditch – water still ponds down Water Lane
- More of a proactive approach from County and District
- Possible Installation of a pump - playing field

Comment made for the Clerk to contact highways concerning water depth sign the other side of the flood defence and reinstatement of flooding sign at Sudbury end.

### **Website Update**

- Permission to make changes to website / photo of Councillors
- Ongoing development by Cllr. C Robinson
- Training session for parish clerk
- Links to various activities/information

## **10. Queens Jubilee To consider ideas for the Queens Jubilee**

- Main feedback - trees and bulbs
- Trees (Free) – placement may be a problem and planting time
- Hand drawn map for both villages for walkers to include history
- Availability of trees for villagers' gardens

## **11. Parish Hall Charge (to be discussed at next meeting)**

## **12. Trees (see item 10)**

## **13. Mobile Library**

Not listed to visit Foston and Scropton

To be advertised on notice board to see take up

## **14. Sports Pass and Grant Scheme**

Details to be on website via link

**15. Clerk's Report**

- Highways concerning problems on Watery Lane: acknowledgment received
- Derbyshire Police:
  - now need to purchase speed gun,
  - 5 people in team and of different age groups.
- Notice Board: Letter to Burton and South Derbyshire college and Sudbury Prison
- Great British Spring Clean
- Parish Hall buildings insurance query
- Councillors Training requirement
- Parish Hall Keys: write to previous Chairman to return keys and also who else have keys
- Codes to be changed for the key safe and barrel lock on the sand store
- Derbyshire and Derby bus service – Levelling up
- Active communities and health team newsletter
- Leaflets to be distributed to Scropton villagers concerning Derbyshire & Derby Minerals Local Plan
- Royal Mail estimated distribution cost: £200 to £350. Cllr. Blackshaw organising

**16. Play Area**

See item 4

**17. Parish Notice Boards**

See clerks report

**18. Correspondence**

Past Chairman service – letter of thanks for past time

**19. Date of Next Meeting**

- Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30

**20. Exclusion of the Press and Public etc.**

- Policies continued being updated by Cllr. Blackshaw
- Retain paper version of policies
- Minutes on website
- Lengthsman duties / Job description on agenda for next meeting / Litter around Cemetery area

<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Date of issue:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022