

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chairman), Chris Jackson, Jo Powell (arrived late), Graham Roberts, David Walker, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and four villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Cllr Priestman and Colin Wootton

1b. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 11th February 2016

An amendment to page 2, item 6 was made. Under Councillors Reports, Countryside Leaflets, line 2, Banbury Print and Design was changed to read Kall Kwik. The minutes were then approved and signed.

2b. Matters Arising

The Parish Clerk had emailed Sulgrave Manor about the wall slipping at The Woolhouse in Little Street. Sulgrave Manor had replied to say that work was going ahead. This was at the end of February so work should be complete by now.

3. To receive an update on the street lighting project

Cllr Roberts met with the contractor T Clarke and Chris Barnes on 16th February. Good progress is being made and equipment has been ordered. A tour of the village took place and they looked at where the lights would go. Some lights are near to windows and so five were selected to have shades fitted which will cost £25.00 each to buy. The final agreed contract sum is £49,941.00 which excludes the work of Chris Barnes. There has been a last minute hitch because when Chris Barnes contacted NCC Highways, the person who had authorised the work has now left. It was confirmed in writing at the time and the matter is now being resolved with NCC. There is paperwork to finalise but there is no risk to the Parish Council for the project to continue. It is hoped that work will commence before Easter. Heras fencing will be placed in the church hall car park and equipment will be put behind it. The contractors will use the kitchen and toilet facilities in the church hall. The contractors will start work with lanterns on poles and whilst work continues, no pole will be left without some form of electric on it. A meeting has been arranged for 7th April and this will be in the closing stages of the project.

4. Pocket Park – To receive an update

TB Fencing have confirmed that the net on the basket ball hoop has been fixed. The transfer is coming off the back board but it is secure at the moment. The supplier no longer exists.

Cllr Powell has chased Rod d'Ayla about the pond work and he has carried out his other outstanding work now. The pond in Sulgrave Pocket Park will be on his next set of tasks. Now is a better time to carry out a site visit as the weather is warming up.

5. AY4 footpath – To receive an update

Cllr Jackson met with NCC, Angus Richards and Colin Wootton on 16th February. It was a positive meeting and options were discussed. The conclusion was that option 3 was more favourable and worth pursuing further. Angus Richards has since spoken to the tenant farmer and they have raised concerns about the routing and wetness of the ground on this route.

Angus Richards has circulated an alternative proposal which would create a path over the embankment for visitors and a longer path which would act as a bridleway. It seems that Angus Richards will pay for work to be done but only to a point. NCC are not keen on the option suggested by Angus Richards and they have suggested a site meeting on site which may be beneficial to explore options. Angus Richards has mentioned the possibility of exploring a pedestrian only route over the embankment but NCC would not wish for a public right of way to be recorded in this location due to difficulties in creating a route here. NCC have suggested to Mr Richards that he could pursue a separate permissive path agreement with the Parish Council if they are willing to explore this.

Cllr Jackson asked NCC about guidance/requirements when it comes to creating a right of way. NCC do not have any strict technical guidance on requirements and it would depend on circumstances and the situation on site. The standard width for a footpath is 1.8-2 metres, 3 metres for a bridleway. If a route were to be enclosed on either side they would ask for a wider route. In terms of accessibility they would seek the least restrictive option. Gates and stiles can only be authorised for stock control purposes and cannot be installed on arable land. Surfacing would depend on the situation and needs to be appropriate for the anticipated usage.

Councillors agreed that a permanent feature such as concrete steps would be more appropriate with a rail. The idea of a permissive path would have to be explored further as it could be removed at a later date. The Chair asked if there will be another meeting with Angus Richards. Cllr Jackson replied that if an option is accepted, there won't need to be another meeting.

A separate email had been received from Will Lovell, Secretary of the Northants Area Ramblers Association and Peter Warden who lives in Towcester. Mr Warden had tried to walk the bridleway recently and asked the Parish Council to consider bearing pressure on the County and College. Cllr Jackson to reply. If an option is agreed, the Ramblers Association will be a consultee.

Thanks was given to Cllr Jackson for his work.

6. To discuss the removal of trees at the base of The Mound

A site meeting was carried out. Mr and Mrs Pollak are to contact an arboriculturist. Consent will be needed as the trees are in a Conservation Area. Mr Pollak thinks that Historic England would support the work. It was noted that the roots and weight of the trees are pressing down on the ground. The sheep eat the grass under the tree and stone is beginning to show through.

Cllr Walker asked what is the status of the site? It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the details would be listed on the internet. He felt that a form of words should be produced to state the damage that is being done. There is a sketch plan which could be annotated with comments. The Parish Council would then be happy to submit the application once this information is in place.

Mr Pollak said that they will be grateful for any offers received, whether through support or monetary. This is their land and they know they have to do something. They will still get the work done and work within the rules. The time of year for doing the work is nearly over and would have to be done when leaves have fallen off trees.

Action: Mr Pollak to send the information to the Parish Council when he has it.

7. Councillors Reports

Countryside Leaflets - Kall Kwik were contacted again and different folded options circulated for Councillors to see. It was agreed to proceed with the folded option 2 version. Cllr Walker offered to proof read each copy before being sent to print.

Verge on Manor Road - Cllr Walker raised this matter again and asked if consideration could be given to bollards being placed on the verge to protect it. His concerns are that if the area is reseeded, it could be damaged again. The Parish Clerk to look at previous correspondence.

Improvements to Church Hall - The Chair and Cllr Powell had met some time ago to survey the church hall. The hall is owned by the Diocese and rented to the Parish Council, one of the main users. Some ideas are to insulate the walls and floor, put in new heating and new lighting. The Chair is intending to draw up the documents and welcomed feedback from other councillors. The Chair showed an example of work he had done for another village in the form of a report showing heating, lighting etc. The Chair suggested looking at the car park space which could be used more efficiently. When the weather is warmer, and there are functions in the hall there is no direct connection to the outside area.

Dog Fouling - A note was put in the last newsletter but the problem still exists.

New notice-boards - Cllr Walker has received a quote from Glebe Farm Joinery in Farthinghoe. The cost for oak notice-boards is £962.00 and £925.00 for Idigbo. Cllr Walker proposed the oak option. He would have to check installation costs and VAT costs. Cllr Walker has spoken to Green Barnes in Brackley. The phone conversation was very positive and measurements were given. The owner knows the boards as he travels through the village on a regular basis. However he has not given a quote. It was agreed to proceed with the quote from Glebe Farm Joinery but it may require Listed Building Consent. Cllr Walker to investigate and draft the application if required.

Litter Pick - Cllr Roberts has arranged a litter pick for Saturday 26th March. It was the only weekend that he was free and the details have gone in the newsletter. It was noted that Cllr Priestman has very kindly been collecting rubbish in Manor Road.

8. Finance

The following payment was approved:-

£360.00 to Nene Construction Management Services Ltd (the invoice was received after the agenda had been published).

Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Powell.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the three Bank of Ireland bank accounts have now been closed and the balances transferred to the Barclays Community Account.

9. Planning

An update was given on an older application.

S/2015/3071/FUL, Demolition of agricultural barn and construction of two new dwellings at Bentleys Farm Bungalow, Helmdon Road. Approved by SNC.

10. Correspondence

- Sulgrave Manor, The Woolhouse
- Brackley Safer Community Team, Monthly update
- Northants Highways, Parish Survey

One item of correspondence was highlighted:

- Northants Highways, Parish Survey. The Highways Parish Survey was completed by Cllr Roberts and the Parish Clerk. 70 parishes out of 263 replied. Highlights from the survey included personal attention, professionalism and responsiveness, parishes valuing the Community Liaison Officers. The important issues are potholes, speeding and lack of signage and verges. A more detailed analysis will follow.

11. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Work to the Pond area.

12. Open Forum

Cllr Roberts raised concern about the potholes and general deteriorations of the roads. The main road was last resurfaced 12 years ago. He suggested that problems are always reported on Street Doctor.

There was confirmation that there will be a village fete this year.

13. Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm