

Sudbury Parish Council

Kate Darcy, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

E: clerk@sudburyparishcouncil-derbyshire.gov.uk

Web: sudburyparishcouncil-derbyshire.gov.uk

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 18th March 2026 6.15pm – Sudbury School

Present: Cllr R Wooley, Cllr S Gascoyne, Cllr. B Holland, Cllr D West

In attendance Parish Clerk and member of the public.

1.To receive apologies for absence

Apologies accepted from Cllr R Simcox, County Councillor Steve Bull and District Councillor John Bointon

2.Declaration of Members Interests

None

3.Variation of Order of Business

None

4.To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 18th March 2025

The minutes were approved by the Parish Council

5.Chairs Report

Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Roger Woolley provided an update on Parish Council activity over the last 12 months and plans for the next year

6.Update from Village Organisations

The following Village Organisations made a presentation – some attached where provided.

Sudbury School, HMP Sudbury, Bowls Club, Friends of Sudbury School, Sudbury Gasworks and St Michaels Church.

7. Matters arising from above

A general discussion took place.

8. Meeting Close

Meeting closed at 7pm

Chairs Report to APM March 2026

I would like to begin by sincerely thanking our Parish Councillors for their continued commitment and the considerable amount of personal time they freely give to help make a positive difference and improve the parish for all who live in, work in, or visit it.

It is important to recognise that, while Parish Councillors are elected officials, they also give their time and effort on a voluntary basis. They undertake this work to ensure that Sudbury Parish not only retains its independence and continues to operate as a Parish Council working solely in the interests of its parishioners, but also to strive to make the parish a better place to live. To further strengthen the Council, we are actively seeking an additional councillor, and we would encourage anyone interested in helping to shape their community to get in touch.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to Steve Bull and John Bointon for the ongoing help, guidance, and advice they provide, as well as for their attendance at our meetings representing the County Council and District Council, and for the support they give in raising and progressing issues on our behalf.

Our particular thanks go to Kate Darcy, our Clerk, for the outstanding dedication and professionalism she demonstrates throughout the year in supporting both the Council and the wider parish.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Sudbury Primary School for kindly allowing us to use their facilities to hold our meetings, as well as to the other organisations within the village that continue to offer their support and assistance.

Over the past twelve months, the Parish Council has faced a number of challenges. It has become clear through discussions with local authorities that routine maintenance of footpaths, hedges, and verges is unlikely to be carried out to the standard we would wish for our village. As a result, the Parish Council has had to engage subcontractors, particularly for hedge cutting, to ensure that footpaths and roads remain safe and passable.

The Bus Stop Book Swap has now been installed at the bus shelter opposite Rectory Gardens, and we have invited feedback from residents via social media. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

We continue to liaise with Sudbury Gasworks, the National Trust, and the Estate regarding parking issues within the village. These discussions remain ongoing.

The Parish Council is also in active dialogue with local authorities and highways teams concerning the poor condition of road markings around the village, particularly on the A515 Lichfield Road, and we will continue to press for the necessary improvements. We have also requested the installation of white lines at the junction of School Lane and Main Road. Although this request was declined initially, we intend to continue pursuing this matter.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we have several projects planned. These include the installation of an additional defibrillator at Sudbury Park to supplement the one already available near the Courtyard in the main village.

We are also exploring the possibility of installing a planter in Sudbury Park, like those currently located at either end of the main village.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with a number of organisations, including HMP Sudbury, to explore how their residents may be able to assist the parish. To date, they have cleared the old road footpath at Sudbury Park and conducted litter picking, both of which have been an immense help and are very much appreciated.

Further projects include the refurbishment of the two wooden benches in the village, along with the repair, refurbishment, or replacement of the notice board at the entrance to Gibb Lane. The Parish Council will also be making use of the notice board located at the bus shelter opposite Rectory Gardens.

To ensure momentum is maintained, councillors meet regularly and remain in close contact outside of the main Parish Council meetings. We are also working to improve our social media presence, with the aim of being more transparent about parish matters and encouraging greater feedback and engagement from parishioners.

Looking ahead to the spring and summer months, we would like to organise a village “spring clean,” including the cleaning of signage, bins, grit bins, and related items, to supplement our regular litter picks. To make this a success, we will need the help of parishioners. While councillors and a small group of regular volunteers already contribute a great deal, they cannot do everything alone.

We therefore kindly ask for your support. Even an hour or so every couple of months would make a real difference. Any time you can give would be very much appreciated and would help us continue to make Sudbury a village we can all be proud of.

We would also encourage parishioners to attend Parish Council meetings to offer input on what they would like to see for their community. As noted, we are also actively looking to welcome an additional councillor.

Finally, we welcome the involvement of the many other organisations within the village and thank you all for attending tonight’s meeting and for providing summary updates on your activities.

The last 12 months have been very busy. This time last year our school-based nursery was planned though construction had not begun until the July.

On starting construction of the nursery in 'The Nest,' I (Sam) was on a holiday of a lifetime with my family in America. I remember being woken to the news that a family of bats had ceased construction and that the project had to be put on hold until the bats had been re-located and the building made right.

We opened our doors in September with two nursery pupils and a capacity for ten. We are now, 6 months later, at 5 pupils in nursery and are hoping for another who has come to view the space this last week.

There is still some work to complete: the front and back doors, fencing and tarmacking of the playground are all subject to planning permission because of consulting with the National Trust and them having some suggestions to the original plans.

As a school, we made the decision to move our key stage 2 class out of the hall in October. We paid for the floor to be sanded and finished so that it is more hygienic for children to have their lunch here. During the October half-term all the staff at school worked collaboratively to move into the new nursery space, meaning that key stage 2 could move into a classroom, far more appropriate for them as a learning space.

We have recently developed a dedicated 'sensory room' within the school to provide a calm, supportive environment for pupils who benefit from sensory regulation. The space has been carefully designed with a range of resources—such as soft lighting, tactile materials, and calming seating—to help children manage their emotions, improve focus, and feel safe when they need time away from the classroom. This development reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing, inclusion, and individual needs of all learners.

We have now moved to being an academy. Thanks to hard work by all parties, we were able to move from being a state maintained, Derbyshire, primary school to being a member academy of ACE: Derbyshire Academy Trust. This has meant a lot of work, but we are already feeling the benefit from all the support that has been provided.

A lot has happened this calendar year and the school is going from strength to strength. From starting this year with thirty-five pupils, we have now grown to forty and are looking forward to accepting two more pupils after the Easter break.

We look forward to continuing our recent path of improvement in the forthcoming year and are all excited about the prospect.

Mr S Hickey -Headteacher

Gasworks – Report to PC for APM

Tim Weber, Trustee of the Gasworks outlined the Charity's community pledge (below).

A brief introduction to and history of the project and was provided and an invitation to the Parish Council to use the venue to host an event of their choosing, be that for purposes of fundraising, community social engagement, or the business of the PC. This is over and above the use of the Gasworks Offered in the attached pledge.

Our Community Pledge Each year.

Sudbury Gasworks will:

1. provide ways in which we can listen to the views of local people.
2. provide access to the building to local people at a discounted rate.
3. support a fund-raising event for a charity, or other not-for-profit organisations, identified by local people.
4. work with up to 5 groups to identify their needs, providing free access to the building during the week, appropriate support & training and encouraging sustainable autonomy.
5. provide free use of the building for Sudbury Primary School for up to 6 weekday sessions.
6. provide free use of the building for Sudbury Parish Church for up to 6 weekday sessions.
7. provide 4 family events for children and young people during school holidays.
8. provide a meeting point for Parish Council events when required.
9. provide heritage drop-in sessions each week.
10. provide quality volunteering opportunities with appropriate training and personal development. Weekday is Monday to Thursday, Weekend is Friday to Sunday, a session is morning, afternoon, or evening.

FOSS – Friends of Sudbury Primary School – report for PC APM

Dedicated to raising funds to enhance children's experience at Sudbury Primary School

Became a registered charity in July 2025.

Jan 2026 increased numbers of PTA members to eight.

Nine events currently planned for the next 12 months including summer fayre, discos, bingo.

Plans to level the school playing field to enable the children to enjoy and be safe whilst playing.

Seeking ways to increase the number of pupils into Sudbury Primary School

Collaborating with the school council to obtain ideas on next items to be purchased

We currently pay for all the children to attend a pantomime at Christmas this includes the transport, school leavers hoodies, discos, and anything else we can contribute towards