

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015  
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite, Sally Harding, Clare Pollak, Jo Powell, Graham Roberts, Tom Russell, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and nine villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1a. Apologies**

None

**1b. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Russell declared an interest in the planning application at Spencer House, Little Street.

**2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The minutes were agreed and signed. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Pollak.

**2b. Matters Arising**

The Chair gave an update on the paving in Little Street through to Madams Close. The Highways engineer has looked at the area and is happy in principle with the idea. This is subject to finding the funding to pay for it. There is one condition which will be to fell a tree on the corner. Cllr Pollak was able to point out the correct tree at the time of the site visit by Highways. The Parish Council will make an application to fell the tree.

Mrs Blayney suggested that if funding was going to be a problem, some paving stones could be used that were left over when the Kirkpatricks did their driveway. The Clerk will ask County Cllr Ian Morris if he can help with the funding. Mrs Blayney asked if Highways are responsible for reseeding the grassed areas. The Chair will check.

**3. To receive an update on the village lighting project**

Cllr Roberts advised that he has made contact with Chris Barnes of Nene Construction Management Services Ltd who has managed similar projects in the past. Cllr Roberts has emailed the original enquiry and outline specification to him. Mr Barnes will charge £500.00 plus expenses. Additional meetings will be charge at cost & 10%. Cllr Roberts proposed that the Parish Council appoint Mr Barnes as Project Manager with immediate effect. This was seconded by the Chair. The Project Manager will assist in drawing up new tenders as the original quotation is nearly twelve months old.

The Parish Clerk has made contact via telephone with Alan Munn, the SNC Conservation Officer to advise him of the project. A further meeting will be arranged with Alan Munn, Chris Barnes and Cllr Roberts. Phase 2 of the project would be for Chris Barnes to represent the Parish Council, act as Clerk of the Works for the installation and execute the works.

Cllr Roberts has received a quotation from DW Windsor for more traditional lanterns which are three times more expensive than the previous ones. There is no price for installation yet. Cllr Roberts included a leaflet in the last newsletter describing the two lighting systems and asked for feedback.

Cllr Roberts was also asked to look at lower cost solutions, LED lights compared to sodium lights. LED lights are white and will give 3000 lumens whereas sodium lights give 2000 lumens. Savings of 60% would be made by using LED lights.

Lighting times were discussed. On the Main Road there could be dawn to dusk lighting. Side roads would be dusk to midnight or until dawn and dark streets would be lit from midnight. The new lighting system will have the ability to alter settings as and when.

Mrs Blayney asked if the proposal is to use modern poles. Cllr Roberts replied that where there is pole on a telegraph pole with a BT service, the new lantern will be put on an angled bracket. Concrete lanterns will be taken away and replaced with a new pole.

The Chair asked why the Parish Council was going to retender when the preferred contractor has remained keen, been very helpful and was not increasing their price? Cllr Roberts replied that the tenders are now nearly 12 months old and Chris Barnes may know some other companies to approach. It is important that the price is right. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

Mr Christy said that if the Parish Council were going to apply for a Public Works Loan they needed to watch out for budget timings.

Cllr Pollak asked if there were any grants available to help pay for the lights. Cllr Roberts has done a lot of research and there are government schemes which are interest free. They do lend at low rates but the payback period is much shorter over 5-6 years and the payments would be more expensive.

#### **4. Councillors Reports**

*Public Bridleway AY4 path to Weston under the railway bridge* - The Chair had received a letter from NCC Highways to ask if the Parish Council would withdraw their previous objection. The Chair replied that the Parish Council would explore whether it is impossible to maintain the existing route. The Chair has taken photos and the bridge is in poor condition at both ends as moisture is getting into the brickwork. It could be brought back into service if money is spent on it. The Chair has contacted an engineer and he has quoted a total amount of £960.00 & travel (45p per mile) from Oxford, to inspect the bridge and produce a structural report. The Chair asked councillors for their views.

Cllr Roberts felt that the bridge may go from bad to worse and then be beyond repair if nothing is done. He supported the arguments and felt the investment would be worth it.

The Chair then suggested that perhaps the landowner, who is the college could be approached and asked to pay a share of the cost. Mrs Blayney noted that the college may have an engineer who is cheaper. A surveyor did come to a previous Parish Council meeting and it may be appropriate to have a talk with him. The landowner is looking for a cost and effective option and there is little money to do any work. The Chair will explore all these options first.

*Improvements to the Church Hall* - This is work in progress.

*Repairs to Bus Shelter* - Two quotes have been received. The Chair is waiting for a sketch diagram. This work will be linked to the new notice-board.

*Signpost by the Magpie* - This is still waiting to go back up by Highways.

## 5. Finance

- *To agree the sum of £150.00 for the renewal of the Sulgrave Village Shop Lease agreement. To sign and agree the Terms of Conditions of business. Councillors agreed to this payment and the Chair and Cllr Roberts will sign the Terms and Conditions of Business.*

## 6. Planning

### **New applications received**

- *S/2015/0059/FUL, Single storey rear extension at Spencer House, Little Street.*
- *S/2015/0105/FUL, Single storey rear extension pitched roof to porch at front and window to east elevation at Belmont, Little Street.*

### **SNC decisions**

#### **Under consideration**

- *S/2014/2372/FUL, Demolition of existing barn and erection of two dwellings with car ports and associated works at land to the rear of Bentley Farm Bungalow, Helmdon Road.*
- *S/2014/2488/FUL, Demolition of dilapidated single storey extension and replacement single storey extension and internal alterations at Old Sulgrave Stores.*
- *S/2014/2489/LBC, Demolition of single storey extension. Replacement single storey extension. Relocation of rooflight and replace door with window in east elevation. Alterations to internal layout at Old Sulgrave Stores.*

Mr and Mrs Holden of Old Sulgrave Stores were at the meeting. Their current application is under consideration by SNC. The second scheme was rejected and they were disappointed that the Parish Council had objected to the recent application. The Chair advised that the Parish Council are invited to make comments but also have to reflect the views of the community. The shop is in a prominent position in the centre of the village and the Parish Council are pleased that improvements are being made as the building has been in a sorry state for a long time. They are keen to see the old shop flourish and be in a good state of repair again.

Mr Holden advised that work is progressing and new windows are going in next week. They put in a recent application but it is not to everyones liking. There was a wave of opposition which they felt they had addressed on the second application. Two elements were reduced and traditional materials were going to be used. They would like to live as a modern family but are at a loss as to how to do the right thing and please everyone. They are hoping to be able to reach a compromise which everyone can agree on. Mr Holden welcomed anyone to come and view the property. The application will go to full committee in early March and SNC will make the final decision. The Chair thanked Mr and Mrs Holden for attending the meeting.

#### **Approved/Granted**

- *S/2014/2322/FUL, Part single, part two storey front extension, single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension at The Limes, 2 Manor Road.*
- *S/2014/2289/FUL, New entrance gates and timber and glazed all to infill garage door opening at The Old Farmhouse, Manor Road.*

## 7. Correspondence

- Steve Davies of Royal Mail, Site meeting and options for siting of postbox
- Northants Highways, Urban Highway Grass mowing 2015.
- Email from George Metcalfe, litterpick
- Northants CALC, No capping for Parish & Town Councils
- Cllr Ian Morris
- Iain Anderson, Youth Development Worker for South Northants
- Andy Gibbons, Specials Recruitment Officer at Northants Police

- CPRE, Thoughts and experiences of rural broadband

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:-

- Steve Davies of Royal Mail, Site meeting and options for siting of post box.  
The Clerk met two representatives of Royal Mail in the middle of January to look at two new positions for the post box. The preferred position is to the right of the shop on the grass bank. The second position is across the road next to the bus stop on the tarmac. The process will take 46 weeks at the most whilst utility searches are undertaken. This post box is very old and not seen in villages now but Royal Mail are unable to get hold of another ornamental one as a replacement. Royal Mail have agreed to paint and service the existing post box. The post box will remain outside Old Sulgrave Stores until it is ready to be moved.
- Northants Highways, Urban Highway Grass mowing 2015. A grant payment of £418.70 will be paid at the end of 2015. The agreement to be signed by the Parish Clerk.
- Email from George Metcalfe, litterpick. Thanks was given to George for all his work. More equipment will be needed and councillors are to look at suitable weekend dates to do a litter pick. An article will be put in the newsletter.

## **8. Open Forum**

Colin Wootton gave an update on the Spring Farm Ridge Windfarm. As advised at the last meeting the Secretary of State had dismissed the appeal. Since then, Broadview, the developer has lodged a High Court Challenge. This is because MP Andrea Leadsom wrote letters to the Secretary of State without copying in the developer. Broadview were able to get this information through the Freedom of Information Act. A decision will be made in July. The parish are not involved at all. Thanks was given again to Colin for all his work.

Mrs Blayney asked if there was an update on finding the original short walks document so that alterations can be made.

*Action: Cllr Pollak will speak to Martin Sirot-Smith.*

Mrs Blayney noted that there are bags of dog mess left regularly inside the gate of Madams Close. Cllr Roberts has also noticed an increase in dog mess generally.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to get more stickers from SNC.*

Mr Christy gave an update on HS2. He started a petition in the Autumn and he and his wife were called before the select committee two weeks ago. He raised three important issues, traffic, waste and ecology. He feels there is not enough local authority involvement about the change in the roads. Mr Christy does have up to date maps which anyone can view. There will be millions of tonnes of earth to move and at the tunnel at Thorpe there could be 35-40 HGVS moving earth each every day. There are currently 900 people employed on HS2 and the spend to date is £1.5B. The Chair thanked Mr Christy for all his work.

## **9. Date and time of next meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm