

Syresham Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs Dorothy Dunkley, 31 Wappenham Road, Syresham, Northants, NN13 5HQ
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MINUTES

Meeting of Syresham Parish Council held on **Wednesday 25th January 2023**,
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room, Main Road, Syresham, NN13 5HE

Present: Cllr D Dunkley (Chairman) Cllr I Draper (Vice Chairman) Cllr D Cranwell
Cllr D Green Cllr J Haycock Cllr A Jeskins
Cllr H MacIver Cllr C Munsey
Mrs S Hosking (Clerk to the Council)

7 members of the public present

1. Receive and approve apologies for absence.
Apologies received from Cllr D Bambridge (WNC Ward Councillor Silverstone Ward)
2. Receive and approve for signature the minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings held on 30th November 2022, 12th December 2022, 11th and 20th January 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 30th November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That once the Clerk is included as present, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 12th December 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That once the Clerk is included as present, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 20th January 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.
None to declare.
4. Public Participation session.

A representative of the No Truck Stop Group asked - What is the role of the Parish Council in continuing to fight the planning application?

The group intends to deliver leaflets, hold a meeting with Andrea Leadsom and senior planning officers, contact the leader of the council and all 13 members of the strategic planning committee. The role of the Parish Council is to respond to the needs of the Parish. There have been 265 objections and 35 statements in support of the truck stop. The residents would like Parish Councillors to lobby Councillors at WNC.

Another representative of the No Truck Stop Group asked - What advice was given my Cllr Bambridge in his email to the Parish Council as discussed under item 5a of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2023?

Answer: the email could not be found in the meeting. *N.B. After this meeting the email was forwarded to the resident.*

A resident asked – When are the Climate Change Committee going to declare a Climate Emergency? The Parish Council also needs to engage with parishioners to garner support. The Parish Council could communicate via email.

Why can the No Truck Stop group not be headed by the Parish Council or representatives of the Council be on the action group? Rather than different people all doing different things.

Answer: Parish Councillors have not been invited to attend any No Truck Stop meetings. If the group has meetings let the Parish Council know and they can then consider attending.

A resident queried why meeting minutes since November are missing from the parish website.

Answer: There has been a delay in uploading documents to the website due to Clerk leave. Minutes will be updated on the website after this meeting.

A resident reported that tractor training on Main Road, is still interfering with the school bus journey as the tractor holds up traffic while it carries out reverse and turning maneuvers at the top of Abbey Road. The rumbling noise and vibrations are a nuisance to residents in the area as it is very repetitive.

A resident reported that cars are parking on the corner of Wappenham Road, which is dangerous as vehicles are forced to move onto the wrong side of the road on a blind corner.

Cllr Jeskins joined the meeting.

5. Receive update report from Cllr Dermot Bambridge, Ward Councillor Silverstone Ward, WNC.

No report was received, however a summary of the WNC budget was circulated to Councillors.

6. Matters arising.

- a) Whistley Wood ‘No parking on the verges’ signs update.

No parking signs have been installed by WNC Highways. However, it hasn’t deterred weekend visitors to the woods from parking on the verges.

- b) Update on Sports Field dog waste bin.

Clerk waiting to hear from SSSC exactly where the bin is to be located.

- c) Malt Lane no lorries signage update. – Clerk yet to action.

- d) TanksALot Main Road tractor training update.

The location for the caterpillar tractor training along Main Road and turning at Abbey Road junction is still causing a nuisance to residents. The training organiser did not respond to the initial emailed request from the Parish Council to alter the route.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will send a letter to TanksALot requesting the location for the training to be reconsidered.

- e) Pathfinder III and Wappenham Road mud on pavement issue update.

Cllr Bambridge has enquired about this on Syresham’s behalf. The Clerk will now contact the Emergency Planning team for an update on the Pathfinder III programme.

- f) Update on Village Gate removal and repair. – Clerk awaiting a quote for the works.

- g) Condition of pavement near Chapel Sunday School on High Street – Cllr Munsey

Our Highways Liaison Officer did not think that a repair would be agreed by WNC Highways as the whole pavement would need to be rebuilt and funds are not available. However, this pavement has been reported on FixMyStreet and the Parish Council will await a response. If Highways do not agree to repair the pavement, the Parish Council should consider taking this further.

- h) Update on installation of WNC advisory 20mph signs in Syresham village.

Clerk awaiting update from the Highways Liaison Officer on when the signs will be delivered.

7. i) Approval of accounts for payment:

Payee	Amount	VAT	Cheque No	Power
DCK Payroll solutions December payroll	£12.00	£2.00	101758	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
Les Hawkins and Sons Swingfield Fencing	£5,063.00	£823.00	101759	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10
2Commune UKLC website hosting license, support + SSL certificate management fee	£522.00	£87.00	101760	LGA 1972 s142

DCK Payroll solutions January payroll	£12.00	£2.00	101761	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
Salaries (Month 10) incl. WFH allowance	£897.94	£0	101762	LGA 1972 s112 (2)
Npower electricity 1/1-30/9/22 (revised)	£611.81	£29.14	Direct Debit	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
Eurooffice printer inks	£26.92	£4.49	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
NEST pension Dec salary contributions	£25.73	£0	Direct Debit	LGA 1972 s112 (2)
Petty Cash*	£50.00	p£0	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
HMRC gov PAYE payment month 9	£17.90	£0	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s112 (2)
Npower electricity 1/10-31/12/22**	£0	£0		
NALC Community engagement training	£155.72	£25.96	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s111 (1)

Total Spend Revised to £7,394.21 (*without £220.02 Npower payment*)

*The petty cash debit card withdrawal approved in meeting on 19th October 2022, was not processed as expected, due to Clerk leave. This has not been included on the accounts. The petty cash debit card withdrawal for same amount was instead taken out ahead of this meeting.

** Second Npower payment was not taken using Direct Debit. Instead, Clerk arranged for the payment to be taken from Npower account credit.

RESOLVED: That the above accounts be paid.

ii) Bank Balances for approval

Community: £ 10,217.56
Business: £ 36,768.85
Total: £ 46,986.41

RESOLVED: The above bank balances were approved.

iii) Quarterly ICC check - Cllr Green.

Cllr Green inspected the accounts and reported no issues.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Green's findings are accepted.

8. Confirm section 137 2023/24 grant requests.

The Clerk confirmed that no S137 grant applications for the 2023/24 financial year have been received. Local organisations will still be able to apply for smaller mid-term S137 grants of £200 or less.

9. Receive recommendations of F&GP committee concerning Cemetery maintenance.

F&GP Committee members recommend that the Parish Council do not continue to maintain the Cemetery other than to mow all of the grass (including the recent extension) and pay for the green waste bin permit. Except for the Yew tree work which has already been agreed.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council accepts this recommendation. Future Cemetery maintenance will be restricted to mowing and payment for green waste bin only.

10. Confirm Clerk salary increase.

The F&GP Committee proposed a Clerk's salary increase to £12.50 per hour (from £11.38 per hour) as this will bring salary levels more in line with the National Joint Council pay scale for a clerk with comparative responsibilities and experience.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council accepts this proposal. The Clerk's new hourly rate will be £12.50 per hour. Hours will remain the same at 18 hours per week.

11. Approval of 2023/24 budget. Amended draft budget was circulated to Councillors ahead of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the 2023/2024 draft budget is approved.

All in favour.

12. Approval of 2023/24 precept request.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council's precept demand will be **£38,600** for 2023/2024.

13. Correspondence.
- a) Email from Cllr J Marchant (Helmdon Parish Council) regarding South Northants area bus services.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council would be happy to be contacted with updates on Cllr Marchant's initiative in setting up a bus services focus group.
- b) Resident's email concerning the number of problem cars in the village: the challenges to pedestrians from cars parking on pavements and cars logged as SORN which should be off the public highway.
Further correspondence was received from a resident concerned about parking on pavement both sides of Bradbery Close when busy events on in Village Hall.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council are concerned about the number of SORN vehicles parked around Syresham and would urge any residents who suspect a vehicle is abandoned to check that the vehicle is taxed and MOT'd on the Gov.uk website <https://vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk>
If the vehicle is not properly taxed and MOT'd then it should be reported to our Neighbourhood Police Team, who can arrange for the vehicle to be removed.
- c) WNC Consultation on draft 2023-24 budget proposal— *deadline 31 January 2023*
RESOLVED: The Parish Council will submit the following comments:
Green waste bin payments are new in the SNC area and residents were already unhappy with having to pay £42 for a service that was previously free. The proposed £13 increase is not an insignificant rise. Again, bulky waste collection charges are already high and further increases would not be welcome. Syresham Parish Council strongly disagree with proposals to implement a three weekly residual household waste collection service. Residents have enough difficulty containing waste for 2 weeks in their bins. Councillors are concerned that all of these proposals would increase the occurrence of fly-tipping, which would surely result in higher waste costs for the Council.
Increasing car parking charges would be discriminatory towards rural residents who have no choice but to use a car to access services in towns or to visit country parks. There is currently no provision for public transport/cycling connecting rural communities with towns.
14. Receive Swingfield inspection report January 2023 – Cllr J Haycock
To be done as soon as possible.
15. Confirm new Swingfield sign details – Cllrs Green and Munsey
Deferred to next meeting.
16. Consider request to lock the new gate to the rear of the Swingfield.
A lock has been supplied and fitted by the fencing contractor.
17. Discuss purchase and installation of new accessible swing and possible new play tower for the Swingfield.
RESOLVED: Details of prices and equipment options to be prepared for the next meeting.
RESOLVED: Proposal for a new play area for older children to be considered at the next meeting.
18. Appointment of new Syresham Parish Police Liaison Representative.
RESOLVED: Cllr Cranwell is appointed Syresham Parish Police Liaison Representative.
19. Review of the Climate Change and Environment Committee's achievements and positive actions in 2022.
The Climate Fair in autumn 2022 had reasonable attendance. Another is planned for 2023. From the fair the Committee considered suggestions and requests from attendees and have resolved to carry out the following actions:
- To research companies that can provide a soft plastic waste collection service from Syresham.
 - Lobby WNC to make it a planning requirement for new industry to install solar power and to ensure new industry is carbon neutral, including shared access pathways.
 - EV charging, the Village Hall are considering the options for charging points in the hall car park and the Parish Council will consider the provision of EV charging points when updating the Village Design Statement.
 - Contact Grand Union to discuss planting and EV charging options in The Pound.
 - The Swingfield grass bank will be trialed for rewilding, before considering further verge rewilding.

- Climate Action West Northamptonshire are providing equipment to parishes to help residents to test their homes for draughts/heat loss, the committee will find out more and arrange for equipment to be made available to Syresham residents.
- Initiatives will be advertised to the village through the Syresham Times, parish website and Parish Council Facebook page.

Cllr Cranwell expressed his disappointment that after 12 months there has been no commitment or solid achievements from the Committee, in particular rewilding verges and declaration of Climate Emergency, proposed by Cllr Cranwell. While the Climate Change Fair was a good idea, it only attracted 50 people, whereas Brent Parish Council's Climate Fair was attended by 1,500 people. Communication should be improved.

RESOLVED: The efficacy of the Climate Change and Environment Committee will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May.

20. Confirm details of Community Engagement and Civility & Respect training.

Councillors would like the Civility and Respect whole council training to take place face-to-face, in the evening, preferably on a Wednesday and the date not to be set before March.

Community Engagement training took place on 25th January. A report will be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

21. Confirm permission for Office 365 and AVG annual renewals.

RESOLVED: That Microsoft 365 will be renewed for £59.99 and AVG renewed for £79.99.

22. Consider request for S106 funds to prepare a survey of the Pimlico to Crowfield proposed Active Travel Route – Cllr Cranwell

RESOLVED: A request will be sent to the WNC S106 team for advice on whether S106 funds would be available for this purpose.

23. Report from new Parish Footpath warden – A Hornby

Highways have committed to repairing the timber steps that go down to the footpath under the A43 (South of the Pocket Park layby) in the next 3 months. Highways have also cleared the gullies along the eastbound side of Main Rd at that point to prevent a deep puddle forming there, covering one lane.

It was reported in the meeting that the steps have now been repaired.

It was also noted that the missing footpath signs have been re-instated in Pimlico.

Thank you to Andrew for taking on the role of Parish Footpath Warden. Footpath Warden contact details need to be displayed.

24. Receive Highways information on applying for weight limit on Main Road.

The Parish Council have received a detailed booklet on applying for weight limits from WNC Highways.

RESOLVED: Councillors will consider the information and discuss at the next meeting.

25. HS2 Liaison meeting report – Clerk

RESOLVED: The report was received. It was noted that works to add temporary lanes to the A43 will start soon. Four lanes will remain open on the A43 during works.

26. Silverstone Liaison meeting report – Cllr Draper

RESOLVED: The report was received. It was noted that Silverstone now have a sustainability director who has outlined a range of actions going on there, including the installation of EV charging stations. The new Hilton Hotel is now open. A Traffic Management meeting is being held this week to ensure the traffic chaos experienced in Syresham in 2022 is not repeated.

27. Main Road speeding - on site meeting report – Clerk

RESOLVED: The report was received. The Highways Liaison Officer from WNC has some requests to follow up on and actions to carry out.

28. Set date for village Spring litterpick – Cllr Munsey

RESOLVED: The date for the Spring litterpick will be week of 20th-26th March.

29. Pocket Park road sign damage – Cllr Munsey
This has been reported and WNC have agreed to repair in due course.
30. Discuss any matters arising from the extraordinary Parish Council meeting of 20th January 2023– regarding the potential appointment of a planning consultant in relation to the proposed Syresham Lorry Park.
Andrew Gray of Aitchison Raffety has been appointed to prepare a letter of objection to the lorry park on behalf of the parish and the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman are meeting him on Monday 30th January.
31. Parish Council articles for The Syresham Times.
 - Report SORN vehicles parked on the highway
 - Accessible Swing and new Play Tower
 - New footpath warden details
 - Climate Change Committee report
32. Items for inclusion in next meeting’s Agenda.
 - Pocket Park Committee meeting report
 - Emergency Planning meeting report
33. Confirm revised Parish and Parish Council meeting dates in May 2023.
 - Wednesday 17th May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, (Meeting Room)
 - Tuesday 30th May Annual Parish Meeting (booked for 6pm-10pm, Main Hall)
34. Consider speakers for the 2023 Parish Meeting - suggested theme; the environment.
 - Janet Jackson, Northampton University
 - Silverstone Sustainability Director
35. Confirm date of next Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 22nd February.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm



S Hosking,
Syresham Parish Clerk

Copies of all council papers are available to download at www.syreshamvillage.com