**MINUTES OF THE SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**held at 7.30 pm on 15th JULY 2025**

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

**Members of the Council Present:-**

Councillors Antony Eager, Peter Lee (Chair), Mike Caskey and Deirdre McCumiskey (Clerk)

**In Attendance:-**

Two Members of the Public and Gavin Elsey (PCC Ward Councillor)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Anne Bodily, Mick Grange and Simon Scriven.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2025 were approved.

**4. Updates on Items**

**a) Recreation Field and Parish Habitat**

* The Chair said that several residents had cleared the path down to the gate, therefore giving access to the river and further clearance of the path will be undertaken
* He had seen some interesting wildlife in the area including a dead pigmy shrew
* Cllr Eager will clear up the area near to Mr & Mrs Bishop’s property

**b) A47 Update**

On 8th July 2025, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that the A47 dualling between Sutton Roundabout and Wansford has been cancelled. Almost £10 million has been spent on this project to date. Because of the need to move quickly on to requesting a safety scheme for this road, Cllr Grange had contacted Sam Carling, MP who has been in contact with the Secretary of State for Transport and he has asked the Parish Council to identify the main safety issues. Cllr Grange had drafted a response containing 14 points which need prioritising. It was noted that National Highways will be responsible for the design of any safety features that are agreed. Cllr Caskey said it would be useful if the Parish Council had sight of the accident statistics but was informed that only the number of serious or fatal accidents are recorded. Apart from the 14th point (considered unrealistic) the Chair would prioritise the points, pass them to Cllr Grange for onward transmission to the MP.

**c) Peterborough Cycle West**

PCC has signed off the necessary pre-conditions to enable the Cycle West Project to begin the initial stage of the construction of the pedestrian/cycle way.

**d) Sutton Neighbourhood Plan**

The last report to the Parish Council was as at 18th March 2025. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan Contents Group (“The Group”) has met on three occasions, 19th March, 27th May and 26th June. The main focus of the Group in these meetings has been on the application to develop a Muslim burial ground on the farmland adjoining Nene Way, and the publication of the Draft Peterborough Local Plan.

In relation to the burial ground, the Group had been assisted by Kate Wood of Eddisons in preparing and agreeing submissions made in objection to the revised application lodged by CDS, the proposed developer of the site. These submissions set out the concerns that both the Group and the parish Council have in a number of respects, including potential environmental pollution, landscape and visual impact, and inappropriate use of prime agricultural land. The Group has not yet been advised of any date fixed for the hearing of the application, but, through Ms Wood, is keeping in close contact with the Planning Officer.

The Draft Peterborough Local Plan was published in March. A joint submission was prepared and lodged on behalf of the Group and the Parish Council, reflecting concern about the proposed size of development (in particular on the land to the north of Castor) and the need for coordination between the various regional authorities. It is felt that what is currently proposed will lead to major transport issues, and that there appears to have been inadequate consideration given to the infrastructure needed for such a large development.

Looking ahead, the Group anticipates that its attention will again need to be given to the burial ground application, especially if the Planning Officer recommends its approval, but in the meantime the Group is working on the next step in preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is the drafting of the Policies to be adopted.

**e) PCC Draft Local Plan Update**

PCC will publish all comments submitted on the Draft Local Plan on its website. All comments received will be reviewed and any changes arising from the consultation will be made to the Draft Local Plan. It will publish a Proposed Submission version in autumn 2025 for public consultation. This version of the plan will then be submitted to central government who will appoint an independent planning inspector to carry out a public examination into the document.

Ailsworth Parish Council had attended a meeting with Homes England, the government agency and landowner of the proposed development land. It came to light in the meeting that as well as supporting the development north of the A47, they had suggested the inclusion of two further developments around the villages - 250 houses on land west of Ailsworth backing onto Maffit Road and 1,000 houses and business space on land north of the A47 near Sutton. The two additional proposals were not included in the recently issued Draft Local Plan which PCC had consulted on. Ailsworth Parish Council had submitted a letter of complaint about this to PCC and Sutton Parish Council has also been in contact with Gemma Wildman, PCC Principal Strategic Planning Officer on the matter.

**f) Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Bodily was not present so there was no update.

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

The Chair had received a phone call from the Case Officer at the Ministry of Housing,
Communities & Local Government apologising for the delay in replying but stating that the Parish Council’s application to sell small parts of the South Allotment had been diverted into his spam folder. The Case Officer hopes us to have a decision in the next couple of weeks.

**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 Chair gave the following update:

This application was accepted by PCC in November last year. We drafted our original objections to meet the first consultation deadline in December 2024. Due to the complex issues involved we submitted further letters in February and March 2025.The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Committee (specifically members Mick Grange, Simon Scriven, Rob Facer, Keith Strong and I) has led the opposition to this application on behalf of the Parish Council. (The committee comprises two Parish Councillors and four other residents).

A comprehensive set of Parish Council comments necessitated by the complexity of the issues involved took the form of a 9-page letter submitted on 21st May 2 2025. It was sent on our behalf by Kate Wood MRTPI, Planning Director at Eddisons. Her fees were met by a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Since the May letter of objection, the processing of the application has been closely monitored by the NP Committee and Kate Wood through her contact with the Case Officer. Objections to the original Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) submitted by the applicants led to PCC requiring the applicant to commission a new assessment from a different consultant. This was put out to consultation on 2nd July and is currently being assessed and we propose submitting further concerns before the deadline of 25th July 2025

We would like to continue to retain Kate Wood’s expertise through until the application is determined. Cllr Grange and I feel that, with the cancellation of the A47 Dualling scheme, it would from now on be more appropriate for Kate’s fees to be met from the A47 ‘Fighting Fund’. Two of the three major contributors to that (who are on the NP group) are happy for their contributions to the fund to be used in this way.

Recommendation

That Eddisons Planning Director present the further views of Sutton Parish Council on Planning Application 24/01440/FUL, with her fees being carefully monitored and met from a proportion of the A47 Fighting Fund. The Parish Councillors present were happy to accept the Chair’s proposal.

 **5. To Discuss the Following Planning Applications:**

 a) 25/00762/CTR Cherry Tree – Fell at 6 Graeme Road, Sutton – Support

 b) 25/00761/CTR – Ash (Sgl/481208)  Removal due to proven damage to nearby structure at 11 Manor Road, Sutton – Comment that the Parish Councillors would prefer to see it retained and the wall to be diverted around it

 c) 25/00875/CTR - (T1) Removal of willow tree at 12 & 14 Graeme Road, Sutton – To accept PCC Tree Officer’s Decision

 **To Note the Following Planning Applications:**

a) 25/00047/LBC Proposed fibre optic wall box installation at The Grange, 15 Nene Way, Sutton – Refused. The Chair will draft a letter reflecting the Parish Council’s concern at this decision for submission to PCC.

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

 **6. Finance**

1. Accounts for Payment:

 Clerk’s Salary & HMRC (May & June) (£420.00)

 Bank Charges (May & June) (£16.00)

 Eon (May & June) (£34.16 net, £35.87 gross)

 John Hardy (£200)

 Karen Jones (£140)

 Gallagher Insurance (£1,410.40)

 JRB Enterprises Ltd (£64.90 net, £77.88 gross)

 Stephen Upex (£275)

 Anglian Water (£26.40)

 Sutton PCC (£275)

1. i) Grants: Spreadsheet (already circulated)

ii) Lovers’ Lane Reading Room and Village Storage (as Cllr Grange was not present, this was deferred to the next meeting)

**7. Correspondence**

a) Various CAPALC Bulletins

**8. Village Events**

The Chair said there are tentative plans for a social event with live music to be held at Simon and Jane’s on 9th or 16thth August 2025, but this has still to be confirmed due to the short timeframe to finalise the event.

**9. Matters for Consideration**

a) IT Policy – this was deferred until the next meeting. It was noted that the Parish Councillors do not use their personal email addresses when conducting Parish Council business.

b) Standing Orders 2025 – the Chair had read through the new model standing orders which only vary slightly to the 2018 version. He had made the necessary changes so that they apply to Sutton Parish Council. The Standing Orders 2025 were adopted by the Parish Councillors.

**10.** **Public Forum**

A Member of the Public asked that residents are reminded of the deadline for any further comments on the LVIA for 24/01440/FUL. The Chair said the Parish Council’s comments will be circulated along with a reminder of the deadline.

**11.** **Confidential Item** (all members of the public present will be asked to leave the meeting)

a) Review of Agricultural Tenancy – as Cllr Grange was not present, this was deferred to a future meeting

**12.** **Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30 pm on 16th September 2025.