

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chair), Tom Russell, Jo Powell, Sally Harding, Clare Pollak, three villagers and Mr Angus Richards (representative of All Souls College)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Cllr Roberts

1b. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2014

The minutes were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Pollak and seconded by Cllr Powell.

2b. Matters Arising

Tree outside the shop - Alison Pell of MGWSP has confirmed to the Chair that there is no need for the Parish Council to enter into a licence agreement to replace the tree on the green at the junction of Manor Road and School Street. This means the tree can be planted as soon as practical.

Building work in Little Street - Mr Sanders of Watson & Cox has replied to say they have agreed to repair/make good four verges by the end of March. There are other verges further down Little Street which require attention but are not their responsibility to repair.

3. To Discuss the Covenant relating to 'The Old School House' (now the village shop)

This situation has arisen from the potential sale of a property quite near to the Old School House, which is now the village shop. There is a covenant on the property for sale that the purchaser may be charged £8 per year to the Hodges Charity and with a liability for the perpetual upkeep and repair of the Old School House.

From the floor Mrs Mordaunt explained that they purchased their property eighteen years ago and they thought the covenant was no longer valid. If the covenant is not removed from the title deed, it will always appear when a survey is done on the house.

The Chair stated that he wondered if it is likely that the Parish Council will enforce this condition whilst the shop remains in such good condition. This covenant forms part of the Educational Charity and the owners of the Old Farmhouse have never been asked to pay into the charity. The Chair advised that the Parish Council will need to seek legal advice from the solicitor who handled the sale of the reading room eleven years ago to the Parish Council and the trustees who are responsible for Sulgrave Charities.

4. Councillors Reports

Cllr Harding reported that concern had been expressed about a young dog who has been sighted in the Pocket Park. Cllr Harding to speak to the owner.

Cllr Pollak reported that part of the wall on Castle Green has fallen down. Mr Scott has given a verbal quote to repair of £1K but the committee are waiting for a written quote. The wall is vulnerable where it holds back a lot of soil. The committee previously agreed that they would repair the wall on a piecemeal basis when defects became apparent. Cllr Pollak has trimmed the hedge of Castle Green and the signboard has been sent off to the manufacturer, Rivermeade.

Cllr Powell has asked a member of the shop committee what they had to do to get their sign put into the field at the top of the village. Once this information is obtained, the Star Public House may be able to investigate the possibility of erecting a similar one. Cllr Powell is waiting to hear back from them.

The Chair noted that he was informed of a situation in Church Street where a tree was growing close to electricity wires. It was reported to Western Power Distribution and they asked for permission to trim back. The Chair agreed and is waiting for formal documents from Western Power Distribution.

At the last meeting the council discussed the diversion of part of AY4 bridleway. This Parish Council and a number of other villages have objected. The Chair then introduced Mr Angus Richards who represents the owner, All Souls College. Mr Richards helps to manage rural properties. All Souls College purchased the land thirty years ago. The tunnel is deteriorating. It is a historic feature but a real problem for the college and tenant. They previously got a quote for the repair to the tunnel and it was very expensive then and would be now. When discussing the diversion order the College approached the Footpaths Officer, Ramblers Association and British Horse Society and there were no objections. The College are keen to reach an agreement and provide an alternative route that everyone is happy with. An alternative proposal has been put forward which was discussed at this meeting. A benefit would be that that the footpath would not be going across a field with livestock in. However there is a livestock handling yard nearby with various gates. The route would have to be well signposted to stop walkers wandering off. Mr Richards was also not sure if equestrian users would be happy as there would be more gates to go through in their journey. Mr Richards noted that the college are very keen to seek a solution and by the next meeting the Parish Council should know more information. Cllr Pollak asked Mr Richards if the College had looked at obtaining grants to repair the tunnel. Mr Richards replied there are no grants available. The tunnel would be very expensive to repair now and in the future and they hope to find another route that is more appealing. The Chair thanked Mr Richards for attending the meeting and he left the room.

5. Finance Report

a) Cheques for approval

£30.00 to Parish Clerk (contribution to broadband costs)

£210.00 to Sulgrave Church Hall (hire of hall)

£159.00 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£10.54 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

These payments were proposed by Cllr Pollak and seconded by Cllr Powell.

6. Planning Applications

Four applications had been received since the last meeting. Three were for information only.

- a)i) S/2014/0188/FUL, Part two storey and single storey rear extension at 13 Spinners Cottages, Magpie Road. No objections raised.
- ii) S/2014/0173/TCA, Fell dead silver birch and removal of apple tree at Sulgrave Manor (for info)
- iii) S/2014/0215/TCA, Remove 1 multi stem laburnum and remove 1 Prunus Cerasifera Nigra at Vinecroft, Manor Road (for info)
- iv) Prior notification of a polytunnel at Lamby Manor Farm (for info)

7. **Correspondence**

- NACRE, Best Village 2014
- CPRE Northants Spring Road Show April 10th. This event will cover planning and the Chair has already attended two similar events. It is open to any councillor to attend.

8. **Open Forum**

The Chair reminded everyone that storage space is still needed for the items to be purchased from the Pocket Park Community Spaces grant that was recently awarded. Cllr Harding spoke about the fete that will be held in June at the Manor. The committee have asked if they can use the marquee. There is money in the account from last years fete to be spent. There is work to do in Pocket Park such as repairing some of the equipment and work to be done to the pond area. A note is to be put in the newsletter asking for ideas on how to use it.

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

Annual Assembly meeting on 17th April 2014 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm