

SUTTON ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE

Thursday 28th April 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the electorate Thursday 28th April 2022, at 7pm in The Glebe Hall, The Glebe, Sutton.

Present: Mr M Inskip (Chairman of Sutton Parish Council)
Mrs R Hughes (Clerk)
Mrs M Wolland (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs L Amos-John (Sutton Timebank Coordinator)
Cllr L Dupre (CCC and ECDC)
Mr Kevin Evans (East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch Association)
15 Members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chairman of Sutton Parish Council - Cllr Mark Inskip.

Mr Inskip welcomed those present to the meeting

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr Newton, Mrs Partington, PPG and the Open Spaces Group.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 5th May 2021.

The minutes were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4. Report from Chairman of Sutton Parish Council on Council activities during the previous year

Welcome to Sutton's Annual Meeting of the Electorate. After two years of virtual meetings held over Zoom, we are meeting once again face to face. Whilst COVID-19 hasn't gone away and we still need to be cautious, normality is slowly returning. We have been meeting face to face again as a parish council since last May after the emergency legislation to allow virtual meetings lapsed. We have once again had members of the public attend and speak during public question time.

We are also seeing hirers of our facilities returning, including many regular meetings of groups and organisations, though not yet at the levels we were used to pre-pandemic and that means our income from hiring is still significantly reduced.

We have now had two years of Sutton Timebank and we will hear more about the fantastic progress that has been made during pandemic as well as the official launch next month in Lucy's presentation later in the meeting.

Last year I said that the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in May 2019, is proving it's worth. That continues to be true. In particular we have seen the benefit of the Neighbourhood Plan policies which cover development to the north of The Brook at the top of Mepal Road. Vistry, who trade with the brand name Linden Homes, recently had their outline planning application for 173 homes approved following the signing of a Section 106 agreement that commits them to providing new playing fields, a new burial ground, a substantial sum to improve the MUGA, contributions to highways improvements, schools provision and more. Neighbourhood Plan policies have also meant that inappropriate planning applications for land east of Garden Close have been refused.

The Parish Council is continuing with a review of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it stays up to date and relevant. There are no substantial changes proposed but all sections have been reviewed and updates are in progress. A Design Code has been agreed by the Neighbourhood Plan working party and being presented to the council. A housing needs survey has also been prepared, identifying the type and mix of houses needed in the village. We had a drop-in event at The Glebe in March to share more background as to why the plan was being updated and the proposed changes. On the planning policy side, we are proposing to add more policies around biodiversity and climate change. We have also identified more Community Actions we would like to include in the updated plan. Over the summer we expect to have a complete revised plan ready for review and feedback. Look out for updates on the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan website <http://sutton-in-the-isle.org.uk/>.

Our Traffic and Transport working party is continuing to address traffic issues. We now have two new vehicle activated mobile signs displaying traffic speeds and flashing red if the speed limit is exceeded. These are regularly moved around locations in the village on Ely Road, The Brook, various locations along the High Street and The America. We are looking to identify a few additional locations. We also used the signs to gather data on traffic speeds on The Row and Mepal Road, and will now be using this data to support a plan to introduce 20mph limits on those roads. On the second attempt we have been successful in our LHI bid to the county council for a safer way to cross the Brook just north of the junction with the High Street. The county council are also proposing to fund a crossing on The Brook by the school.

On Tuesday we agree a grant to Sutton Feast to help support the series of events they have arranged for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have also ordered three commemorative jubilee benches to provide a permanent reminder. Two to replace existing benches on The Row/Painter's Lane corner and by the Bellairs Primary School entrance with a third to go on the recently planted open space at Windmill Walk.

We have added two wheelchair user friendly picnic tables at the Stirling Way play area. We have taken ownership of the phone box on the green in front of Priors Field surgery and are arranging renovation. And work is just getting underway on improvements to the footpath along Bury Lane to Sutton Gault. A new metre wide asphalt path is being laid between 4 Bury Lane and Holbrook Farm. Eventually our ambition is to find a way to restore the Bury Lane footpath all the way to the footbridge across the Gault.

In the year ahead we are looking to finalise the review of the Neighbourhood Plan and to take it to a new referendum after further consultation and engagement with village residents. We are looking to develop more plans with our Climate Change working party, to look both at what the parish council can do as well as local residents. We have recently established a working party to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Library Access Point in the village. And we have just kicked off a working party to look at ideas to engage with young people and to understand what we can do to establish more youth activities.

As ever, there is much more I could mention but don't have time this evening. I will finish by thanking parish council staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year. I would also like to thank all of those parish councillors who have served over the past year. We have some vacancies to fill on the parish council after few existing parish councillors have stood down for different reasons. If you have a few free hours each week and want to get involved in contributing to your local community, contact the Clerk for more details. We really want to have a full complement of members and a range of representation to reflect the diversity of the village and to continue the work we have been doing.

5. To receive report from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Lorna Dupre

Please see reports at the end of the minutes, alternatively these can be found online at www.tinyurl.com/lornasreports

District Councillor Lorna Dupre and Mark Inskip

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6. To receive a presentation on setting up a Sutton Neighbourhood Watch from Kevin Evans, East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Kevin introduced himself to the meeting and advised it was the intention originally of presenting to the parish council in 2019, however with many things was postponed due to the Covid Pandemic.

Neighbourhood Watch is celebrating its 40th Year of the organisation this June and it is still a thriving and active community in 2022 with 241 coordinators in the East Cambs area.

Currently Sutton only has 4 coordinators 3 in the village itself and 1 at Sutton Gault, this gives Sutton a ½ star rating for coverage of the scheme and they feel needs special attention.

Coordinators oversee between 20 to 50 houses in a specific area and can attend meetings in Ely to share knowledge and get updated information.

Neighbourhood watch originally focused on Crime and Anti- Social behaviour historically and although this is a focus now, the scheme has widened its parameters to also focus on developing neighbourly communities, encouraging people to get together (especially during the pandemic) and have an element of care in the community. Holding coffee morning, cheese and wine events and bringing people together. It is also a great scheme and way to pass on information to the local area, encouraging people to report crimes no matter how little so that the bigger picture can be seen for the area.

Sharing knowledge is key, with cyber crime so predominant at the moment with new scams emerging all the time.

Setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme is fairly simple

- Contact Kevin to discuss setting one up
- You will be given briefings and guidance
- Street Signs and stickers will be provided free of charge

It has been demonstrated that there is between 16%-26% crime reduction following introduction of NHW schemes. Check out the national NHS website for further information www.ourwatch.org.uk

7. To receive a report and update on Sutton Timebank from Lucy Amos-John, Sutton Timebank Coordinator.

Lucy the Timebank Co-Ordinator updated the council on Sutton Timebank.

- Coffee Mornings – Every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm, to be extended on a trial basis to provide a light lunch as of next week.
The coffee mornings have been a big hit with attendees enjoying the friendly relaxed atmosphere, the companionship, meeting and making new friends and of course the cake.
Activities includes crafting table, puzzles, digital communication assistance and visits from other specialist areas like healthy living sessions
- Quizzes and cheese and wine evening
- Jubilee events planned – Themed coffee morning and crown trail for the children

Sutton timebank has now successfully completed 701 exchanges and 2186 hours of volunteering with the 75 members.

Timebanks will be holding the delayed Launch event on Saturday 21st May, which is open to the village to come and hear about the initiative and join up. Food and refreshments will be provided along with a bouncy castle for the children and other activities. Please come along and support the timebank.

8. To discuss and consider setting up a village 'Climate Change' group to review ideas for the village.

The chairman discussed the possibility of setting up a village 'Climate Change' group to review ideas for the Sutton and it was felt that sharing the information with the wider community would be beneficial to gauge interest in setting it up.

9. To receive reports from village organisations

Sutton WI

The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

Due to the on-going pandemic in the first 6 months of 2021 there was no question of our WI meeting face to face so we carried on with our monthly newsletters and delivering 'Meetings in a Bag'. Members were very supportive in submitting articles for the newsletter. Our monthly competition where members usually bring or make an object was entitled 'Decades' for 2021. This proved very popular subject and was a great vehicle for people to tell

us about their life experiences decade by decade and we were entertained for months on end by their exploits and experiences, often looking forward to the next episode.

By late spring restrictions were relaxed, for better or worse. For most of the members meeting up as a group was still too soon. In July we finally met as a group outside in the cricket club marquee. We were able to repay the cricket club by baking cakes for their charity match later on in the year.

We were due to meet again at this venue in August but the weather had other ideas and rain stopped play. Our first indoor face to face meeting was held at the Pavilion in September. It was a great feeling to be altogether again, sing Jerusalem and have a good old catch up. We have continued to meet at the Pavilion offering a varied programme of speakers, demonstrations, hands on crafts, music, etc.

We have lost some of our members this year mainly due to their personal and health circumstances but have also gained new members. Four of our members received an award certificate for completing over 50 years of membership which is quite an achievement.

Sutton WI continues to maintain the War Memorial at the entrance to Elean Business Park and support community events which are now back in full swing. We will be joining with Nellies to provide refreshments at The Big Lunch on 5th June as part of Sutton's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will be able to serve refreshments again at the Beast 10K run on 12th June.

During the pandemic the WI's national training venue Denman in Oxfordshire sadly closed. Many of our members had enjoyed attending residential course there over many years. There were drawbacks as it was very expensive to attend a course and travelling there was not always easy. This made it less inclusive. Over the last two years a new Denman at Home training programme has evolved with lots of courses available on line via Zoom. We encourage our members to use this service which is very reasonable at £5 per session and it is also open to non-WI members.

As I am sure all groups represented here tonight agree, there is no substitute for meeting face to face and we trust that Sutton WI will continue to be able to do just that as we go forward into the new post-pandemic but still pretty scary world.

Sutton Scouts

Jane Green the Chair of the Scout Committee presented the report for Sutton Scouts.

Thanks to Sutton for supporting Sutton scouts over the last year, it's been great to see. With the Santa's Sleigh, helping clear areas of the village, cream teas and much more. Fund raising has reached around £20,000 for the year, which is fantastic.

Sutton have 4 active groups with the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and delighted to announce a new group called Squirrel Drey starting at the Glebe on a Thursday 5pm to 6pm which will be for the pre school age children.

Sutton Scouts are always looking for new helpers for the groups and events they hold and to join their committee. In August the old scout hut was removed and they are in the process of finalizing building regulations and planning applications and purchasing an extra bit of land from Sutton Poors Land to make the area larger.

Sutton Brownies

Sutton brownies caters for girls aged 7 to 10 years and meets at the Glebe on a Monday evening. During covid the meeting were held on Zoom which everyone found enjoyable and it was quite an adjustment for some of the new brownies to start meeting face to face.

At the moment there are 20 Brownies and a waiting list for more to join, with only 2 leaders at the moment this means we cannot take on anymore and need more help, so if anyone is interested, please let them know

Sutton Feast Committee

Sutton Feast started over 20 years ago with a dedicated group including the Parish Council to bring together the community for the millennium and we are still going strong.

Its great to be planning and holding events this year after a quiet couple of years, although a few smaller zoom events did take place.

The committee is always looking for volunteers to help with the events and no matter how small the time it will be appreciated.

Jubilee event planning is happening and there will be 3 events that are run by the Feast committee and many other coordinated events from other groups, such as the RBL, Conservative club, Chequers, Football, Cricket and other exhibitions to look forward to. All events will be free to enter to make them available for all the community thanks to the support of the Parish Council.

In addition to the Jubilee celebrations there will be the return of the 10k Beast run on the 12th June and the Picnic in the Park on the 3rd September and maybe another large event in November.

Sutton Pools Land Charity

- In March/April 2021 meetings started again on zoon and towards the beginning of the year face to face meetings have begun again.
- In March 3 new trustees were welcomed and we said goodbye to Rev Mary Hancock
- The charity has 11 Trustees supported by their Clerk
- September 2021 Brett Collard became Chair.
- The Pools land has provided £6600 in grants this year, 4 grants were for local groups including the primary school. 6 grants were for individual residents of Sutton in need of financial support including house repairs, debt support and water therapy sessions.
- The Charity now have 7 new allotment plots at the Row which means they now have 33 half plots and 15 full size plots. They also now have a water connection on both sites.
- Pools land have continued to work hard on objections for the Garden close development based on concerns for future drainage issues on land owned
- The Pools land AGM will be held on Thursday 19th May 2022 at the Pavilion on the Brook at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to the public part of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:54pm

Signed.....

Cllr M Inskip
Chairman of Sutton Parish Council

Date.....