**MINUTES OF THE SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held at 7.30 pm on 20th May 2025**

**in ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS’ CHURCH, NENE WAY, SUTTON**

**Members of the Council Present:-**

Councillors Anne Bodily, Antony Eager, Mick Grange, Peter Lee (Chair) Mike Caskey and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)

**In Attendance:-**

Simon Scriven (Neighbourhood Plan) and two Members of the Public

Cllr Grange said that due to his on-going health issues, he would not stand for Chair, but he would like to remain on the Parish Council and will attend as many meetings as his health allows him to. This was agreed by all the Parish Councillors.

1. **Election of Chair & Vice Chair:**

a) Election of Chair -Peter Lee as proposed by Cllr Grange and seconded by Cllr Eager

b) Election of Vice Chair – Mike Caskey as proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr Bodily

**2. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Appointment of Officers**

a) Internal Auditor – Karen Jones

b) Tree Officer – this role is now merged into the Recreation Field and Parish Habitat Group

**5. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a)Friends of Sutton Church – Alison Maddigan

b) CAPALC – Chair and Cllr Caskey

c) Sutton Lands Trust – Simon Scriven and Anne Grange

d) Neighbourhood Watch – Anne Bodily

e) Parish Cluster (John Clare Countryside) Project – Chair and Cllr Caskey

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th March 2025 were approved.

**7. Updates on Items**

**a) Recreation Field and Parish Habitat**

* The Chair said that the 2-year contract with Nurture had expired in March 2025. He is due to meet with the Nurture Contract’s Manager on 21st May 2025. Nurture has undertaken one cut so far this year. If there is likely to be a large increase in the price, ie above 10%, he will look at a 1-year contract with Nurture.
* Nene Park Trust has visited with a cut-and-collect machine and had undertaken the required work free-of-charge. It was noted that an interesting variation in wildflowers has been observed.
* The tree branches have been cut back – thanks to Simon Scriven who helped the Chair with this.
* A wildlife count will be undertaken this year and the results put onto the website and the information board.

**b) A47 Update**

Cllr Grange said that Andrew Gosling has been appointed the new Project Manager.

**c) Peterborough Cycle West**

Cllr Grange said that Nene Park Trust have been establishing wildlife species on the cycle route. The bridge needs to be completed first and the design changed. The project needs to start by June/July 2025 as Planning Permission is due to expire then. The Nene Park Trust are actively seeking grants for the project.

**d) Sutton Neighbourhood Plan**

Simon Scriven gave an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**e) PCC Draft Local Plan Update**

The deadline for submission of comments on the Draft Plan is 29th May 2025. The main concern is the identification of sites for new housing and employment growth. The Chair had circulated a draft comments’ submission as below:-

* We are pleased to see retention of Sutton’s place as a Small Village in the hierarchy of settlements, with no proposals for peripheral growth.
* We oppose the end date of 2044 for the plan which has generated an unnecessarily high housing demand figure.
* We oppose the scheme for a so-called Sustainable Urban Extension, ie a development of 3,000

houses and an employment park, immediately north of the A47. Our reasons include:

1. The unnecessary loss of high-quality agricultural land
2. Building in a high-quality landscape
3. Inadequate A47 transport infrastructure whether in its current form or post dualling of the Wansford/Sutton section.
4. Adverse impact on the Castor Hanglands NNR due to its proximity
5. Adverse impact on the potential strategic scale Nature Recovery belt extending from Burghley estate to the Nene Valley

The Parish Councillors authorised the Chair to finalise the draft comments’ submission. He will look at how Castor, Ailsworth and Protect Rural Peterborough have responded to the planned development for these two villages as this appears extremely concerning **(Action: Chair).**

**f) Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Bodily had not received any recent reports of any crimes in the village.

**g) Sale of Garden Extension Allotment Land**

The Chair had received a letter of support from National Allotment Society which he has submitted as part of the formal application to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing,
Communities & Local Government.

**h) 24/01440/FUL - Change of use of land to cemetery including ceremony building, maintenance building, car parking and soft landscaping at land to the South of Old Peterborough Road, Sutton**

The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan objections were submitted on 16th May 2025 and the Parish Council’s objections will be submitted on 22nd May 2025. There have been objections to the estimated number of burials (50 in 2027-2028) as it is believed that the actual number will be much higher and will continue to rise. It was agreed to authorise Stephen Upex to undertake a survey of the archaeology of the site (£250). Cllr Grange will draft a complaint about comments made by the Conservation Officer; he will circulate this to the Parish Councillors before it is submitted.

The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan’s and the Sutton Parish Council’s objections will be circulated to all residents on the village email list. Cllr Caskey will let the Clerk have the email addresses of the new residents **(Action: Cllr Caskey).**

**8. To Note the Following Undecided Planning Applications:-**

a) 25/00047/LBC Proposed fibre optic wall box installation at The Grange, 15 Nene Way, Sutton - Awaiting Decision

b) 25/00606/CTR T.1 - Eucalyptus - Lift and thin crown by removal of longer stems and remove incursion into adjacent Silver Birch. Raise to height of 3.5m at 10 Graeme Road, Sutton – Awaiting Decision

**To Note the Following Decided Planning Applications:**

a) 25/00275/WCPP - Variation of condition C2 (plans) pursuant to planning permission at 5 Graeme Road, Sutton – Refused

b) 25/00355/CTR -T.1 - Willow - Removal of dead bow and deadwood, T.2 - Wild Cherry - Crown raise and thinning, T.3 - Maple Acer - Crown raise and thinning, T.4 - Robina - Removal of deadwood and weight reduction, T.5 - Cherry - Reduce 3no. stems and clean stems of vertical new growth by 1.5m, T.6 - Weeping Silver Birch - Removal of stop stem and trimming of lower tips, T.7 - Purple Leaf Cherry - Removal of 2no. stems and reduction of 2no. limbs at 4 Graeme Road, Sutton – Permitted

c) 25/00387/CTR -T1-  Cedar - Remove and replace with a more suitable native species for the space at 18 Nene Way, Sutton - Permitted

d) 25/00453/CTR - Remove cedar tree in rear corner of garden at 18 Nene Way, Sutton – Approved

**9. Finance**

1. Accounts for Payment:

 Clerk’s Salary & HMRC (April) (£210.00)

 Bank Charges (April) (£9.00)

 Eon (April) (£17.36 net, £18.23 gross)

 CAPALC Subscription (£153.63)

 Vision ICT (£40.00 net, £48.00 gross)

 Hiscox Insurance - £1,140.40

1. i) Grants: Spreadsheet (already circulated)

ii) Lovers’ Lane Reading Room and Village Storage (Cllr Grange had no update)

c) Annual Return for Year Ending 31st March 2025

i) Section 1 Statement of Accounts

ii) Section 2 Annual Governance Statement

iii) Section 4 Internal Audit & Report

These were approved by all present and signed by the Chair

**10. Correspondence**

a) Various CAPALC Bulletins

**11. Village Events**

Cllr Bodily said she had no information on any future events.

**12. Matters for Consideration**

a) Cllr Caskey suggested that Wi-Fi is installed in to the church when funds allow. This was agreed to be a good idea.

b) Cllr Eager asked the Clerk to order some dog foul bags **(Action: Clerk)**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

 7.30 pm on 15th July 2025 in St Michael & All Angels’ Church.