

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2015
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite, Jo Powell, Graham Roberts, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and four villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Cllr's Harding, Pollak and Russell

1b. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 12th February 2015

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

2b. Matters Arising

The Parish Clerk advised that she has spoken to the Dog Warden at SNC and dog fouling literature/stickers are being sent in the post.

3. To receive an update on the village lighting project

Cllr Roberts has made contact with Chris Barnes, the Project Manager who has been in contact with NCC. NCC have asked why the timber lighting columns are being replaced? Cllr Roberts has replied that it will improve the look of the village and be more modern. The Parish Council have a responsibility to inspect and maintain the current columns which are old. A site meeting has been arranged with Alan Munn, the SNC Conservation Officer on Thursday 19th March in Sulgrave.

Funding - Cllr Roberts and the Parish Clerk have completed a new Homes Bonus Grant Application Form but now have to complete part 2. No more work has been done on the Public Works Loan as the finance situation is unclear at the moment.

The Parish Council are still deciding on lamp standards, whether contemporary or Victorian. Councillors suggested that a report is put in the next newsletter with a voting form to decide on lamp standards. More information will be put on the website.

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts for his work.

4. To discuss the grass cutting contract for 2015/16

The current contractor R & D Landscapes has emailed Cllr Roberts to advise their prices will increase by £10.00 per cut for this coming year. They have agreed to hold their prices if the Parish Council agree to a three year contract. The Parish Council have tendered in the past but the exercise showed that the current grass cutting contractor currently employed provides a good service at a reasonable cost. The cutting schedule has increased year on year without extra charge and Sulgrave Manor have now asked for their verges to be included in the contract.

From the floor, Mr Metcalfe asked about the cutting in the churchyard, Castle Green and Pocket Park as the grass is not cut frequently enough and some areas are not cut at all. It was noted that wildflower areas should not be cut before July 15th. Some areas such as the end of Little Street may need cutting less frequently, only twice a year.

Action: Cllr Roberts to contact R & D Landscapes and discuss the cutting plan.

5. **Councillors Reports**

Improvements to the Church Hall - This is work in progress.

Repairs to Bus Shelter - This is work in progress.

Signpost by the Magpie - This is still waiting to go back up by Highways.

Little Street - The Chair has been working on the introduction of a new section of footpath into the gate at Madams Close. There is a hawthorn tree to be felled and the Chair has completed the paperwork and applied to SNC on behalf of the Parish Council. The work will improve the visibility for pedestrians to cross the road.

Public Bridleway AY4 path to Weston under the railway bridge - The Parish Council is objecting to the proposal to alter the route because of the condition of the bridge. Photos were taken at Christmas and the Parish Council have received costs from an engineer to look at the bridge. The Chair contacted Mr Richards who is the surveyor acting on behalf of the land owner and a quote was received in 2010. The total quote cost then was £49K. The option to change the route is not palatable and it would be much nicer if the bridge could be repaired. The Chair has asked to see the original report and will circulate this to councillors.

From the floor, Mr Metcalfe asked if consideration had been given to diverting the footpath over the line. It was felt that there would be issues with horse riders and this would be objected to.

The letter of objection still stands but it is hoped that the Parish Council can be given more time to think about next steps such as doing the less expensive work and exploring the avenues of funding. Helen Howard, the Community Liaison person at Highways may be able to help.

Action: Cllr Powell to look further into funding sources.

6. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:

- £34.00 to NCALC (training course for Parish Clerk)
- £30.00 to Parish Clerk (contribution to broadband)
- £302.13 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £43.18 to Parish Clerk (mileage to meetings)
- £210.00 to Sulgrave Church Hall (use of hall for meetings)

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Powell.

7. **Planning**

New applications received

- S/2015/0302/LBC and S/2015/0301/FUL, 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. No objections raised.

Under Consideration

- S/2014/2488/FUL, Demolition of dilapidated single storey extension and replacement single storey extension and internal alterations at Old Sulgrave Stores. To be considered by the Development Control Committee on 12th March. Their recommendation is for approval of full planning permission.

8. Correspondence

- NCC, Road closure in Culworth on 23-27 March
- NALC, Local Awards Scheme, Free Foundation
- Kierwsp, Return of Community Enhancement Gang in villages
- Invitation to Policing briefing on 19th March
- HS2, Additional Land Requirements
- George Metcalfe, litter pick
- SNC, New Homes Grant Application Form

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:

Litter pick - This is a good community exercise and is held every year although not last year. In previous years the level of helpers has diminished. It was agreed to hold the litter pick on 12th April. Volunteers are to concentrate within the boundary of the village to the top of Magpie Road and Helmdon Road as there are safety implications for the other areas outside of the village which have been covered before.

Action: Cllr Roberts to look for the risk assessment, equipment and contact the police about the road signs.

HS2, Additional Land Requirements - High Speed Two Ltd is seeking further powers over additional land parcels to build and operate the HS2 High Speed Rail network over and above that sets out within the original bill. This affects land within this parish. They intend to implement the changes by depositing an Additional Provision (AP). The change currently proposed is additional land for environmental mitigation near Thorpe Mandeville.

9. Open Forum

The Chair advised that there will be a residents meeting for the 'Wings For Life' Event on 27th April at 6pm in the Church Hall. There will be traffic restrictions in place but different to last year. A residents letter will be going out via the post week commencing 20th April. It is hoped that a notice and copy of the residents letter can be put in the next newsletter.

Mrs Smith spoke about the plaque for the new tree by the shop. The family feel that a plaque in the floor might be a tripping hazard and easily damaged. They have suggested that a plaque is placed on a wooden column. The Chair replied that if the family feel very strongly about this, then they should circulate a drawing for councillors to see. He reiterated that this is not a Parish Council project or the Parish Councils responsibility.

A resident spoke about Manor Cottages which in his opinion are an utter disgrace to the village. He asked if the Parish Council could write to Sulgrave Manor Board. The Chair advised that the Parish Council have offered to hold a meeting. The Chair has also spoken to Mrs Blayney. The Parish Council would be willing to help with agreeing a suitable means of securing the improvement to the cottages, and to explore the means of achieving this with the Manor and with Villagers, if required. The cottages have been allowed to deteriorate over time and one cottage has vegetation covering the windows. The shop was in the same state for a long time but is being improved now after many years.

The Chair spoke about the forthcoming elections on 7th May 2015. At least three councillors are not standing again. An official election notice will be put up on 31st March and nomination papers have to be completed and returned to SNC by 4pm on Thursday 9th April. Another advert will be put in the newsletter.

A discussion took place about crow scarers being used at 7.30am. They are set up and regulated by local farmers but should not be used before 8am.

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

Annual Parish Meeting on 16th April 2015 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm