

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JUNE 2015
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chair), Chris Jackson, Jo Powell, Will Priestman, Graham Roberts (Vice Chair), David Walker, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and seven villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Colin Wootton

1b. Declaration of Interest

There were no interests to declare.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 14TH May 2015

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

2b. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

The meeting was attended by Michael Rooney, the new Chief Executive Officer of Sulgrave Manor. He has worked with the National Trust before and has come to the Manor to make a difference. He will take a fresh look and work with the village and community. He spoke about the wedding bookings which are doing well. The school visits have taken a downturn due to the change in the school curriculum. The Manor are hoping to do more work with the American link. Work will start in October on thatching the two cottages. Manor Cottage will be thatched first and then Kiln Cottage with a four week break in between. The Manor are exploring how to use the cottages for the benefit of Sulgrave and Mr Rooney confirmed they will not be sold. The Chair spoke about the Parish Council offering to help the Manor develop Kiln Farm and he asked if the Manor had changed their thoughts on this or progressed it any further. Mr Rooney said it was quite early but they will look realistically at the land available to them.

The American support keeps the Manor going and there is additional funding coming from America. The Manor are hoping to improve the educational facilities and may make a proper George Washington house. The archives are an issue and very important. They need to be conserved and made available. Mr Rooney spoke about the wedding business and how other areas such as noise and traffic from weddings impact the village. The Chair spoke about the change in license and said he hoped it was going well. A meeting is going to be held soon about weddings and how local businesses are supported. Mr Rooney is very enthusiastic and wants to help the village and make the Manor sustainable in a long term way.

From the floor, Mr Fonge said that he lives the closest and noise has never been a problem. He spoke about the grant to re-thatch the cottages and asked if a survey had been done on the properties. Mr Rooney replied that they will not get the full picture until the roof comes off but they are fully prepared. A local man will be doing the thatching work.

The Chair thanked Mr Rooney for attending the meeting and he left the room.

3. To receive an update on the village lighting project

Cllr Roberts has engaged with Chris Barnes. Chris has sent out the enquiry documents to four potential contractors and they have to respond before the end of June. One company has responded so far.

There will be site meeting on 18th June which Chris Barnes will support and the contractors have been invited to attend. The intention is for Chris to report back at the next council meeting in July but Cllr Roberts cannot attend that meeting.

4. Councillors Reports

Cllr Powell reported the kerbing opposite Stone Cottage. The Parish Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

Cllr Walker spoke about the bench on Manor Road which requires maintenance. The cost to repair is £85.00. Another article is to be put in the next newsletter to find out the history of the bench and who owns it.

The Chair has confirmed the Parish Council's objection to the footpath diversion of bridleway AY4 - Lamby Manor Tunnel to Sarah Clarke, Definitive Map Officer of Northants Highways and Angus Richards. Sarah Clarke has replied to say she received the email and will discuss the matter with the Rights of Way team. They will look at the options. The option put forward by Colin Wootton is not attractive as the ground is wet and would be difficult for horse riders.

The Chair spoke about the footpath outside the gate to Madams Close which is to be infilled. Helen Howard of Highways has advised that the budget has been used up but she will look at other budgets.

The Chair found planning guidance documents received from CPRE and these were passed to Cllr Priestman.

5. Finance

The following payments were approved:

- £288.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting May)
- £1135.38 to Broker Network Ltd (general council insurance)
- £352.49 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £43.18 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

Proposed by The Chair and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

The Clerk advised councillors that no cheques have been sent since the meeting of 11th May whilst the bank confirm the new signatories.

To consider a subscription request of £10.00 from SNAST Neighbourhood Watch

It was agreed that the subscription should be renewed.

To approve and sign Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return 2014/15

Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return 2014/15 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk. The asset register has been updated and the internal auditor observed that he felt there was a lack of budgetary process when setting the precept earlier in the year. This will be addressed next year.

6. Planning

Approval by SNC

- S/2015/0728/FUL, Residential development of 4 no dwellings at Fleet Farm, Little Street.
- S/2015/0301/FUL & S/2015/0302/LBC, Single storey extensions to west elevation, replace windows to first floor to match existing. Internal works to include opening infill between kitchen and drawing room, reinstate door opening between study and front door at The Old Farmhouse, Manor Road
- S/2015/0549/FUL, Demolition of existing barn and erection of two new dwellings, car ports and associated works at Bentley Farm Bungalow, Helmdon Road

7. **Correspondence**

- Invitation to attend South Northants Parish Council Summit on 14th July 7-9pm. This meeting is to promote 'Parish Special Constables'.
- Northants Police & Crime Commissioner, Parish walkabout. Cllr Roberts agreed to provide some suitable dates.

8. **Open Forum**

Mr Nicholls reported the granite steps outside the shop which are damaged.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

A discussion took place about grass verges in Little Street which are slow to recover. The Chair to contact Helen Howard at Northants Highways.

Cllr Roberts to pass details of potholes to the Parish Clerk.

The finger post sign opposite the Magpie was discussed which has been down since before Christmas. The Parish Clerk to ask Cllr Ian Morris for his help.

Mr Fonge went to the Court of Appeal with Colin Wootton. The judge has agreed to come back with a response within three weeks.

Councillors briefly discussed the trees by the Stocks again. Clare Pollak may have contact details to pass over. The trees are impressive but big. Beech trees cannot be lopped. The cost would be huge with little benefit. Councillors are to keep under a watchful eye.

Action: Cllr Powell to speak to South Northants Council.

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

Parish Council Meeting on 9TH July 2015 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall. Cllr Jackson and Cllr Roberts gave their apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm