

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of **SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 2nd June 2025** in Silkstone Sports Pavilion.

PRESENT

Meeting chaired by Cllr Meryl Liddell.

Councillors: Cllr Richard Leech, Cllr Peter Millar, Cllr Debra Smith, Cllr Janice Wake and Cllr Derek Liddell.

Also present: Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer: Richard Bell, Cllr Robert Barnard (BMBC) and two residents.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two residents said that they were not on Social Media but were aware of residents supporting the damage being done to Orchard Wood, they attended the meeting so they could speak with the people who thought that the large holes that had been dug and ramps made are acceptable, so they can try and understand their point of view.

The residents live near Orchard Wood and fully support the Parish Council's position. Their view is that this is mainly older children and not young children harmlessly playing in the woods.

Cllr M Liddell said that the Parish Council understand that there are few places for children to play but Orchard Wood is land owned by the Council that is care for by volunteers who put a great deal of their time and effort into making it an enjoyable place for all members of the community. She further said that unfortunately as the Council do not own any other land in Silkstone Common apart from the two areas of woodland and a small space on The Roses, there is nothing the Council can do to create anything for children.

Cllr Smith said that the only place is Silkstone Common Recreation Ground, but this is managed by Barnsley Council on behalf of the charity which owns it. Regretfully, attempts to take on the lease were unsuccessful but there is another local group that is trying to take it over and develop.

The residents spoke again seeking assurance from the Parish Council that Orchard Wood would remain as a managed woodland and not change use; Cllr M Liddell assured them that Council had no plans to change anything other than fund tree management works and planting with native species.

Cllr Leech said that he was still getting residents complaining about Footpath number 29 between Towngate and Manor Park; which is in a dangerous state; he has heard of several accidents and injuries occurring; Cllr Robert Barnard said he would raise the matter again with the Public Rights of Way team.

Cllr Leech also reported that two stiles were broken on footpath 25 between Kine Lane and Blackergreen Lane. Cllr Barnard said he would also raise this with the relevant team.

Gullies on A628 and Cone Lane were again reported by Cllr Leech who thought it had been over 2 years since these were cleared.

25-024 APOLOGIES

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

25-025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note no declarations of interest were made.

25-026 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Silkstone Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2025, as a true and accurate record.

The Chair signed the minutes.

25-027 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2024/0044	Installation of a dropped kerb access and new parking area in front of property at 8 Highfield Cottages, Silkstone, S75 4JY.
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RESOLVED to make no comment.

2025/0166	Erection of 2 dwellings and associated works – land off Ben Bank Road, Silkstone Common, S75 4PJ
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RESOLVED to make comments to BMBC Planning concerning the impact of building works on Jays Wood, trees, animal species and boundary separation. Biodiversity implications and potential road safety implications will also be raised.

25-028 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED to approve the notes of the Business Development Working Party held on Thursday 29th May and amended Business Plan 2023-2027.

RESOLVED to accept all recommendations made by the Working Party.

25-029 PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES 2025

RESOLVED to adopt the following policies: -

- (a) Social Media Policy
- (b) Disciplinary & Grievance Policy (subject to slight amendment to wording)
- (c) Business Continuity Plan
- (d) Reserves Policy
- (e) Risk Assessments 2025/2026

25-030 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Date	Online Authorisers	Payee	Description	Net	Vat	Total	Payment Type
12-May-25		Bothams Prestige	Grounds works - Sports Pitches	£1,025.42	£205.08	£1,230.50	SO
19-May-25		South Yorkshire Pensions	Redacted	£472.78	£0.00	£472.78	DD
19-May-25		C Landscapes Limited	Village Grass Cutting	£187.50	£0.00	£187.50	SO
27-May-25		BT	Office Broadband	£29.87	£5.97	£35.84	DD
19-May-25		British Gas	Pavilion Utilities	£13.14	£0.66	£13.80	DD
28-May-25		British Gas	Pavilion Utilities	£117.35	£5.87	£123.22	DD
28-May-25		Redacted	Pavilion Cleaning (£26 per week) x 4	£104.00	£0.00	£104.00	SO
28-May-25		Unity Trust Bank	Service Charges	£13.80	£0.00	£13.80	DD
02-Jun-25		EE	Office Telephone & Microsoft 365	£38.27	£7.66	£45.93	DD
02-Jun-25		Redacted	Salaries	£970.77	£0.00	£970.77	SO
02-Jun-25		Redacted	Office Allowance	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00	SO
02-Jun-25		Expert Water Services	Legionella Monthly monitoring	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00	SO
13-May-25		Redacted	Handyman Services	£166.50	£0.00	£166.50	online
13-May-25		Bothams Prestige	Pre Season Grounds Works	£4,486.00	£747.20	£5,233.20	online
13-May-25		Bothams Prestige	Pitch Lining	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00	online
13-May-25		Vision ICT	Web Hosting	£138.25	£27.65	£165.90	online
13-May-25		HMRC	Tax & National Insurance	£867.67	£0.00	£867.67	online
29-May-25	JL/RL	Redacted	Handyman Services	£247.00	£0.00	£247.00	online
29-May-25	JL/RL	Redacted	Cleaning Contract	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00	online
29-May-25	JL/RL	Viking	Waste & Cleaning Products	£129.93	£25.99	£155.92	online
29-May-25	JL/RL	Chartex Surveys Ltd	Building Condition Surveys	£1,000.00	£200.00	£1,200.00	online
Total invoices for payment				£10,165.25	£1,247.08	£11,412.33	

RESOLVED to approve the payment schedule dated 2nd June 2025.

25-031 GRANT APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £266.24 for Silkstone CARE Group towards annual insurance costs using power under Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

Council discussed a grant application from Old Silkstone Band using power under Local Government Act 1972 Section 145 for the provision of Entertainment and support of the arts.

The Chair asked Council to vote as to whether a grant should be approved by show of hands with five Members in agreement and one Councillor dissenting.

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £500 to Old Silkstone Band.

25-032 REPAIRS TO FENCING ON SILKSTONE RECREATION GROUND

RESOLVED to approve a budget of up to £1,000 for fence repairs and £200 for repairs to steps on Silkstone Recreation Ground.

25-033 BERNARDS PLACE SILKSTONE

RESOLVED to agree a budget of up to £2,000 to install a permanent stone wall around the site and ask the Clerk to liaise with suppliers and CARE Group to achieve Best Value.

25-034 CARE – WILD PLANTING IN ORCHARD WOOD

RESOLVED to agree to find the purchase of Wild garlic bulbs for Orchard Wood and if possible English Bluebells.

25-035 CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTE

- 1) Communication with resident concerning damage to Orchard Wood and provision of leisure facilities for children in Silkstone Common.

2) Contact from Rotary Club asking if Summer Fayre was taking place in 2025.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence dealt with by the Clerk.

25-036 MEETINGS & CLERK UPDATE

Cllr Richard Leech	Business Development Plan Working Party, Ward Litter Pick, Warm Welcome x 2, Twinning Meeting, Huskar Community Rooms Meeting, Emptied bins and undertook Community Litter Pick around the Recreation Ground. Weekly Defibrillator check, Code of Conduct training with BMBC.
Cllr Derek Liddell	Business Development Plan Working Party, Litter Pick.
Cllr Meryl Liddell	Business Development Plan Working Party
Cllr Debra Smith	Business Development Plan Working Party
Cllr Janice Wake	Business Development Plan Working Party
Cllr Peter Millar	None
Cllr Jim Logan	Not present
Clerk Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conroyd Wood inspection with Tree Surgeon• Hanging Basket Sponsorship sign's location to Fist Impressions.• Methodist Chapel Open Day• Internal Audit preparation and inspection.• Annual Governance Report sent to External Auditor & Exercise of Public Rights issued.• Defibrillator Weekly Checks undertaken.

25-037 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The next Meeting of Silkstone Parish Council will be held in Silkstone Sports Pavilion on Monday 7th July 2025.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.47pm

Chair's Signature	Date
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