

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2016
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chairman), Chris Jackson, Jo Powell (arrived late), Will Priestman, Graham Roberts, David Walker, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Colin Wootton

1b. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in his planning application at Middle Barn, Manor Road.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2016

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

2b. Matters Arising

Countryside Leaflet - The Chair reported that he had offered to scan the leaflet.

Bin outside the pub – The pub landlord had spoken to the Chair as he was very concerned about the bin and the situation was getting to be unmanageable. The Chair has been to have a look and there are bags of dog poo all around the bin. The bin is on brewery land but it is unclear still who actually owns it. The Parish Clerk to try and find out ownership. If the bin is owned by the pub, they will be at liberty to remove it.

3. Pocket Park – To discuss the management of the pond and any progress to repairs to equipment

Cllr Powell had emailed Rod d'Ayla to advise that his costs were approved. He said it is not a good time to do any work and to wait until the Spring. If he is in the area he will call by and start his assessment. The earliest date he gave was the first week in February but then he advised that he has other tasks to finish and it will be later in the month. Cllr Walker has agreed to meet him too. The Chair went to have a look at the area and was reminded how nice it is. The structure is there and very robust. It would be good if it was used as an educational resource.

Action: Cllr Powell to remind Mr d'Ayla if nothing is heard from him in the next few weeks.

4. AY4 footpath – To discuss proposals for the way forward

Following the letter received from NCC Highways, Cllr Jackson has arranged a meeting in Sulgrave on Tuesday 16th February at 9am with the Land Agent, Angus Richards, Colin Wootton and NCC Highways. They will sit down and openly discuss the options. There is a temporary closure on the bridge but it is hoped a resolution can be reached to reopen it.

Various option routes were circulated by Cllr Jackson prior to the meeting. Option 3 was agreed by Councillors to be the best route. The Parish Council will still maintain their original objection to the proposed diversion.

Cllr Walker asked Cllr Jackson to ask at the meeting who has responsibility for the bridge and who has actually said that they will not repair the bridge. From the floor, Mrs Pollak asked the cost to rebuild the bridge. It was between £50-60K but would now be approximately £80-90K. Mrs Pollak had looked into grant funding through Local Heritage some time ago. She agreed to pass the paperwork to Cllr Jackson. It was agreed that Cllr Jackson could use the church hall for the meeting. Thanks was given to him for his work on this.

Action: Cllr Jackson to circulate previous correspondence to Councillors.

5. To discuss the removal of trees at the base of The Mound

The Chair and Cllr Powell had met Mr and Mrs Pollak. Cllr Pollak advised that this was an impulse purchase when they bought their house but they had enjoyed providing a resource for the village even when it snowed. There is a row of overgrown hedge on one side and the trees have become large over the years. Previous costs for the work ranged from £1K to £2.5K. At least two trunks have spread and the roots are getting into the structure and pushing out the stone. Mrs Pollak has a plan of the trees on site which she agreed to pass to the Chair. Mrs Pollak invited all councillors for a site meeting. A date and time of 14th February 11.30-12.00 was agreed to meet on site.

Cllr's agreed they would be happy to submit the application as the VAT could be claimed back. There is a New Homes Bonus Grant available of £1203.00. Permission would be needed from SNC as the trees are in the Conservation Area.

Cllr Walker asked if there were any covenants on the land. He raised the point that a new owner may want to do something different and the money will have been spent. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is protected already. However the Chair agreed that Cllr Walker did have a point. More research would be done on this before the next meeting.

Cllr Roberts asked if there were any concerns raised previously from neighbours. Mrs Pollak did invite those who overlooked the site and some did complain. The neighbours would need to be consulted again. Cllr Walker pointed out that people own their property but not their view.

Once the trees are cut down, they could be used as logs for the village although this would cost more. Work to the trees cannot be done whilst there are leaves on the trees and birds are in nesting season.

Action: Councillors to attend the site visit on 14th February. Mrs Pollak to get quotes for the work.

6. Councillor Reports

Countryside Leaflets

Cllr Powell gave an update on the Countryside leaflets. A quote of £750.00 was received from Kall Kwik for 1000 colour copies of the leaflet. The cost for black and white copies is £280.00. It was agreed to purchase 1000 colour copies of each leaflet at £750.00 each. A note to read 'Funded by Sulgrave Parish Council' to be added to the front of each one. The Chair to include a note to be put next to AY4 footpath to say there is a temporary closure at the time of printing.

Action: The Chair to circulate a draft.

Street Lighting

Cllr Roberts noted that he is meeting T Clarke and Chris Barnes on Tuesday 16th February. They will be reviewing documents and walking around the village. Cllr Roberts will circulate the documents when ready. Materials have been ordered now. It has been agreed that an area in the Church Hall car park will be fenced off for T Clarke to keep their equipment and they can use the toilet and kitchen facilities in the hall. In return they will make a contribution to the Church Hall. Cllr Roberts will get insurance documents at this meeting.

Other Meetings

The Chair recently attended a meeting at SNC regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It is a new charge that Local Authorities are bringing in and similar to the Section 106 agreement. The CIL is a tax on a new development. Communities can gain from it and pay for things caused by the development such as the impact on the infrastructure. The levy will apply to all developments over 100 square metres. Housing Associations, Charities and Self Build Projects will be exempt from the tax. The money will be available after the work has started. There is information on the SNC website.

Improvements to Church Hall

This is still work in progress and the Chair hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

New notice-boards

Cllr Walker felt there was not a lot of enthusiasm from councillors at the last meeting. He now thinks the notice-board can be made big enough to hold 12 sheets of A4 paper. This was met by approval from the Clerk. Cllr Walker to get an idea of costings. Paperwork will need to be prepared to obtain planning permission and the Chair agreed to help with this.

7. Finance

The following payments were approved:

- £179.52 to Dom North (bench repair)
- £11.10 to Janet Smith (refreshments at December mtg)
- £50.00 to Parish Clerk (float)
- £210.00 to Sulgrave Church Hall (hire of hall for meetings)
- £30.00 to Parish Clerk (contribution to broadband costs)
- £234.99 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £31.62 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

Proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Powell.

8. Planning

The following applications had been received since the last meeting:

S/2016/0040/FUL, Variation of condition 2 (plans) to approved planning application S/2015/2328/FUL (removal of a conservatory and proposed new single storey extension) to enlarge the footprint of the extension to incorporate a storage area under patio and internal alterations at Middle Barn, Manor Road. No objections raised.

S/2016/0051/FUL, Variation of condition 2 (plans) to approved planning application S/2015/2287/FUL (Removal of a conservatory and proposed new single storey extension) to enlarge the footprint of the single storey extension at High Barn, Manor Road. No objections raised.

S/2016/0090/LBC, Replacement of existing single panel door with window at The Old Vicarage, Magpie Road. No objections raised.

S/2015/3071/FUL, Demolition of agricultural barn and construction of two new dwellings at Bentleys Farm Bungalow, Helmdon Road. Objections raised (three votes to two). The Chair had declared an interest at the last meeting and was unable to vote. The reason for objecting was that the construction method statement did not take due regard for the site location and would lead to unacceptable levels of on street parking and a safety hazard to road users. This needs to be adequately addressed by the developer prior to approval to ensure public safety.

9. Correspondence

- Office of PCC, New Major Road Safety Initiative. This was circulated to Cllr's and there is more information on the Northants Police website.

10. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Tree Work at the Mound.

Work to the Pond.

AY4 footpath.

11. Open Forum

Mr Fonge asked if the current 30mph signs could be moved further out of the village to help with road safety. They are currently placed next to properties as drivers enter the village. The Parish Clerk to write to NCC Highways.

Mr Fonge reported the wall at The Woolhouse in Little Street which is slipping. The Parish Clerk to report to Sulgrave Manor.

Cllr Roberts noted that three villagers had raised concerns about dog mess in the village, in particular along Spinners Cottages and Little Street. Cllr Roberts to write an article for the newsletter.

Cllr Walker asked Cllr Roberts if he had enquired about solar panels on roofs. Cllr Roberts apologised as he had not. Solar panels are allowed as long as they are positioned correctly. SNC will visit if people are unhappy about them.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm