

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MEETING

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025

### **Present:**

Cllr F Christie

Cllr S Cragg

Cllr V Edmundson (Chair)

Cllr S McDowall

Cllr P Bradwell – County Councillor

Cllr R Fry – Ward Councillor

Shirley Asquith (Clerk)

### **Residents' Forum:**

There was no attendance.

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr R Granger – work reasons

Cllr P Fuller – meeting clash

#### **2. Vacancies:**

The Clerk explained that Cllr Granger had tendered his resignation with immediate effect as he was no longer resident in the village. He has wished to do this in person but had been detained at work. The meeting wished to record their good wishes and thanks for his interest in the parish council for the time that he has served. **Action: Clerk to inform ELDC.**

The parish council therefore has two vacancies and would be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to give up a small amount of time to represent the village.

#### **3. Declarations of interest:**

Cllr McDowall's interest in the Heneage Estate Bike Park planning application still stands. He has also put in a planning application for development to his home in the village, which is to be discussed on this agenda.

#### **4. To agree the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 24 October 2024:**

These were agreed as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **5. Matters arising from the minutes of the parish council meeting 24 October 2024:**

The Clerk has submitted the necessary paperwork pertaining to the co-options of Cllrs Fuller and Cragg.

Cllr Christie is to progress the change of the parish website host, which is now due for renewal, along with individual email addresses for councillors which do not seem to be working properly. Paul Ferguson, who previously arranged this, is aware that the change is

to be made. Cllr Christie queried the sum of £73 paid by the Parish Council and will ask what period this covers. **Action: Cllr Christie.**

## **6. Financial matters: presentation of financial report and bank statement:**

The financial report and bank statement were circulated and approved. The ring-fenced money for the bus stop had been moved into the general balance as requested.

It was resolved to raise the precept in line with inflation to £1086.28. **Action: Clerk to submit by the deadline.**

## **7. Defibrillator**

The Clerk had contacted Jenny Cooper, the Clerk of South Elkington PC, who has recently obtained a defibrillator for £1222 + VAT. This includes the cabinet. The meeting resolved to raise the money to buy and fit one via fundraising activities and any possible grants. Cllr Fry said that he had monies available and would welcome an application for £750. Cllr McDowall said he knows an electrician who would do the fitting. Cllr Christie said that his company would be prepared to sponsor the electrical fitting to the region of £150. It was noted that the VAT could be claimed back. **Action: Clerk to apply for funds from Cllr Fry.**

Cllr Edmundson is to have further discussion with the parish hall committee, who are keen to obtain a defibrillator and will help with funding. She mooted that the possible car boot sale, scheduled for May, could be a fundraiser. **Action: Cllr Edmundson to progress.**

## **8. Bike track Heneage estate (standing item):**

It was noted that a rough tarmac track has been laid at the entrance to the proposed bike park. It is assumed that this is to indicate that works have been started in order to keep planning permission live.

Cllr Christie has had a response from his Freedom of Information request that the County Council had given £10k towards a feasibility study to the applicant but that this study has not, in fact, been carried out. **Action: Cllr Bradwell offered to make enquiries.**

## **9. Risk management (standing item):**

Cllr Edmundson had arranged for the village bench to be secured to the ground at a cost of £40. The meeting approved the sum. **Action: Clerk to prepare cheque.**

## **10. Planning matters:**

The planning application for an extension to The Sycamores was raised, details having previously been circulated. There are no objections.

## **11. Parish Council initiatives:**

The meeting approved the purchase of wood preserver to a maximum of £50 to paint the plant boxes at the village signs. This will be done in better weather. **Action: Clerk to purchase and arrange the work.**

Despite the tour of the village undertaken by Cllrs Edmundson and Bradwell, the list of works submitted have not taken place. Councillors remarked on the following:

- Not all potholes filled
- Drains either not cleared or not properly as water is running down the road
- The culvert under the 'bridge' on Donington Road overflowing badly across the road
- The lake in the dip by the Bray's under the railway bridge is getting deeper and impassible by car at times (drain clearance issue but there is nowhere for the water to run off)
- Cracking surfaces of footpaths to Hainton and Benniworth worsening
- Footpaths need the growth scraped off them

- Drain has no lid outside the Bray's farm on Donington Road
- 'Narrow road' sign has been hit (new issue)
- Road signs are very dirty (new issue)

Cllr Bradwell said that she is very disappointed that the requested work has not taken place and will follow this up with Highways. **Action: Cllr Bradwell to follow up please.**

**Action: Clerk is to complete a Fix My Street entry for all the above also.**

## **12. Correspondence:**

The Clerk had circulated the Biscathorpe oil drilling application details. The meeting resolved to submit an objection. Cllr Fry has already put in his objection. **Action: Clerk.**

A Highways survey has been received. Cllr Bradwell suggested this be completed and returned with reference to the works discussed above. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk.**

## **13. Items for next agenda:**

Budget 2025/26.

## **14. Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Cllr Christie submitted his apologies.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed:

Chair

Date: