

# SUTTON ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE

## THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the electorate, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, 7.30pm in the Glebe Hall, Sutton.

Present: Mr M Inskip (Chairman of Sutton Parish Council)  
Mrs R Hughes (Clerk)  
Cllr L Dupre (CCC & ECDC)  
35 members of public  
Katie Ixer and Christine – Somersham & Pidley Time banking

### 1. **Welcome from the Chairman of Sutton Parish Council**

Mr Inskip welcomed those present to the meeting.

### 2. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Mr Browne and Cllr Stubbs (ECDC)

### 3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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.**

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council and as Parish Council Chairman I want to give you a summary of some of the main highlights.

Last year I said that the Neighbourhood Plan was a key priority the Parish Council had been working on for the last three years. Well, we have now passed four years and the conclusion is very close. A Neighbourhood Plan is an important planning document enabling villagers to determine how their village develops, determining where and what kind of development should be allowed, the infrastructure to support it and protecting valuable historic and natural assets. Of course there are plenty of planning rules and regulations that must also be followed.

In East Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Plans are more important than ever before, a point made in a briefing note from the District Council's strategic planning officer earlier this month. With the withdrawal of the emerging District Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans are the only mechanism to protect villages from speculative developers building large and inappropriate developments outside agreed village development envelopes.

The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan has been created with inputs from a wide range of people in the village. It was finalised last November and submitted to the district council for Independent Examination. That examination has now concluded and the plan updated with a few minor amendments to satisfy the examiner that the plan can be submitted to a referendum of villagers. Earlier today the District Council issued its official Decision Statement to confirm that the plan can be submitted to a referendum that is expected to happen on 2 May 2019, the same day as the parish and district council elections. If it is supported by a majority in that vote it will become a statutory planning document protecting Sutton as it develops and grows.

Another key priority I spoke about last year was for improvements to and expansion of the Stirling Way play area. I said we should have better play facilities for a village of our size given the number of children in our community. This year I can tell you that is a reality after the work was completed in January. The proposal from our Sports & Recreation Working Party has become a reality. We have a much improved play surface, the additional of a roundabout with disabled access, swings, a zip wire and something called a widow's web. Any visitor to the play area or anyone passing by will see those new facilities are already being well used.

We also see youth provision remaining as a key priority for our village. We continue to fund weekly visits of the Connections Bus. We had looked at alternative options but concluded that we should continue with the Connections Bus. If you know of young people do encourage them to use it from 7pm on a Tuesday evening.

As ever, traffic and transport issues remain a huge concern with village residents and we have a working party dedicated to those topics. The Parish Council was successful last year in bidding for funding to change the priority at the High Street and The Brook junction. Our aim was to discourage rat-running along Church Lane and the High Street as well as to prevent lorries missing the turning into the Brook. Unfortunately County Council highways engineers determined that a priority change would not pass a safety audit because it would cause problems for long articulated lorries approaching from opposite directions. However we were able to re-allocate the funds to an alternative scheme to prevent rat running and deter lorries from missing the turning onto the Brook. At the same time the parish council has been investigating introducing a 20mph speed limit along Church Lane and the eastern end of the High Street from the junction with the Brook. Residents had also raised concerns about dangerous parking on the junction between the High Street and Lawn Lane.

We took all of these ideas and worked with County Council highways officers to develop a combined scheme part funded by the County Council grant and part by the Parish Council. Details of the scheme were recently made available for consultation. That consultation has very recently closed and the next step will be to review the feedback. It is hoped we will then be able to go ahead with the implementation of the proposals.

We are also continuing to work on the opening the path from the Orchards to St. Andrews Close to provide a pedestrian route away from the busy traffic on the Brook. This hasn't proceeded as we would have liked as there are land ownership issues to resolve and legal discussions to progress. However we will keep pushing to make progress.

Finally, parish councillors continue to sit on the joint HCV committee working with other parish councils and local residents to push for measures to address problem of heavy lorries rat running through our village. The opening of the Ely by-pass had raised concerns that the rat running route has become more attractive and therefore we are continuing to lobby for HCV weight restrictions to be introduced.

There are many other items I could mention, but perhaps I will finish with just one more and that is the illuminated Christmas trees attached to properties along the High Street. These were initially introduced two years ago funded by the parish council alongside donations. They were well received in their first year and expanded in number subsequently. We now see them as a regular Christmas time feature in the village.

Before I close I would like to thank our small team of hard working council staff for the contributions they have made over the past year. And I would like to thank my fellow parish

councillors who have given up their spare time. We have been joined by a number of new councillors this year which has help keep all councillor roles filled and added some more diversity to our group of 15 parish councillors.

For all of us, our term comes to an end in early May after four years. Nominations will close in early April for fifteen parish council places for the next four years. If anyone is interested in devoting some of their time to parish council work I encourage you to put your name forward for election. It is simple to be nominated and it's a great way to spend a few hours a month making an important contribution to village life.

**5. To receive report from County and District Councillors**

East Cambs District Councillor Lisa Stubbs – apologies received.

Cllr Lorna Dupre:

Cllr Dupre gave her report on topics relating to Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. The full report can be found at [www.tinyurl.com/lornasreports](http://www.tinyurl.com/lornasreports)

**6. To receive a presentation on Timebanking.  
Kate Ixer. Somersham & Pidley Timebank**

Katie gave a presentation on Somersham and Pidley Time Bank which covered

- What is Timebanking?  
A National Organisation, 250 + Time banks in the UK, 10 in Cambridgeshire.
- Somersham Timebank.  
106 members aged 6 – 97. People are viewed as community assets. Examples of exchanges included gardening, cake making, lifts, and delivery of leaflets. Organisations share equipment and social activities.
- Time bank coordinator is employed by Somersham Parish Council for 15 hours per week, the role is funded by a grant. Insurance and GDPR are covered by the Parish Council.
- Positives for residents include intergenerational work, improved health and well-being.

**7. To gain interest from the meeting on setting up a Timebank in Sutton.**

A number of questions were raised and discussed.

Some residents with professions do join the scheme, however the work is carried out on the same basis as DIY, and the scheme has not deterred from other successful village activities and organisations work. There is a database of members which covers what they can offer and what they want help with.

It was agreed by those present that the Parish Council should pursue a Time Banking Scheme for Sutton. This will be reported to the Parish Council at their next meeting.

**9. Chairman closed meeting at .8.50pm.**

**10. Refreshments and viewing of village organisations' stands.**

Signed.....

Cllr M Inskip  
Chairman of Sutton Parish Council

Date.....