

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15th JUNE 2017
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Cllr Walker (holiday), Cllr North (unwell) and Mr Fonge

1b. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

2a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2017

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th May were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

2b. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Open Forum

A member of the public asked the Parish Council to write to Anglian Water about the regular breakdowns of water mains which have occurred on the Helmdon Road and on the road to Thorpe. It was agreed a letter would be sent to them.

A member of the public advised the tree surgeon has been to Pocket Park and removed part of a large tree. He reminded the Council that Mr Barlow has volunteered to make a contribution towards the payment.

A member of the public reported seeing a drone over Sulgrave Manor and Little Street recently. There are rules about flying drones and a note was put in the newsletter last year reminding residents of the rules. It was agreed the Parish Council would make contact with the Manor first to ask if they were flying the drone.

A member of the public asked if relations had improved with the Manor? The Chair replied that the situation was improving and there was a recent dialogue with them about the one way system for an event. It was suggested that the CEO is invited to a future Parish Council meeting. The Chair agreed to write to them.

4. To receive an update on the Defibrillator project

It was noted at the last meeting that the land where the current phone kiosk sits belongs to BT. So other suitable locations were identified. The identified sites are on the telegraph pole by the Star or Village Shop or attaching the cabinet to a pole next to the shop. The design has to be appropriate to the Conservation Area as a bright yellow colour is not appropriate. The most practical solution is to site the cabinet next to the village shop in the highway verge of Stockwell Lane. NCC Highways have been consulted. An application for £1620.00 has been made to the New Homes Bonus Grant. The panel meet on 3rd July. SNC Planning are not in favour of placing the defibrillator on the side of the shop. There is currently a similar application (the placing of a defibrillator on a listed building) to be determined in Farthinghoe. If permission is granted this idea can be revisited. The underground services require investigation.

Action: Cllr Daniels to provide an update at the next meeting.

5. To receive a report on the bus shelter replacement and village guide project

Thanks was given to the History Society who have looked at combining the village guide and bus shelter.

The idea is to seek part of the costs of the shelter through the New Homes Bonus Grant in August and look to fund the difference in the 2018 budget. Cllr Daniels then circulated four ideas for a new bus shelter. They all comply with requirements, include seating and fit in the available space. There is a difference in design and cost. The suggestion is to put the final list to the village in the newsletter and on the website. Once a design has agreed a total cost can be worked out as delivery and installation are excluded from the costs. The village guide with two metal display cases on the back with printing and installation will be an extra cost.

Action: Cllr Daniels to circulate the four bus shelter designs and ask Councillors to short list to two. A note to be put into the next newsletter.

6. To discuss the Councillor vacancy

The official SNC vacancy notice (to replace Graham Roberts) was displayed on the notice-board for fourteen days. That period has now passed and the Parish Council are able to co-opt. It was agreed a vacancy notice will be placed in the next newsletter and on the notice-board.

7. To discuss the recent complaint regarding Banbury Model Flying Club

A complaint had been received from a villager. The club operates from a site in Thorpe Mandeville but affects residents close by. The Parish Clerk contacted SNC last year and were advised that though planning permission would be required, as the club had been in use for over 10 years, they were immune from any planning enforcement action. SNC recommended at the time that if there have been substantial changes in the use of the site they should be discussed with the Enforcement Team. One plane was recently seen flying at 8.23pm in the evening.

Action: It was agreed the Club should be approached first and then if there is no resolution the Parish Council will contact Environmental Health at SNC. The Chair to write to the Club.

8. To discuss the complaint received regarding the June edition of the Sulgrave Village Newsletter

A complaint had been received regarding an advert in the recent newsletter and the use of the word 'SHAGS' which is an acronym for Sulgrave Hooky Appreciation Group. The concern is that the newsletter is available online to a wider audience. The newsletter is fully financed by the Parish Council and they have a responsibility to ensure that no offence is caused. Janet Smith noted that if there was anything contentious to go in the newsletter she would normally contact the Parish Council as a matter of course. It was agreed that whilst there had been a complaint, the term used was not inappropriate in the context and therefore that no further action be taken.

9. Councillors Reports

Cllr Daniels referred to the recent Northants CALC newsletter. The Northants Policing Team are running clinics at Towcester library and he asked Councillors if there were any issues to raise. Councillors are to consider. It was agreed Cllr Daniels would re-circulate the newsletter.

An update on Pocket Park was received from Richard Fonge. The hedge is re-generating very well. The oak tree is making good growth. Mr Fonge has mown a path with his own mower. He has identified trees to be thinned next winter.

10. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£15.50 to SLCC (Clerks membership)

£35.50 to Texprep (newsletter printing)

£600.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)

£1155.38 to Came & Company (general council insurance)

11. Planning

S/20171305/FUL, Single storey extensions to existing agricultural barn to provide additional living accommodation plus detached garaging at Coolington Farm, Helmon Road. Objections raised.

S/2017/1366/FUL, Variation of conditions at Fleet Farm, Little Street. The application was withdrawn.

S/2017/1263/LBC, Listed building consent for internal works at The Watermill, Stockwell Lane. No objections.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:

- Northants CALC, Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive

13. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Councillor Responsibilities

Update on Defibrillator

Update on Bus Shelter/Village Information Guide

From the floor Mr Christy asked the Parish Council to ensure that the decision re the shop legal costs is communicated through the proper channels. The Chair said he would make sure this was the case and that the decision would be communicated to the SVS Management Committee in writing to the Chair of that committee, Neil Johnston.

14. Date and time of next meeting

13th July 2017 at 7.30pm

15. 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 members of the public left the room.

The following items of business were discussed in a closed session.

16. To agree an increase to the Clerks salary

It was agreed to increase the Clerks salary by a further 4% from that decided at the previous meeting, giving a total rise of 5% effective from 1st April 2017.

17. To decide if the Parish Council accept the proposal of Sulgrave Village Shop that the Council cover legal fees amounting to £565.00 in relation to the transfer of land behind the village shop

The matter was discussed in great detail. The main discussion points were:

- The minutes of the June 2016 meeting read that *'Mr Prior, representing the Village Shop Committee stated the Committee have agreed to pay for the legal costs'*. These minutes were signed off at the September meeting and all Councillors and Parish Clerk believed it to be a true record of what was said at the time.
- There was an opportunity at the February 2017 Council meeting when Mr Prior was present to advise that the Parish Council had misunderstood what was originally said. Nothing was said.
- At the Parish Council meeting held in May 2017, Mr Prior said there was a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of what he had said at June 2016 meeting. However there is an email confirming that the shop would pay for all the legal costs and this was copied to Neil Johnston.
- Had the Parish Council known earlier that there might be additional costs then the precept could have been increased or rent charges attached to the additional land. As the Parish Council were working on the basis of incurring no costs, no provision has been made for these and therefore they would be at the expense of other activities.

- The Parish Council fully support the shop and recognise it is an important asset in the village. The Parish Council are extremely grateful for the time put into its running by both the volunteers and the committee. However, it is not the only asset the Parish Council must consider.
- The current PWL is not covered by the rent received from the shop. The difference is paid out of the precept which is public money. It is understood that the precept was raised when the shop was set up to allow this contribution to happen.
- As a recipient of public funds the Accounts of the Shop Committee should be presented each year like other village groups.
- The invoice has already been paid by the Parish Council as it was felt that Lewis Thomas should not be kept waiting whilst this matter was resolved. And Mr Thomas had done the work at a very favourable rate, for which the Parish Council are very grateful.

The views of both Cllr Walker and Cllr North who were absent from the meeting were considered.

RESOLVED: In light of previous written assurances, the Parish Council to ask the Shop Committee to pay £565.00 for the legal costs incurred.

RESOLVED: The Chair to draft a letter, attaching the email correspondence and ask Graham Roberts to proof read before it is sent. It was agreed the decision should not be discussed publically ahead of sending this letter.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm