

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 13th JULY 2017
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Chris Jackson (Chairman), Troy Daniels, Laura North, Will Priestman, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and four villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17/1a. To receive apologies for absence

Mr Christy

17/1b. To receive Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

17/2a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2017

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th June were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

17/2b. Matters Arising

The Chair has written to Banbury Model Flying Club and received a response from them.

The Chair has written to Anglian Water but not received a reply yet.

17/4. Co-option of New Councillor

Neil Higginson had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. He moved into the new houses in Little Street three years ago. He has worked freelance for many years as a TV camera-man in London. He was very busy when he arrived but is now happy to be an active member of the community. Councillors agreed to co-opt Mr Higginson onto the Parish Council.

The Chair noted that following the last meeting Cllr Walker had resigned. The official notice has been on display for fourteen days and the Parish Council are now able to co-opt. An advert will go in the next newsletter. It is hoped that someone can be co-opted at the next meeting in September.

17/3. Public Participation Session

Mr Sirot-Smith asked if the new CEO at Sulgrave Manor had been contacted? The Chair apologised he had not contacted her but dialogue has begun with them.

It was reported that all drains have been swept and cleaned. The drainage team were in the village for two days. A note will be put in the newsletter. The Chair to ask David Walker if an official report was sent through. Villagers are to report any further problems to the Parish Council.

Janet Smith reported a car which is often parked on the Gated Road and rubbish is seen in the same place after the car has gone. Details will be passed to the Parish Clerk who will report the vehicle to the non emergency police number.

17/5. To update the village on the closed session of Council held on 15th June 2017

The Chair noted that the Parish Council went into a closed session at the last meeting to discuss two issues, legal fees for the shop and a pay rise for the Parish Clerk. A pay rise of 5% was agreed for the Parish Clerk to take effect from 1st April 2017. The legal fees were discussed at length. The Parish Council agreed to ask the shop to cover the legal costs. The Chair wrote to Neil Johnston and the Parish Council are now awaiting a response from the Sulgrave Village Shop Committee. There has been a delay due to holidays. It was confirmed that Lewis Thomas, who did the legal work has been paid.

17/6. To discuss and agree the approach to defining the future relationship with Sulgrave Village Shop

There has been a lot of discussion between the Village Shop committee and Parish Council and there seems to be an impression of ill feeling between both parties. Both organisations exist to serve the community and are volunteer run and therefore there should be a better relationship. The Chair met Neil Johnston to discuss how to foster a better relationship for the future. Neil and the chair agreed to propose a joint committee is formed with a couple of Parish Councillors and shop committee members. This committee would discuss and investigate options for what the future relationship should look like and make clear recommendations to SVS MC and the PC on potential ways forward. It is hoped that a long term future relationship can be agreed and then implemented that serves the community and avoids future friction, this could include looking at the terms of the lease if thought to fit the aims. The Terms of Reference would have to be agreed by both the Parish Council and Shop Committee. The joint committee would discuss proposals, barriers and hurdles. Minutes and records of meetings will have to take place so there is a level of transparency. If there is no agreement between the two parties the original arrangement will stay in place. It is hoped there will be an in principle agreement by the end of the year. RESOLVED: All Councillors were in favour for a committee to be set up and discussions start. RESOLVED: Councillors approved for the Chair to be one member. Neil Johnston will represent one Shop Member. The Chair will now start work on the Terms of Reference. A decision to be made at the next meeting as to which second Parish Councillor will join the committee.

17/7. To receive an update on the Defibrillator project

An application was made to The New Homes Bonus Grant to claim £1620.00. The panel met on 3rd July and a grant of £1350.00 has been awarded. The acceptance letter has to be sent off. The grant is open until 30th June 2019. Work can be done and invoices submitted. Cllr Daniels will start work on finding an installer and sorting out the power. The Chair spoke to Neil Johnston about using the power from the shop. The shop are in favour of supporting the defibrillator project, subject to detail. The annual electricity cost is approximately £10-14 per year. The Chair congratulated Cllr Daniels on getting the grant.

17/8. To receive a report on the replacement bus shelter project

It was agreed after the last meeting to identify a bus shelter and shortlist two from a choice of four. The note was put into the newsletter and a voting card put in the shop. Once a type has been decided, the Parish Council can look at costs. The new shelter will be part funded by the New Homes Bonus Grant. It will be appreciated by all and used by people passing through.

17/9. To receive an Update on the potential renovation of the Church Hall and the associated application to HS2 community funds

The Chair has been catching up with HS2 matters. There are community funds for community based projects. The Parish Council were looking at trying to renovate the Church Hall. Mr Walker was previously involved in this process. As the building is owned by a third party the proposal would have to go before the Parochial Church Council. The current lease is on a rolling basis with little certainty for the future. Ingram Lloyd has written a letter which the Chair agreed to forward to the Parish Clerk. Lucy Apperley has arranged a public information meeting which will take place at Sulgrave Manor on 12th October. Works traffic was discussed when HS2 work starts. There should be no traffic through the village but it will be monitored nearer the time. There will be large traffic on other rural roads close by.

17/10. Councillors Reports

Cllr North reported that the fathers have been less enthusiastic about duties in Pocket Park. There are problems with dogs and excessive rubbish in the park. The play inspection has taken place and the report was discussed briefly. The mini bridge requires more securing at the bottom. The holes on the climbing wall are loose and need retightening. Small maintenance issues can be carried out by the Parish Council but anything major should be referred back to the supplier.

Cllr Daniels attended the Village Shop AGM which was held at Sulgrave Manor. The Manor have ambitious goals and plans. A copy of the Village Shop's financial statement was in the shop for perusal before the meeting. Turnover last year without VAT was £151K. There is increased use by the village and surrounding area. Volunteering costs £36K per year and it is critical for its continuation. The Shop are very optimistic about the future and are putting aside funds for additional assets. They will repay loans received earlier. There are no clear plans for when work on HS2 starts although it is hoped that sales will improve. The shop are going to analyse who is using the shop and how often. The Chair thanked Cllr Daniels for attending the meeting.

17/11. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£63.50 to Texprep (newsletter copying)

£300.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)

£145.08 to EON (electricity)

£82.80 to John Hicks Ltd (play inspection)

£36.00 to Northants CALC (training course for Parish Clerk)

* £20.00 TO SNAST (South Northants Area Support Team for Neighbourhood Watch)

£312.89 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£43.18 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

* The payment to SNAST was discussed. Janet Smith agreed it was a good idea to subscribe as regular updates are received. There has been a lot of police activity in the village over the last six months. There are benefits to subscribing. The Parish Clerk to circulate the information sheet and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

To approve a third cheque signatory

Cllr Daniels agreed to be the third cheque signatory to replace Graham Roberts.

17/12. To receive an update on Planning

S/2017/1615/FUL, Variation of Condition 2 to revise surface water drainage at Land at Bentleys Farm Bungalow. No objections raised.

S/2017/1483/FUL, Variation of conditions at Fleet Farm, Little Street. No objections raised.

17/13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:

From

HS2, New Freephone number. To be put in newsletter.

Chris Kirkpatrick, Pavements in Little Street

Police and Crime Commissioner Fire Governance Proposal

Meeting dates with Stephen Mold, PCC for Northants

To

Anglian Water

Banbury Model Flying Club

One item of correspondence was highlighted:

Chris Kirkpatrick, Pavements in Little Street. Mr and Mrs Kirkpatrick were at the meeting to discuss the excess gravel on pavements and in Little Street. The pavement was resurfaced two years ago and SNC came out last year to sweep the road. The problem is as bad this year as it was last year. The road and pavements become very slippery in icy weather and the gravel blocks the drains.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report to SNC and follow up with a letter.

17/14. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Standing Orders

South Northants Area Support Team for Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Responsibilities

17/15. Date and time of next meeting

31st August 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.15pm