

South Mimms Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 7th October 2021

Present: Cllr Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Cllr Seth Thomas (Deputy Chairperson), Cllr Toni Johnson, Cllr Chris Myers and Cllr Mark Hedison.

Clerk: Natalie Gettings Ward Councillor: Cllr Spencer

Members of the public in person 12 and on Zoom 5

29. Cllr Caffrey welcome everyone and read the SMPC Mission Statement

30. Apologies for absence - None

31. Declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to Agenda items - None

32. The minutes of the last meeting (September) were approved and signed by Cllr McCaffrey.

Planning

33. No Planning Applications have been received since last meeting.

34. New Houses:

Cllr Myers explained that the draft Hertsmere Local Plan was approved by Hertsmere Full Council Meeting on 30th September and 6-week public consultation will start on 11th October. On 17th of October there will be an open afternoon in the Village Hall to see the plans and fill in feedback forms that Hertsmere are supplying which will be a very important chance for residents to see the plans and submit their opinions.

A DRAFT Design Code has been drawn up by The Clerk and this first draft was APPROVED for distribution to residents ahead of the Open Afternoon on 17th October.

McCaffrey also explained that the wider plans for Hertsmere include creation of a new town called Bowman's Cross to be built on the old Tyttenhanger Landfill site and some of surrounding land owned by the Tyttenhanger Estate. This will include new junior and senior schools, doctors, shops and other infrastructure, with half of the overall site retained as parkland. The site is being built by a company backed by The Wellcome Trust Medical Charity and they will attend the next SMPC meeting to introduce their plans in more detail.

A member of the public asked about Bowmans Bross' boundary with South Mimms and the Clerk explained that the maps SMPC have seen so far indicate a green area will abut South Mimms.

Urban and Civic who are the Master Builders for Bowmans Cross will be giving a presentation at the November Parish Council Meeting.

35. Enforcement:

A reminder that the Public Inquiry into the aggregates site next to Romani House has been delayed by the Planning Inspectorate until January, to allow for more evidence or objections to be received by residents. Anyone wanting details of how to complain about the site can look on our website or contact the Clerk. ** Post Meeting note from Clerk: Planning Inspectorate have said they have stopped receiving evidence but will send an inspector to the site before the case is heard.

Finance

36. It was noted that the spend on the two flower tubs outside the hall was £415.76 and the wi-fi equipment is now installed at the hall and Cllr Thomas explained that as soon as an additional power point is installed that the wi-fi will be left on at all times for free public access by hall users.

SMPC are still looking for other infrastructure projects that CIL money could be spent on. A likely option will be village name signs, placed at the three main entry points to the village, one of which may be more elaborate – similar to the one in Ridge. All suggestions are welcome.

Community:

37. No planning applications have been made by Griggs Homes in regards to The White Hart to date. The request for the pub to be deemed ‘an asset of community value’ has been submitted to Hertsmere who have informed the new owners. It is hoped that a response from Hertsmere will come in the next month, however it was explained that this does not prevent a conversion to residential, but does offer some level of deterrent, as any future sale would require a six month option for a community buyout.
38. A ‘Report It & Sort It’ update was received from Cllr Hedison, including the Hertsmere owned garages and his efforts to get the Hertfordshire CC subcontractors to actually complete the cutting back and clearing of paths and pavements to a satisfactory standard. Cllr Hedison intends challenging Hertfordshire CC over the (lack of) value for money that is being received when the sub-contractor repeatedly sign off on incomplete / unsatisfactory works and then have to be called back. Cllr McCaffrey said that one resident has now found that all pavements on roads exiting the village are now un-passable on his mobility scooter.

Cllr Johnson undertook to try and obtain a grass cutting schedule direct from the sub-contractors.

The Clerk undertook to chase up the replacement Salt Bins and to see if Highways will clear away the knocked over roadwork signs around Signals Corner.

Cllr Myers undertook to investigate the lack of pavement by the Truck Service Station bus stop.

Any issues can be reported on the South Mimms Report It and Sort It Facebook group or directly to Hertsmere www.Hertsmere.gov.uk/Report-It

Any Other Business at the discretion of the Chairperson:

39. Members of the public were asked where they might like to see new trees planted as part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Queen’s Green Canopy is donating trees to towns across the country. No definitive sites were identified.
40. Cllr Spencer encouraged residents to visit the Mosquito Aircraft Museum that is just before the London Colney roundabout, as a lot of investment has gone into the site and it is now aimed more at families.
41. A member of the public requested that SMPC have name plates on the tables at meetings to identify them – The Clerk undertook to source these.

Cllr McCaffrey thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 8.55pm.

Future Parish Council meetings currently scheduled for: , 4th November (with a presentation by the Master Builders for Bowmans Cross), 2nd December, 3rd February 2022, 3rd March 2022.

The open afternoon on 17th October is an opportunity to see the plans for new housing in South Mimms (and the rest of Hertsmere) and all residents are encouraged to attend.

There are no meetings in August and January, however we aim to produce and deliver newsletters in those months.