

Syresham Parish Council

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

Meeting of Syresham Parish Council held on **Wednesday 31st August 2022**,
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
Cllr Dermot Bambridge, WNC Ward Councillor Silverstone Ward
Mrs S Hosking (Clerk to the Council)

3 members of the public present

1. Receive and approve apologies for absence.
No apologies received.
2. Receive and approve for signature the minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings held on 27th July and 10th August 2022.
RESOLVED: That with a correction to the duration of the Biddlesden Bridge road closure from 20 weeks to 20 days, the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 27th July 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
RESOLVED: That the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2022 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.
Q: What can the Parish Council and Cllr Dermot do about bus services, not just from the village but in the wider area as well? Youngsters have to stay on in education until 18 or training and need a transport service. Stagecoach have recently changed their service timetable to Banbury and the College. Students have to leave from Brackley much earlier in the day and return to Brackley later in the day - 6.45am-7pm. Magdalen does not cater well for more vulnerable students, and it is these students that need to access Colleges. Also, affects schools in Middleton Cheney and Brackley? What happens if parents cannot drive to Brackley or Silverstone? Also affects working people who rely on the buses, who have to change their working hours.
WNC Answer: There is nothing that local authorities can assist with, any queries about the Stagecoach timetable and route changes should be directed to Stagecoach.
Q: But are not the local authority responsible for education? The sustainable transport policy suggests that public transport should be provided.
Bus services to Northampton College are also poor.
Cllr Dermot needs more detail on the level of the problem. What schools are involved? Which age groups? Any issues for disabled students? Send details to the Clerk and Cllr Dermot will try to take the issue up.

Q: Resident from The Pound has a large tree overhanging her garden which is in need of maintenance. The tree also hangs over the footpath behind properties on The Pound. The resident has safety concerns regarding the tree especially in windy conditions.

A: Three years ago other neighbours in The Pound had a similar issue. The trees are on the field boundary to the rear of The Pound. The Parish Council contacted the WNC Footpaths Officer who confirmed that as the trees are not blocking the path, they cannot clear it. The trees are the responsibility of the landowner, and their advice is for the resident to contact the landowner. The Parish Clerk will forward details of the field owner to the resident.

Cllr Jeskins arrived at the meeting.

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

Full report from Cllr Dermot can be found on the Syresham website along with the Minutes.

6. Matters arising.

- a) Swingfield fencing S106 application update – Clerk.

The Parish Council has just received approval of its application for S106 funds of £4,730 to cover “part replacement of the paling fence at the Swingfield Play Area and improvement works to the paving at the pedestrian gate to enable access for all.” Agreement was signed at this meeting. Clerk will contact Les Hawkins and Sons to let them know that it will be possible for work to commence soon.

- b) Progress update on various Highways matters – Clerk

Grit bin repositioning – Residents had asked that the bin be relocated back to its original position near the High Street bend. WNC Highways have now agreed that once the Parish Council have adopted the Bradbery Close verge, the bin can be moved closer to the bend.

VAS sign repair – This has been faulty for some time. The sign was under review and WNC Highways have concluded that it should be replaced. They are awaiting the new highways contract so that funds can be allocated. No timescale given yet.

Village Hall directional signs – Highways suggest there should be two black and white directional signs, one at Main Road/Biddlesden Road junction (turn left), and one on Main Road heading towards the Village Hall, just before High Street junction (straight on). Highways will not permit private contractor to erect the signs, it must be done through Highways. There is a cost but, due to the new highways contract, a price cannot be given yet. Highways will contact us when a price is available and then the Parish Council can decide on how the signs will be funded.

Village gates ownership – The Parish Council queried ownership of the white, wooden village gates. Highways have confirmed that both gates are not on their inventory and therefore they have no objection if the Parish Council removes the one from the Kingshill direction, as this is in a state of disrepair and is no longer necessary. The Parish Council will continue to maintain the one from the B4525 direction.

40mph zone for Biddlesden Road – The Parish Council provided further information to Highways on why it feels the 40mph zone is necessary. The request has been sent through to the chair of the speed limit review panel for consideration at their next meeting.

- c) Civility training update – Clerk

No alternative dates have been provided by NALC, and their courses are sold out. However, Northants CALC are considering putting on training with the same speaker and will get back to the Clerk with further information when it becomes available.

- d) Northamptonshire ACRE Villages Award

Syresham’s silver award prize of £75 has been received. Cllr Munsey proposed that the allocation of the prize money is discussed at the next Parish Council meeting

- e) Overflowing rubbish bins on A43 update – Cllr Dunkley

This was reported by Cllr Dunkley. Cllr Bambridge to check on frequency of emptying and will find out if this can be increased.

7) i) Approval of accounts for payment:

Payee	Amount	VAT	Cheque No	Power
Total Signs Climate Change Fair Banners	£144.00	£24.00	101740	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
DCK Payroll Solutions - Aug payroll fee	£12.00	£2.00	101741	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
Salaries (Month 5) incl. WFH allowance	£897.94	£0	101742	LGA 1972 s112 (2)
NEST pension July salary contributions	£25.73	£0	Direct Debit	LGA 1972 s112 (2)
BT quarterly bill	£141.37	£23.56	Direct Debit	LGA 1972 s111 (1)
HMRC gov PAYE payment month 4	£19.52	£0	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s112 (2)

Total Spend: £ 1,240.56

ii) Bank Balances for approval

Community: £ 6,630.54
 Business: £ 26,769.06
 Total: £ 33,399.60

RESOLVED: The above bank balances were approved.

iii) Quarterly ICC Check - Cllr Green

Cllr Green inspected the accounts and reported no issues, except for a CAB cheque that has not been banked from April.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Green's findings are accepted.

8) Correspondence

a) Enquiry relating to mature trees along footpath behind houses in The Pound.

This enquiry was discussed during the Public Participation session.

b) Update from Brackley Community Hospital 2022 Trust

Update circulated to Councillors. Summary: X-Ray update, machine is now in Brackley Community Hospital, but the connections work needs to be carried out, and might take a little while. This will be used for diagnosis not emergency x-rays.

RESOLVED: Something for inclusion in the next Syresham Times.

c) Complaint from resident in Pimlico regarding smell from Crowfield poultry farm.

This enquiry was discussed during Cllr Bambridge's report. Cllr Bambridge has discussed the matter with WNC Environmental Health.

RESOLVED: Advice has been forwarded to the Clerk, who will pass this on to residents who made the complaint.

d) Notification of draft public spaces protection order (PSPO) - responsible ownership of dogs and prohibition of smoking in certain places.

RESOLVED: The PSPO notification was received.

9) Parish Council Vacancy update.

An application has been received.

RESOLVED: The Chairman and Vice Chairman will interview the applicant in September, using questions from all Councillors, which are to be submitted to the Clerk. Questions from previous interviews will be circulated to Councillors by the Clerk. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will report back to the whole Council after the interview.

10) Consider further information regarding the appointment of solicitors for adoption of Bradbery Close verge. The Parish Council had agreed at the July meeting to pay solicitors fees in respect of adoption of the verge (lowest quote). However, during the process of obtaining quotes two solicitors did suggest that the developer might cover the fees. However, Francis Jackson have now confirmed to the Clerk that they would not consider paying the fees as there is no requirement for them to do so and the verge is being transferred at nil consideration.

Three quotes have now been obtained, the lowest price was offered by Chandler Ray solicitors.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agree to appoint Chandler Ray to handle the Bradbery Close land adoption at a cost of £425 plus VAT and any HM Land Registry fees in respect of searches and registration. The Council will not require the usual Local Authority search and/or drainage/water search.

- 11) Discuss details of provision of additional dog waste bin on the sports field.

There has been a frequent issue of an overflowing dog bin at the far end of the Sports Field. The Parish Council agreed at the F&GP meeting in 2021 that this should be resolved. The Sports and Social Club's preference is to have a larger bin installed at the bottom of the field and to relocate that original one to the gateway by the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will obtain a quote for this option from the Parish Council's dog waste contractor and bring this to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Jeskins declared an interest in this item, due to his involvement with the Sports and Social Club.

- 12) Further consider requests for TPO's on trees in Syresham.

From the Syresham Times request for TPO suggestions, residents have asked for two trees to be considered; the Willow on the corner of The Hill/Wappenham Road, and the Sycamore in the Swingfield.

The WNC tree officer has explained that it is not possible to have a TPO for every worthy tree, there are too many in the County. The Parish Council will need to carefully consider criteria for proposing TPO's before applying.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will circulate the Tree Officer's advice and criteria to Councillors along with photos of all the suggested trees, before a decision is made on TPO applications at the next Parish Council meeting.

- 13) Discuss large quantity of tyres being stored at the Silverstone Shooting Range – Cllr MacIver

RESOLVED: Cllr Bambridge will look into this matter and report back to the Parish Council.

- 14) Discuss impact of maintenance to the graveyard extension on the environment and habitats – Cllr Cranwell
Cllr Cranwell is concerned about the Parish Council's increased maintenance contribution in the cemetery and constant mowing in the cemetery, and would like to see the Parish Council consider the environment in maintenance programmes. There are examples of other Churches adjusting how churchyards and cemeteries are maintained to improve the environment.

RESOLVED: The Church would need to approach families of those buried at the cemetery to ascertain how they would like to see the cemetery maintained.

- 15) Discuss concerns regarding parking at entrance to Whistley Wood - Cllr Green

Cars have been seen parking half-on, half-off the verge along the B4525 near the Crowfield bend, when the parking area at the entrance to Whistley Wood is full. This is a safety concern.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will contact Forestry England to make them aware of the situation and ask if they are able to assist in resolving this issue. Cllr Bambridge will also contact Highways to ask if they can advise on the best way to reduce risks in this area. Ultimately it may be a matter for the Police.

- 16) Receive Swingfield inspection report for August – Cllr Dunkley

- Gate post still loose, this can be resolved during gateway paving works.
- Swings still squeaking after being greased. To be monitored and repair considered if necessary.
- Brambles in Anglia Water area need to be strimmed back from the play area (no use of herbicides).
- Brambles adjacent to brook, will be cleared when fence work and ditch clearance is carried out.
- Swingfield sign still in need of replacement

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will purchase a whole new sign and post. Cllrs Munsey and Green to decide on wording of the sign for approval at the next meeting.

- The gate close system is very strong and it is difficult to push wheelchairs/prams through while trying to keep the gate open.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cranwell to send information to the Clerk on delay catch systems which would enable the gate to close after a short delay.

- 17) Consider request for adjustments to the Swingfield gates – Cllr Green
Request from parent that mesh be installed at bottom of the gate to prevent children from squeezing through under the gate.
RESOLVED: The changes to the paving at the gateway should alleviate this issue, but this will be kept under review.
- 18) Receive update on Climate Change Fair from Climate Change and Environment Committee - Cllr Munsey
Banners will be going up soon, flyers out next week and the rota will go out. Please can all Councillors help. Plenty of stallholders have confirmed, this work is ongoing.
- 19) Discuss outcome of WNC Highways 20mph advisory speed limit trial.
The trial was successful and WNC will soon be rolling out their unitary-wide advisory 20mph scheme, they are just awaiting delivery of the green signs designed for WNC Highways.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council would like the scheme to be implemented in Syresham. The Clerk will confirm with Highways that Syresham is on the list of villages interested in the scheme.
- 20) Consider options for Remembrance Day wreath or donation.
There are alternatives to the plastic wreath usually purchased. An alternative might be knitted/crocheted wreaths or decorations made by local volunteers. Patterns are available on the RBL website.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council will research alternatives for more environmentally friendly wreaths,
- 21) Discuss demonstration of equipment for streaming council meetings.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will arrange for a demonstration by CloudyIT of equipment for recording and streaming Parish Council meetings.
- 22) Approval to purchase two Grow Green Together Conference tickets at £25 each (not £15 as previously expected).
RESOLVED: Two tickets at £25 each will be purchased for Cllrs Dunkley and Munsey to attend the NACRE Grow Green Together Conference.
- 23) Items for inclusion in next meeting's Agenda.
- A43 Closures and more traffic overnight through Syresham
 - Lorries using Malt Lane again
- 24) Date of next Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 28th September 2022.

Meeting closed at 9pm



S Hosking,
Syresham Parish Clerk

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