

6SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2015
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chair), Chris Jackson, Jo Powell, Will Priestman, Graham Roberts, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Councillor Walker and Janet Smith

1b. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in the planning application at Middle Barn, Manor Road.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2015

The minutes were approved and signed.

2b. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Pocket Park – To discuss the management of the pond and any progress to repairs to equipment

Some work has been done already. Enquiries have been made about the cleaning and maintenance of the pond. There used to be a pocket park team at Northants County Council but there is no longer a Pocket Park Officer. The Chair was recommended to contact Chris Haines of the Countryside Service. Chris Haines has suggested that the Parish Council contact the Froglife Charity for advice. Generally speaking ponds are robust and recover quickly and should be cleaned out during Autumn/Winter time. There may be newts in the pond which are a protected species and this may present complications.

Action: The Chair asked Cllr Powell to follow this up and contact the Froglife Charity and others sources to see if there is further advice available with regard to clearing out the pond and also to see if there might be a list of contractors who may be approached to quote for regular maintenance of the pond .

Play Equipment – The Parish Clerk has chased TB Sports Fencing about the basketball repairs and is talking to Kompan about the zip wire repairs.

4. Sign board and Bus Shelter - To discuss options for the repair or replacement of the bus shelter and provision of additional notice boards

A previous idea was to combine the bus shelter and signboard into one structure. In response to feedback from the previous Parish Council meeting Councillors now feel that it would be better to replace the bus shelter with a new one to replicate the old. The Chair has messaged one contractor to ask if he can provide an alternative quotation. Cllr Jackson will lead this project and take care of CDM (2015) issues and planning implications. He will present his recommendations to the councillors.

The idea of a signboard originally came from a suggestion raised at a Parish Council meeting last year. The Parish Council do not have their own notice-board but use a small one which is situated outside the shop. Cllr Walker will now look into this idea and look at potential options and issues.

5. Bridleway AY4 - To receive an update and discuss how the Parish Council should proceed

Cllr Jackson reported that this matter relates to a diversion order made by Northants County Council. The Parish Council and Colin Wootton originally objected to the diversion. A temporary closure order has now been put on. Cllr Jackson and Colin Wootton have walked around the routes, looked at the options and been through the history and documentation.

Cllr Jackson has looked at legislation and where to go from here. There are two options. Do the Parish Council stand firm and try to get the bridge repaired, or do they accept what has happened and try to get the best option? There are different permutations as to how the options could turn out. The closure order was put on in August 2015 and will expire in 6 months time, February 2016. Cllr Jackson suggested that the Parish Council will have to make representations and draft a letter to be sent this side of Christmas. The Chair asked what form of representation would be needed? Cllr Jackson felt there was no set protocol and recommended that a letter be drafted and sent off once agreed by the Parish Council.

Councillors have accepted that repairing the bridge may be difficult to achieve, but without prejudice to the Parish Council's objections, consider that a range of alternative solutions might be considered. Talking to the Rights of Way Officer to find an acceptable solution seems to be the next logical step in the process. The Chair suggested that a small workshop could be held with all relevant parties to work out a solution. The proposal would then be subject to a public consultation which people may or may not object to. Cllr Jackson agreed with this suggestion. From the floor, Mr Fonge said that Angus Richards would be delighted to attend a small meeting with the Rights of Way Officer to negotiate a better alternative. Mr Wootton felt this is the perfect way to proceed. Cllr Jackson to advise NCC that the Parish Council still want the preferred route to remain but will talk about other options.

Action: Cllr Jackson and Mr Wootton to draft a letter to send before the December meeting. Cllr Jackson to email the flow chart to councillors that he has produced showing options.

6. To discuss the state of the verge at the junction of Magpie Road and Manor Road

The verge at the junction of Magpie Road and Manor Road is in a bad state of repair. It has always been used as a parking area by numerous vehicles over time. If the vehicle is large, a lot of damage can be done. Councillors do have sympathy for those who have no off road parking. Different ideas such as putting a street sign or heavy planters on the area to improve the situation have been suggested.

Action: Cllr Powell to email Helen Howard, NCC Community Liaison Officer to ask her advice on how to solve the problem.

7. Councillor Reports

Street Lighting Project

Cllr Roberts gave an update on the street lighting project. The paperwork to apply for the Public Works Loan was prepared with the Parish Clerk and submitted to the Northants County Association a few weeks ago. They were happy with the application and have submitted it now to the Secretary of State. Decisions are normally made within three weeks but current applications are being reviewed much quicker. Cllr Roberts has emailed Chris Barnes, to ask if the sub contractor will accept staged payments. Mr Barnes is not hopeful about this. There is concern there may be a shortfall because of the VAT which the Parish Council can only claim after an invoice is paid.

Action: Cllr Roberts and The Parish Clerk will liaise and seek further advice if needed to resolve the potential cash flow issue.

Verge in Little Street

The Chair spoke about part of a verge in Little Street which has been tidied up with tarmac. The grass will need to recover. Some neighbours have complained about the condition of the verge. This matter had been passed to Helen Howard, NCC Community Liaison Officer who acted on the information received from the Parish Council.

Memorial for tree on Triangular Green

Councillors discussed the tree which has been put on the triangular green in memory of Tommie and Nellie Stalabrass. The family funded the tree and the Parish Council are very grateful to them. The family are keen to place a memorial near to the tree and have been talking to the Parish Council. The land belongs to Highways and it is not within the gift of the Parish Council to permit it. Conflicting advice was given about whether a license was needed to plant the tree and this took some time to organise despite a tree being in place before. There will be a liability on the Parish Council if someone trips or falls over the memorial. The Chair asked Councillors if they supported the idea of a memorial or not.

Councillors had mixed views. One felt that if the memorial was recessed into the ground then the safety risks would be small. He did not think there would be an issue as it is not a pedestrian area. Another Councillor understood why it was being done and respected the wishes of the family but he felt it might set a precedent. There are a growing number of memorials in the village already. A suggestion was made to put a tag on the tree instead. Councillors agreed that this is a better idea.

Action: The Chair to draft a response for Janet Smith to reply to the family.

8. Finance

The following payments were approved:

£39.00 to South Northants Council (election costs)

£316.72 to EON (electricity)

£288.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting October)

£268.56 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£21.08 to Parish Clerk (mileage to meetings)

Proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Powell.

To consider a request from Sulgrave PCC to contribute towards the church clock maintenance

A request has been received from Sulgrave PCC to contribute towards the church clock maintenance. A contribution of £140.00 was given last year. The total invoice cost is £289.20 including VAT. It was agreed to give a contribution of £140.00 again.

9. Planning

New Application received

S/2015/2466/TCA, To fell 1 Acer and 1 Sycamore Tree at Bower House, Park Lane. For info only.

Response on older applications

S/2015/2328/FUL, Removal of a conservatory and proposed new single storey extension at Middle Barn, Manor Road. No objections.

S/2015/2287/FUL, Removal of a conservatory and proposed new single storey extension at High Barn, Manor Road. No objections.

On a general note, Cllr Roberts asked about the fitting of solar panels on house roofs. Solar panels are being fitted on houses in Manor Road but these might be allowed under permitted development rights. There is more relevant information on the UK Planning Portal website which Cllr Roberts will look at.

10. Correspondence

Northants Highways, Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2016

Northants Police Crime Commissioner, Update

Northants CALC, Budget Information 2016/17

SNC, Invitation to NAYC (Northants Association of Youth Clubs) Showcase Event on 25.11.15

SNC, Invitation to the Chairmans Christmas Carols on 06.12.15

Two items of correspondence were highlighted:

Northants Highways, Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2016. NCC have confirmed that a grant of £418.70 will be paid during 2016/17. The Parish Clerk to complete and return to NCC.

Northants CALC, Budget Information 2016/17. This will be used in the January meeting when the budget for 2016/17 is set.

11. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

To discuss the AY4 footpath at the December meeting.

To discuss Pocket Park, Signboard and bus shelter at the January meeting.

12. Open Forum

Cllr Powell had received a letter from Bentleys Farm Bungalow to advise they are starting work.

Mr Wootton reported the signpost outside Corner House which has had new arms put on.

Councillors discussed carol signing and Cllr Roberts agreed to contact the new people in Bell Cottage as they seemed happy to help this year.

Mr Wootton advised that the Advent windows would be happening again this year. He will be putting the photos on the website.

Cllr Priestman asked if there was an update on HS2. Cllr Walker had attended the recent meeting and provided a link in an email for councillors to look at. Cllr Roberts felt the link was good and it will be put on the village website. A note to be put on the website for those without internet access to contact a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Roberts spoke about the Hunt which was in the village on 7th November. He recognises that they live in a rural community but there seems to be little consideration given to the villagers. There seems to be no control of the hounds and there is concern for people's pets. The Chair asked if anybody had complained and it seems they have not this time. A letter was sent some time ago and the Parish Clerk agreed to look for the letter. It was agreed another letter should be sent.

13. Date and time of next meeting

10th December 2015 at 7.45pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm