

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2014
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Graham Roberts, Sally Harding, Clare Pollak and two villagers.

1a. Election of Chairman

On a proposal by Cllr Pollak, seconded by Cllr Harding; it was resolved to elect Cllr Waite as chairman for 2014/15. Cllr Waite was unable to attend the annual meeting and it was therefore resolved to permit the signing of the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office form to be deferred until Thursday 13th June 2014.

1b. Chairman's signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form

To be deferred until the meeting of 13th June 2014.

1c. Election of Vice-Chairman

On a proposal by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Pollak; it was resolved to elect Cllr Roberts as Vice-Chairman for 2014/15.

2a. Apologies

Cllr's Waite, Powell and Russell

2b. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Roberts declared an interest in the planning application at Northston, School Street.

3a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2014

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

3b. Matters Arising

Tree outside the shop - Nellie Stallabrasses nephew has been contacted to advise that work is going ahead.

Building work in Little Street - The verges have been repaired.

4. HS2 - To discuss recent developments and progress

The Chair has attended a recent meeting. The petitioning period runs from 10th April to 23rd May. The petition then has to be delivered to the House of Commons in person or via an MP. The notice period is totally inadequate as there is not enough time to raise a petition. It was agreed the Parish Clerk should write a letter of complaint to MP Andrea Leadsom who can pass this on to the appropriate person.

5. The Church Hall - To discuss proposals for improvement

A meeting was held last Wednesday between the Chairman, Cllr's Roberts and Powell to discuss how to move things forward. Cllr's Roberts and Powell agreed to come up with ideas, schemes and prices. This can then be presented to the PCC. The Parish Council to ensure the PCC will underwrite the plans and proposals and give assurances that the hall will remain in use for the parish. It is hoped the Parish Council will be allowed to take the lease on the hall for a peppercorn rent. The future priorities for the hall are: disabled toilet access, to improve the heating, improvements to the kitchen. By having better facilities will encourage greater use of the hall.

Once Cllr's Roberts and Powell come up with a proposal they will meet with Robin Prior and Shrimp Christy. Cllr Pollak suggested that the hall requires a decent Hoover and Cllr Harding suggested that a smaller meeting room could be incorporated into the plans which could be made into a bigger meeting room.

6. Street Lighting - To discuss progress and the need for change

The consultant who has been working closely with the Parish Council for the last two years seems to have lost interest in the project. The Parish Council will prepare new tender documents themselves and put out to tender.

7. Councillors Reports

Cllr Harding advised that she has tried to contact South Northants Homes about the parking scheme on Magpie Road but has had no reply. The Parish Clerk suggested that she copies County Cllr Ian Morris in all correspondence.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward contact details of Cllr Morris to Cllr Harding.

Cllr Harding spoke about the grass cutting as three families have said that the grass in Pocket park is too long and the children cannot play football. It was agreed to ask the contractor to cut the grass shorter as the cuts are not lasting very long. There are two verges to be included in the current schedule, outside Castle House, Park Lane and Corner House, Church Street. The Dames weekend is 7/8th June and the village fete on 14th June. It is hoped the grass can be cut prior to these two events.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Philip Daynes with these points.

Cllr Pollak noted that the signboard for Castle Green is about to be made and installed on highways grass along Church Street. As the Parish Council will be responsible for the signboard, the invoice will be sent to the Parish Council.

Cllr Pollak noted that Jean Bates who has been involved in the WI has sent a box of archives to the Head Office which will be incorporated into the general records. She has a box of general village information which Colin Wootton and Martin Sirot-Smith might find useful.

8. Finance Report

a) Cheques for approval

£1380.00 to M & P Scott Builders (repair of Castle Green wall)

£20.20 to SLCC (Clerks Membership)

£222.00 to R M Fletcher (internal audit)

£83.23 to EON (street lighting maintenance)

£276.00 to RD Landscapes (grass cutting)

£204.89 to EON (electricity)

£127.08 to NCALC (membership)

£35.00 to Northants ACRE (membership)

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

Two payments were queried.

* £280.80 to Sulgrave PCC (church clock service)

* £350.54 to Sulgrave Manor (newsletter copying for 11 months)

- £350.54 to Sulgrave Manor (newsletter copying). This is for 11 months work. Sulgrave Manor have agreed to invoice the Parish Council quarterly from now on. It was agreed to accept this invoice.

- £280.80 to Sulgrave PCC (church clock service). In the past the Parish Council have contributed £100.00 towards the church clock service but this invoice is for the whole amount. The Parish Clerk to ask Robin Prior if the PCC would still like a contribution or the whole amount paid.

b) *To approve and sign Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return 2013/14*

The Annual Return was approved, accepted and signed by Cllr Roberts and the Parish Clerk.

6. Planning Applications

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

- *S/2014/0571/FUL, Erection of new classic car gallery and demolition of existing asphalt tennis court with associated chainlink fence at Sulgrave House, Little Street. To be circulated.*
- *S/2014/0348/FUL, Single storey side extension, part single part two storey rear extension, including extension to roof and the addition of 3 no. dormers. New porch and detached shed at Northston, School Street. No objections.*
- *S/2014/0434/TCA, 1 apple tree, reduce crown by 3.5M and replace lateral branches back to fence line (within boundary of Wesleyan Chapel) at the Old Bakehouse, Manor Road. For info only.*
- *S/2014/0485/TCA, Fell one silver birch at Farndale, Magpie Road. For info only.*

10. Correspondence

- Brethertons Solicitors, Signing of Deed of Release. It was agreed this should be signed.
- Letter from Mr G Metcalfe
- NCALC, New Financial Regulations
- SNC, New Homes Bonus
- NCALC, Wind and Solar Farms
- HS2, Hybrid Bill - Petitioning period

The Clerk highlighted one item of correspondence:

Letter from George Metcalfe. The letter spoke about dog fouling in Little Street, fly tipping along the Helmdon Road and litter picking. The Clerk will talk to SNC about no fouling signs and put a note in the newsletter, the fly tipping will be reported and the comments about the litter pick were noted. In future the litter pick should take place no later than the beginning of April. It is hoped that a small litter pick might be arranged before the Dames weekend at the beginning of June.

11. Open Forum

There was nothing to discuss.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council meeting on 12th June 2014 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm