

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST 2017  
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Chris Jackson (Chairman), Neil Higginson, Troy Daniels, Laura North

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**17/15a. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Priestman and Mr Fonge

**17/15b. To receive Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**17/16a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**17/16b. Matters Arising**

SNC came and swept the road in Little Street following the complaints about excess gravel at the last meeting. They were asked to sweep the footpath and road but only swept the path. It was agreed they did a very poor job. The Parish Clerk to make contact with SNC again.

**17/17. Public Participation Session**

There was nothing to discuss.

**17/18. Co-option of New Councillor**

Anna Faure has shown an interest in the vacancy on the Parish Council following on the resignation of David Walker. She moved into Forge Cottage and has been a Chartered Accountant for a long time. She is looking forward to embracing the village and bringing her skills and financial advice to the Parish Council. It was agreed to co-opt Anna onto the Parish Council.

**17/19. To discuss and approve maintenance works to the Pocket Park**

The annual play inspection was carried out in June. Cllr North reported the netting on the climbing frame which needs fixing. As it is dangerous she will remove the netting and contact the supplier about an urgent repair.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to pass the supplier contact details to her.*

The small bridge and climbing wall both require fastening. The basketball ring has snapped off but can be replaced in due course. The large gate into the park is sagging. This will need addressing in the long term. Overgrown nettles in the nature area were noted.

Grass cutting in Pocket Park was discussed as the grass is long. A volunteer was going to cut the grass but there has been an unexpected problem with this arrangement. The verges on Helmdon Road were also discussed as some are not being cut near the bottom end.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to make contact with Philip Daynes and ask the cost of an extra cut in Pocket Park and discuss the verges which are not being cut.*

**17/20. To receive an update on the Defibrillator project**

Work is continuing. A grant of £1350.00 from the New Homes Bonus has been offered and the acceptance letter has been signed and returned.

A letter has been drafted to the SVS Committee about accessing an electricity supply. The phone kiosk is still there but the Parish Council can ask for it to be removed. For the benefit of the new Councillors it was noted that the shop is the best option as it is the most central position.

**17/21. To receive an update on the replacement bus shelter project**

Work is continuing. The current bus shelter is 63 years old. The shortlisted options were put out to the village. There was 13 votes for Great Leigh and 20 for Countersthorpe. The Countersthorpe shelter is bigger and more expensive. It is hoped the new shelter can be funded through the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Grant and the precept next year. The next deadline for the NHB grant is 30.11.17. The timescale is for installation in Spring 2018. The new shelter will be used as a lot of children wait for the school bus by the shelter. A lot of people already use the bus but the service is unreliable.

**17/22. To discuss the possible purchase or extension of the church lease**

Work on HS2 will be starting soon and they have agreed to fund business and community projects. The Parish Council are interested in the community side to try and improve the Church Hall. The hall is on Glebeland and the lease is on a rolling basis. Enquiries have been made to either purchase or extend the church lease as HS2 will not invest in a short term basis. To invest in a new build is beyond the means of the PCC but there is a possibility to extend the lease to 27 years. The cost will be £4500.00 & VAT. This could form part of the grant application to HS2. This work will be covered under Cllr Responsibilities.

The HS2 meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Sulgrave Manor was briefly discussed. It is not a presentation evening. The Chair agreed to attend.

**17/23. To discuss the Neighbourhood Watch scheme**

The Parish Council have been made aware of Anti Social issues happening in the village. The Local Authorities are now involved and dealing with the issues.

The Parish Council have subscribed to Neighbourhood Watch for another year. Janet Smith does not want to be the Co-ordinator. It was noted that Neighbourhood Watch Schemes do make a difference if there is local knowledge it is active.

*Action: Cllr Higginson will find out who the Crime Prevention Officer is and apply for the free NHW street sign. Cllr Higginson to make contact with Janet Smith.*

**17/24. To discuss Councillor Responsibilities**

The Parish Clerk will draft a new list and circulate to all Councillor's for discussion and agreement at the next meeting.

**17/25. Finance**

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*

£12.40 to Texprep (copying of A5 leaflet – change of date)

£35.50 to Texprep (newsletter copying)

£300.00 to Sebs Arboricultural Services (removal of tree in Pocket Park)

£600.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)

£36.00 to CPRE (membership)

£30.00 to Parish Clerk (contribution to broadband costs)

£300.00 to Nene Construction Management Svs Ltd

**17/26. To receive an update on Planning**

S/2017/1818/FUL, Demolition of existing rear conservatory and proposed two storey part single storey extension at 14 Spinners Cottages, Magpie Road.

S/2017, 1905/TPO, Crown lift one sycamore tree by 2 metres at The Thatched House, Manor Road. No objections.

**17/27. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:

- Anglian Water. The Parish Clerk to circulate.
- Northants CALC, Notice of AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> October
- Northants ACRE, Social Media Workshop on 4<sup>th</sup> October
- SNC, Private Sector Housing Team, Empty Homes Project
- Meeting with Stephen Mold, PCC for Northamptonshire
- NCC, HS2 Liaison Group
- NCC, Commission of a book 'Spanning the Centuries, the historic bridges of Northamptonshire
- Letter from resident about anti-social behaviour issues
- SNC, Consultation Briefing for Pre Submission Draft Local Plan - Part 2. The Parish Clerk to re-circulate.

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:-

- SNC, Private Sector Housing Team, Empty Homes Project. Parish Councils are being asked to report empty privately owned properties that have been vacant for more than 6 months and where the owner or responsible person is not taking action to bring the home back into use.
- Meeting with Stephen Mold, PCC for Northamptonshire. Meeting dates for October, November and December have been emailed. It was agreed that if a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator can be found that a Councillor tries to attend one of the later meeting dates offered with the PCC. Rural crime is a hot issue and this would be the opportunity to discuss those issues.

**17/28. Matters for consideration at the next meeting**

Councillor Responsibilities

Footpaths including AY4

**17/29. To approve the following resolution:-**

*"That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw from the meeting at this point".* The resolution was passed.

The member of the public left the room.

