

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of **SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025** in Silkstone Sports Pavilion.

## **PRESENT**

Meeting chaired by Cllr Meryl Liddell.

Councillors: Cllr Richard Leech, Cllr Janice Wake, Cllr Derek Liddell, Cllr Jim Logan & Cllr Debra Smith.

Also present: Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer: Richard Bell and Cllr John Robers (BMBC).

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Leech again reported that the gullies Cone Lane and A628 both need to be cleared of debris. He also raised with Cllr John Roberts (BMBC) the lack of any communication or engagement from Highways about speed reduction and traffic calming schemes the Parish Council wish to progress and has earmarked reserves set aside.

Cllr M Liddell said that the raised red speed bumps on Knabbs lane Silkstone Common were in a terrible state.

Cllr John Roberts said he would try and engage with Highways.

Cllr Leech once again raised reports of residents having serious problems on the steps between Towngate and Manor Park, called Footpath 29. The Clerk will send a reminder to the Public Rights of Way team. He also reported that the floodlights in the Recreation Ground next to the MUGA were failing and one was out.

The issue of missing bin collections was raised again by Cllr Wake; the situation is taking a long time to resolve. She also raised the issue of a pothole on the way to Cawthorne making it necessary to close the road.

Cllr M Liddell wished to place on record a congratulations to the Old Silkstone Band for their competition success and moving into a higher category.

Cllr Milar raised the issue of speeding on Cone Lane and asked why the proposed speed limit reductions had not been put in place yet. He reported 'near misses' with pedestrians crossing the road from the camp site.

## **24-167 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** to note apologies received by the Clerk prior to commencement of the meeting from Cllr Millar.

## **24-168 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note non-pecuniary declarations of interest were made by Cllr Leech and Cllr Logan in relation to item number 9 on the Agenda as acquaintances of one of the decorators who has provided a quotation for refurbishment of the Pavilion.

## **24-169 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Silkstone Parish Council held on Monday 3rd February, as a true and accurate record.

The Chair signed the minutes.

## **24-170 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED** to note that no Planning Applications have been received.

Cllr Leech said that a Shipping Container had appeared near the site of a previously discussed application on Silkstone Lane.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to make enquiries with the Planning Officer.

## **24-171 EVENTS WORKING PARTY & VE DAY 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2025.**

The Events Working Party has erroneously arranged for the Beacon Lighting to take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 without a resolution of Council.

Following discussion about the merits and otherwise of holding the event on this date rather than the designated National event on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day itself on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025; the Council was asked to vote by a show of hands if the event should go ahead on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Members voted in favour of the resolution by 3 to 2 with one abstention.

The Council was further asked to vote by a show of hands if a Beacon Lighting should also take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May subject to being able to secure a road closure from the Highways Authority.

Members voted in favour of the resolution with one abstention.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to make an application to the Highways Authority for a road closure on Beacon Hill, Silkstone Common for both Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to formally request the presence of one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant's of South Yorkshire at the event on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to arrange for printing of the VE Day Commemoration Booklet as previously resolved.

**RESOLVED** to move the Beacon Lighting to Silkstone Recreation Ground if a road closure is not granted for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The Events Working Party also discussed the possibility of holding a Spring and Autumn Fayre during 2026, getting members of the parish involved with the working party.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

## 24-172 ONLINE BANKING AUTHORISATIONS

**RESOLVED** to confirm the addition of Cllr Logan to the bank authorisation mandate.

## 24-173 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Date	Online Authorisers	Payee	Description	Net	Vat	Total	Payment Type
10-Feb-25		Bothams Prestige	Grounds works - Sports Pitches	£1,025.42	£205.08	£1,230.50	SO
19-Feb-25		South Yorkshire Pensions	Redacted	£472.78	£0.00	£472.78	DD
20-Feb-25		C Landscapes Limited	Village Grass Cutting	£187.50	£0.00	£187.50	SO
27-Feb-25		BT	Office Broadband	£27.11	£5.42	£32.53	DD
27-Feb-25		British Gas	Pavilion Utilities	£145.25	£7.26	£152.51	DD
28-Feb-25		British Gas	Pavilion Utilities	£90.91	£4.55	£95.46	DD
28-Feb-25		Redacted	Pavilion Cleaning (£26 per week) x 4	£104.00	£0.00	£104.00	SO
28-Feb-25		Unity Trust Bank	Service Charges	£9.60	£0.00	£9.60	DD
28-Feb-25		Redacted	Cleaning Contract - Pavilion	£104.00	£0.00	£104.00	SO
03-Mar-25		EE	Office Telephone & Microsoft 365	£37.51	£7.50	£45.01	DD
03-Mar-25		Redacted	Salaries	£912.88	£0.00	£912.88	SO
03-Mar-25		Redacted	Office Allowance	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00	SO
03-Mar-25		Expert Water Services	Legionella Monthly monitoring	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00	SO
10-Feb-25	DS/RL	HMRC	Income Tax & National Insurance	£749.32	£0.00	£749.32	ONLINE
11-Feb-25	RL/JW	BOS	Parish Newsletter	£875.00	£0.00	£875.00	ONLINE
11-Feb-25	RL/PM	Expert Water Services	Legionella Survey	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00	ONLINE
11-Feb-25	RL/JW	Redacted	Pavilion Cleaning	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00	ONLINE
10-Feb-25	DS/RL	Silkstone Luncheon Club	Grant Award	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	ONLINE
10-Feb-25	DS/RL	SC Good Companions	Grant Award	£456.00	£0.00	£456.00	ONLINE
26-Feb-25	RL/JW	Boston Seeds Limited	Woodland Planting of Bulbs	£624.15	£124.83	£748.98	ONLINE
26-Feb-25	RL/JW	Bothams Prestige	Sports Ground Vertidrainage	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00	ONLINE
Total invoices for payment				£6,843.43	£448.64	£7,292.07	

**RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

## 24-174 GRANT APPLICATIONS

**RESOLVED** to note no grant applications have been made.

## 24-175 PAVILION REFURBISHMENT WORKS

**RESOLVED** to approve redecoration of the Pavilion and delegate responsibility to the Clerk to proceed based on the most economically advantageous quotation.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to arrange for replacement of legacy and failing lighting in the Pavilion and replace with LED.

## 24-176 PARISH NEWSLETTER

**RESOLVED** to agree with the recommendation of the Editor and change the name of the Silkstone Parish Newsletter to Silkstone Parish Magazine.

## 24-177 TITO S75 MAGAZINE

**RESOLVED** unanimously to decline advertising in the publication.

## 24-178 ORCHARD WOOD TRESPASS

The Clerk referred to previously circulated photographs and video showing substantial earthworks and creation of off-road cycle tracks in Orchard Wood provided by a resident.

Cllr M Liddell said the cycle track needs to be removed as it is dangerous to other members of the public using the wood for walking and relaxation.

Cllr Leech said that in his view it was children who had created the tracks and that it should be possible for a few people to undertake the required work.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair asked Council to suspend Standing Orders at 7.39pm.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr John Roberts to speak.

Cllr John Roberts asked if there was a way of collaborating with the cyclists to find a solution or providing a space for them elsewhere.

Cllr M Liddell said that it was dangerous to other users, and that CARE group had undertaken planting to improve the natural woodland.

### **REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair asked Council to reinstate Standing Orders at 7.42pm.

**RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to liaise with the handyman, resident who reported the issue and CARE group members to arrange for the wood to be put back as it was.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to organise signage for Orchard Wood prohibiting the use of cycles.

### **24-161 CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTE & CLERK UPDATE**

1) Resident contacted the Parish Council concerning organised off-road cycling routes being created in Orchard Wood.
2) Resident reporting the ongoing theft of coping stones from around the parish, notably A628 near Silverwood Scout Camp.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair asked Council to suspend Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr John Roberts to speak.

Cllr John Roberts said that he and Cllr Alex Burnett has been in discussion with the Leader of the Council about the possibility of expanding on schemes whereby BMBC purchase buildings for community use and wondered if there had been any update on the proposed sale of the Methodist Chapel.

Cllr M Liddell explained that the Methodist Church had not made any decision to sell the Chapel and as the Parish Council has had the building registered as an Asset of Community Value it would hear if the decision to sell was made.

### **REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Chair asked Council to reinstate Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence dealt with by the Clerk.

#### **24-179 MEETINGS & CLERK UPDATE**

Cllr Richard Leech	Warm Welcome x 2, Staffing Committee, Ward Alliance, Twinning, Clerk Appraisal and Meeting with Contractors x 4.
Cllr Derek Liddell	None.
Cllr Meryl Liddell	Events Working Party
Cllr Debra Smith	Staffing Committee.
Cllr Janice Wake	Events Working Party, Clerk Appraisal and Staffing Committee.
Cllr Peter Millar	Staffing Committee.
Cllr Jim Logan	Events Working Party.
Clerk Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Procurement Act Training Completed.</li><li>• English Devolution White Paper Training.</li><li>• VAT Reclaim completed up to Quarter 3.</li><li>• Contractor Meeting – waste bins.</li><li>• Defibrillator Weekly Checks undertaken.</li></ul>

#### **24-180 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public using the power under The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the nature of the following item of business to be transacted as being prejudicial to the public interest commencing 7.58pm.

#### **24-181 CLERK APPRAISAL**

**RESOLVED** to note that the Clerks 2024 Appraisal has been completed.

**RESOLVED** to ask Members to ensure their 2025 appraisal forms are returned to Cllr Leech by the end of September 2025.

#### **24-182 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Committee and move the Clerk up one point on the salary band.

**RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Committee and adopt the Performance Appraisal Policy and revised Job Description.

**24-183 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

The next Meeting of Silkstone Parish Council will be held in the Silkstone Sports Pavilion on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 8.07pm*

Chair's Signature	Date