

Sulgrave News



February 2007

What a wonderful village!

This newsletter contains some good news about the Castle Green and I would like to add my congratulations to all those involved in getting it recognised as a village green.

There is also a collection of pictures of the Christmas Carol Singers. Thanks to Colin Wootton and the village web site. See if you can find yourself.

A large portion of this newsletter is taken by two lots of Parish Council Notes to catch up with a backlog. No apologies, I think it important as they give a good overview of the process of looking after this wonderful village of Sulgrave, and the councils diligence in looking after its interests.

Thank you all for your contributions, keep them coming.

Once again a reminder about the email address for the Sulgrave Newsletter. It is

newsletter@84f.com

Deadline for the MARCH newsletter - 16th February.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE LEFT AT THE VILLAGE SHOP.

Could I remind all contributors to provide a name and contact number with their articles- Thanks



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This Newsletter is an independent publication, edited and compiled by Tom Cockeram. It is delivered free of charge to all houses in Sulgrave and Stutchbury by Ann & Peter Mackness, George Metcalfe and Vera Smith. Costs are met by Sulgrave Parish Council. It is provided as a service to the community and those involved in its production cannot accept responsibility for omissions and errors, or necessarily agree with its contents.

Regular Events

Mums & Tots	Every Friday in the Church Hall, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
BB&C Service	2nd Sunday of the month at Culworth Church, 11:00 am
Book Club	4th Monday of each month at the Star Inn, 8:00 pm
Circle Dancing	3rd Thursday of the month at Culworth, 7:30 pm
W.I.	2nd Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall, 7:30 pm

WANTED:

Old Fashioned Raised Pie Tin - for making a Game Pie.

Does anyone have one tucked away anywhere that they no longer need?

Please contact Libbie Foster 01295 768343

A Green Heart

Castle Green Registration

Good news!

Northamptonshire County Council has informed Sulgrave Parish Council of the successful registration of the above as a village green, under section 13 of The Common registration Act 1965.

Although this has been a long procedure, it has been well worth the time and effort to secure the future of our village green.

This would not have been possible without the help of the following:

The Castle Green Committee
(with special thanks to Colin Wootton for his wonderful photos).

Lewis Thomas

Graham Roberts

Christine Coles

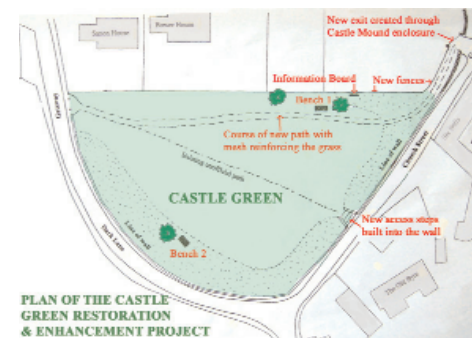
Last but not least everyone who completed the all important 'Evidence Questionnaires'.

A very big Thank You to you all.

Enjoy your village green!

Jo Powell on behalf of the Castle Green Management Committee

A few of the photos by Colin Wootton from the Sulgrave Village web site at Sulgrave.org.uk which is managed by Colin.



Church News

Unfortunately the church is closed until further notice. This has been brought about by an asbestos problem with the organ blower and bellows. While the body of the church has been pronounced clear, the church wardens feel that they cannot take the slightest risk that some one could come into contact with this small area of contamination while the church is open. The blower has already been cleared, and actions are being taken to completely clean the bellows and all ducts and pipes.

Until this is done services are being held at the homes of the church wardens, Shrimp Christy and Chris Beck, or other benefice churches. Look out for notices at the church and village shop.

Women's Institute

Our January speaker unfortunately cancelled, but Keri Swain came to us at short notice, and recounted her emotional rollercoaster journey to gain a residence order to bring up her daughter's twin baby girls. The girls are now 4 years old, and Keri embarked on writing a letter for the girls to read when older - the letter grew into a book that was published last year.

The February meeting promises to be an excellent evening as we look forward to a Cookery Demonstration by Foodsmiths (aka Maureen Jeffery and Janet Smith). Many in the village will have tasted the fruits of their talent. Do come along - young and not so young - all welcome to discover how it's done.

Ann Mackness.

Carol Singing Raises £268.02

The charity supported was the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

The weather was very favourable, (the next evening was distinctly not so!), when approximately 30 adults and 15 children sang their way around the village.

We do thank all the singers and collectors, and are very grateful to those who gave so generously.

We also thank all at Rectory Farm for the most welcome mulled wine and mince pies, and for the trombone and trumpet accompaniment outside their home..

Colin Wootton took many photos of the evening, and I do recommend that you visit, if you can, the excellent Sulgrave website to see us in action.

Ann Mackness.

Mums & Tots is changing

Due to a decrease in the number of toddlers available to attend the Friday morning sessions, Sulgrave Tots and Tea is moving to Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. This is an ideal opportunity for toddlers to make friends of a similar age and develop their social skills in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. We also welcome parents of school-age children, grandparents and other carers who would like to come along, have a chat and meet others from the local area.

A note for your diary :- Saturday 24th March 2007 between 10.00am and 12noon We are holding a Spring Bazaar to raise much needed funds for Sulgrave Tots and Tea. Any donations of bottles and/or tombola/raffle prizes would be gratefully received by Lis Stuart (768840), Caron Mumford (760001), Claire Purves (760640) or Tracey Mullavey (760005).

Tracey Mullavey

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPENDIUM



**PUT ON THOSE WALKING BOOTS
for a village walk on 11th. March**

Meeting at the Old Sulgrave Stores at 2:30

Christina Shillito

PROTECT YOUR CHRISTMAS GOODIES

You can "Immobilise" crime by adding your property's unique IMEI or serial number to a national register which, if stolen, can help you get it back if it is recovered by police.

Members of the public can register their property such as electrical goods, laptops and mobile phones, free of charge, at www.immobilise.com

Fill This Space

Old Village Photos

More news of forth-coming events

Village reminiscences

Village history

etc.

Sulgrave Parish Council

Chairman: Mr K Christy, Wisteria Cottage, Helmdon Road, Sulgrave, Oxon, OX17 2SQ

Parish Clerk: Mrs C Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0DR,
Tel No 01295 276229, Fax No 01295 276658, Email colesnccj@btinternet.com

Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 23rd. November 2006

Finance Report

a) Cheques

The following payments were approved:-

- £151.48 – Powergen (Highways Act 1980 s301)
- £26.00 – CPRE Membership (LGA Act 1972 s112)
- £799.00 – Grass cutting (x2) and strimming (x2) (Highways Act 1980 x96)
- £55.00 – SSLC (Resit fee for clerk to obtain Certificate in Local Council Administration) (LGA Act 1972)
- £165.30 – Parish Clerk (hours) (LGA Act 1972)
- £52.70 – Parish Clerk (mileage to meetings) (LGA Act 1972)
- £293.75 – BDO Stoy Hayward (External audit bill 2005/6) (LGA Act 1972)

The clerk had circulated a spend to date spreadsheet which highlighted the following three cost centres as being overspent, mowing, audit and insurance.

Sulgrave Parish Council 26/11/2006 (Continued)

b) Acceptance and approval of Annual Return 2005/6

The annual return for 2005/6 has now been completed and signed off by the external auditor. Appropriate notices would be placed on the notice-board. Cllr Pollak then proposed "We accept the auditors report on the satisfactory completion of the audit". This was seconded by Cllr Roberts and the remaining councillors voted in favour.

Councillors Reports

Allotment Area

Cllr Roberts has chased the grass contractor about strimming the allotment area. The contractor felt the Round Up had not taken as well as it could have done and there is a lot of invasive weed which is difficult to remove. Once the ground is cleared, new holders can be approached. Cllr Roberts is to do more work on this. He had also received information from Anglian Water about putting a standpipe in which he needs to look at in more detail.

Castle Green Registration

Cllr Powell read out a letter from Mr Watson of Northants County Council to advise that the green has now been registered under the Commons Registration Act of 1965.

Horton Hospital

Strong representations were received and the deadline has now been extended by three months. A letter of submission from the local M.P's to the Minister is currently in circulation.

Newsletter

Cllr Pollak noted that Julie Metcalfe, who helps distribute the newsletter, has broken her wrist. This will need to be monitored to ensure other helpers are found.

Update on Parish Plan

The Chair began by noting that Kathryn Smith of ACRE, who had attended the last council meeting, had been very dismissive of the fact this Parish Council had done a lot of previous work on a plan. The Chair was not sure whether this council should continue the ongoing work as the deadline for funding is 1st January '07, or if they should wait until the new council starts work in April '07. The next lot of grant aid will be due in April '07 and it will be issued on a first come, first served basis. This council have talked about a parish plan for over two years but the level of support has always been low. The Clerk will check to see if one is needed for quality status. A key factor of the plan would be the production of a village design statement. There has been a lot of ground swell for other village projects such as the Shop and Castle Green but there has never been a lot of enthusiasm to produce a plan. Cllr Roberts felt the council could spend time on it but it would just fulfil another government measurement.

Cllr Roberts then proposed the following resolution:-

"Having spent a lot of time studying the workloads and benefits of a Parish Plan, the Parish Council has agreed that no further work should be undertaken on this as there will be no perceivable value." This was seconded by Cllr Moore and the remaining councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Pollak suggested that a celebration document is made to note the achievements of this council. This will be done in the first quarter of 2007 and Cllr Roberts agreed to help.

Update on Action Plan for Pocket Park/Play Area

Cllr Moore noted the tidy up in Pocket Park last month had been successful and he thanked all those who had given up their time to help. They achieved what they wanted to do but it seems to be the same people who help each time.

It was noted that nobody has come forward yet to fill the role of Pocket Park Warden despite a notice being put in the newsletter last month.

The priorities within the play area were agreed at the last meeting and Cllr Moore is currently in discussion with Wicksteed Leisure in Kettering to get quotes. Cllr Moore will apply to the Trustees (R Langdon, J Barrett, Chris Whiteman) of the Sulgrave Educational Trust for a grant.

The Chair thanked the team of people for their work.

Update on Planning Applications

The council had received one new application to consider since the last meeting.

S/2006/1426/AG, Grain Drier and cleaning equipment at Dial House Farm. There were no objections raised by councillors so the council would advise they supported the application.

The following notification of an older application had been received from SNC.

S/2006/0720/P, Demolition of existing house and agricultural buildings. Construction of house, garaging and farm buildings at Fulford Farm, Culworth. The Chair had heard via word of mouth that full planning permission has now been given.

Correspondence

- A letter had been received about Neighbourhood Policing. The Police Authority are looking to recruit Police Community Support Officers and are asking for match funding from the Parish Councils in the region. Cllr Roberts felt this was outrageous and this Parish Council could not support this initiative. The villagers are already contributing 16% to the Police Authority through their council tax and they are getting poor value for money. A reply letter would be sent back.

Open Forum

From the floor, Mr Andrews talked about the allotment area as he has a plot. He said there were three types of weed on the land and mare's tail is the worst ever, being one metre underground. He felt the rent of £30.00 was very expensive for a pensioner as he wanted to grow vegetables and give away to pensioners within the village. The surrounding area has not been cleared for years and the hedgerow is very unruly. The Chair replied that the allotment area is an asset but all work has to be financed. The existing budget has to be managed very tightly and there are several areas already that have been overspent this year. The Parish Council have a responsibility to either improve the existing area or choose to do something else with it. For many years the Parish Council did nothing with the land but it could be that the allotments are on the wrong piece of land.

Cllr Roberts noted that two allotment holders had left the village but prior to leaving, they had maintained their plots. This led him to believe the land was not in too bad a state. He has written to Hook Norton Brewery asking for financial help but this was declined. Cllr Moore had an allotment seven years ago but was defeated by it. It was agreed that the councillors need to rethink for the next meeting as to the future of the allotment area as more money will need to be put into it in the future to bring it up to a good standard.

Date and Time of next meeting

22nd February 2007 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, Magpie Road.

Chairman: Mr K Christy, Wisteria Cottage, Helmdon Road, Sulgrave, Oxon, OX17 2SQ

Parish Clerk: Mrs C Coles, 55 Gillett Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0DR,
Tel No 01295 276229, Fax No 01295 276658, Email colesnccj@btinternet.com

Notes from Parish Council Meeting held 11th. January 2007

Matters Arising from previous meeting

Local Policing

The Chair noted that this was an area of concern at the last council meeting. A letter dated 10th January was sent to the Northants Police Authority noting the uneasiness of the community. The letter went on to say that there have been a number of burglaries but not a huge response from the police force. The council will wait to see what reply they get.

Clearing of drain gullies

Cllr Roberts has walked around the village to look at the drains. The drains in Little Street, opposite Rectory Farm and at the corner of Manor Road are choked with mud and leaf litter. The drains in Church Street and Park Lane have a lot of leaf litter. The gullies in Towrise are also choked with leaf litter. Atkins have advised that the drains are due to be cleared in February but the Clerk will check this is correct.

Setting of Budget for 2007/8

The clerk had emailed a proposed budget figure for the coming year which had not increased from the previous year. Several cost centres have increased and others have been reduced. The clerk's salary has increased by 5% to support her ongoing work and training. Costs for Pocket Park have been separated between maintenance and inspection costs. Postage and fax costs can be reduced as email is used more now. Audit costs have increased to allow for the cost of an external auditor which is a legal requirement now.

Cllr Moore queried the grass cutting costs and whether it would stay within budget as the weather seasons are changing. The Clerk had already emailed the councillors to advise that grass cutting was within the budget this year. A contribution of £417.00 will be received from NCC soon and £560.00 has been re-imbursed from the Parochial Church Council for the cutting of the churchyard.

The budget for 2007/8 was then presented as follows:

Cost Centre	Budget
Public Lighting	£875.00
Village Mowing	£2000.00
Pocket Park Inspection	£65.00
Pocket Park Maintenance	£250.00
Travel Tokens	£0.00
Communication (Newsletter/Flyers for mtgs)	£450.00
Village Maintenance	£400.00
Church Hall Hire	£250.00
Church Clock Maintenance	£100.00
Section 137 - Subscriptions	£160.00
Audit	£480.00

Sulgrave Parish Council 11/1/2007 (Continued)

Employee Costs (Salary/Travel)	£1850.00
General Admin (Postage/Copying/Fax)	£400.00
Insurance	£750.00
Sub Total	£8030.00
+ 50% of the total annuity payment of Public Works Loan for Community Shop and Post Office	£1358.00
Level of Spend	£9388.00
Contingency	£200.00
Total	£9588.00

The Chair proposed that the precept level for 2007/8 be set at £9588.00. This was seconded by Cllr Powell. All the remaining councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The Chair then advised the floor that the precept had decreased by £12.00 this year. It is hoped that the council will be able to transfer £1250.00 back into the Burial Ground Fund in March once all the yearly expenditure has been agreed.

Finance Report

Cheques

The following payments were approved:-

- £100.00 – Sulgrave Parochial Church Council (maintenance of church clock)
- £73.41 – ABB Lighting
- £40.64 – BT Fax Bill

Councillors Reports

Central Networks (Underground Cabling)

In a letter to the Clerk, Central Networks have confirmed the new site for the transformer. The original site was owned by Northants County Council and they demanded a lot of money from Central Networks.

The new site, which is free of charge, is in front of the Anglian Water pumping station at the bottom of Helmdon Road on the public highway. They propose the work will take place in 2007. In a second letter from Central Networks, they advise that four of the poles support street lighting brackets. As the Parish Council are responsible for lighting in the area, it will be their responsibility to provide the replacement columns. Central Networks will provide the electrical system to the column free of charge provided the column is placed within three metres of the original bracket position or a mains underground electricity cable. Cllr Cherry will check this information as previously the poles with street lights have been left. At some future date the Parish Council will have to look at replacing all the lamps and may have to take out a Public Works Loan to pay for it.

Allotment Area

The roundup has reduced the long grass and weeds and Cllr Roberts asked if £200.00 could be set aside from the maintenance fund for the work to be carried out in February/March time. He then suggested that the ground is marked into six allotments and villagers are sought to see who wants to take one on at £30.00 per annum. The income can be used to provide a water standpipe in year 1 and then form a fund in subsequent years to further improve the area. Cllr Powell noted that there may not be six people in the village who want allotments. The Chair agreed this was a good point but as the council were coming to the end of their elected term (four years) they should try one more time to improve the area. There is one tenant left

Sulgrave Parish Council 11/1/2007 (Continued)

currently but two people have been actively asking about allotments very recently. The Chair proposed that this money is spent and this was seconded by Cllr Cherry. All the councillors voted in favour.

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

The Chair noted he had now received the hard paperback copy from DEFRA which would be circulated to all councillors. The main area of concern for this council is dog control orders. Dogs can be banned from Pocket Park which is a children's play area. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with Helen Hunt of South Northants Council to discuss this further.

Update on Planning Applications

The council had received one new application to consider since the last meeting. S/2006/1674/P and S/2006/1675/LB – Conversion of traditional buildings into three dwellings and construction of two new dwellings (revision of S/2005/0883/P) at Dial House Farm, Magpie Road. The plans had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and they were put out on a table for the villagers to see at this meeting. Four councillors objected to the application. It was then agreed the council would object for the following reasons: There is not enough detail for the 2 new houses. The glazed lantern in the roof of Barn 1 spoils the look of a traditional building.

Plots 8 & 9 have increased in size by another storey and will overlook Dial House Farm.

The following notification of an older application had been received from SNC. S/2006/1426/AG, Grain Drier and cleaning equipment at Dial House Farm. This has been approved by SNC.

Approval of Parish Council Equal Opportunities/Health and Safety Policies for Castle Green funding

Prior to the council meeting an Equal Opportunities Policy was circulated to all councillors to seek their approval. This was drawn up to support the funding application that is currently being submitted to NCC Voluntary Sector Support Unit by the Castle Green Committee. Cllr Pollak proposed that this was adopted and this was seconded by Cllr Powell. The Chair signed and dated the policy. A Health and Safety policy must be agreed by the end of January to be submitted with the same application to NCC. Cllr Pollak suggested that an introductory remit is typed with details of a risk assessment on all assets owned by the Parish Council. The Chair replied that this policy would have to be brought to the next council meeting in February and the councillors will vote retrospectively. Cllr Pollak will check with NCC to ask if it has to be submitted by the end of January as the grant panel do not meet until April.

Update on Action Plan for Pocket Park/Play Area

This will be carried forward to the next meeting as Cllr Moore was absent from the meeting due to work commitments. The Clerk has received prices for the Pocket Park signs and will email them to Cllr Moore.

Matters for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting

- Continuing action plan for Pocket Park
- Dog Control Orders – how to move this forward

Date and Time of next meeting

22nd February 2007 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, Magpie Road.

February 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	3	4 Benefice Holy Communion 10:00 am Culworth
5	6	7	8	9 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	10	11 Holy Communion 8:15 am Sulgrave
12	13	14 W.I. Meeting 7:30pm Church Hall	15 Circle Dancing 7:30 pm Culworth	16 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall DEADLINE March Newsletter	17	18 Evensong 6:00 pm Sulgrave
19	20	21	22 Parish Council 7:30pm Church Hall	23 Mums & Tots 1:30pm Church Hall	24	25 Mattins 10:00 am Sulgrave
26 Book Club 8:00pm Star Inn <i>The House of Sand & Fog</i> Andre Dubus	27	28				

