

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2016
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Andrew Waite (Chairman), Troy Daniels, Chris Jackson, Graham Roberts, David Walker, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers

1a. Apologies

Cllr Priestman

1b. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meetings of 13TH October 2016

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

2b. Matters Arising

There were no matters to discuss.

3. To receive an update on the transfer of land at the village shop

There has been an exchange of emails and an update on progress. All papers are now with Mr Todd's solicitor and awaiting a response from them. There is nothing on the Parish Council side holding the process up. Cllr Walker reported that he had heard the legal fees are now £1300.00. The shop did offer to pay their legal costs but he asked if it was right to accept their offer. 25 people volunteer to keep the shop going and the shop could not function without the land behind it.

Action: Cllr Roberts agreed to clarify the Parish Council's legal costs (current and anticipated) with Lewis Thomas and then the situation would be reviewed.

4. To discuss & review design quality for new development within or near to the Conservation Area

Angus Richards was invited to the meeting but declined to attend. The Chair briefly mentioned the Conservation Area Appraisal which was carried out some time ago. It provides a general overview and is not a comprehensive design guide. Planning policies were discussed. These are in place already and should be considered on a case by case basis. It was agreed that efforts are better focussed on specific sites.

5. To hear from the organisers about the restoration of the Organ and associated scholarship scheme relating to St James the Less Church

Libbie Foster and Terry Taylor attended the meeting to discuss the project. A group of four people are raising money to restore the organ as part of the village heritage. It is hoped that the organ can be used for concerts and bring people together from the wider community. A total of £43K has to be raised. An application is being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and it is hoped that the restoration will be finished at the end of November. Parts of the organ were removed which meant the organ was unplayable. The work went out to tender to three organ restorers. It was suggested that the group look at crowd funding and approach Sulgrave Charities. Letters of support are needed for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Letters have been sent to Chenderit and Culworth School, the local MP and District Cllr. Councillors were interested in the proposal and asked the Parish Clerk to look into any possibility of the parish Council being able to assist the project. The Chair suggested the Parish Council would consider offering its own letter of support.

Action: The Clerk to investigate the potential ways under which funds might be offered and the Chair to issue a letter of support to assist the application.

6. To discuss ongoing maintenance and other matters at The Pocket Park

Rod d'Ayala has been helping the Parish Council with the pond and maintenance work in the area. The Chair will arrange for him to visit again. There is an overhanging willow tree which requires attention. The Chair and Mr Fonge have been looking at the hedge which requires trimming on the other side. The land owner has now given their permission for that to happen. The Chair to contact the tenant and look at other planting and maintenance work. The Chair and Mr Fonge to liaise.

7. To discuss future use of the adopted pay-phone kiosk - including the potential for a defibrillator

BT have confirmed that one call has been made in the last year. It was agreed at the last meeting that the village would be consulted about other uses for the kiosk. An email has now been received from SNC to note that a decision has to be made by 5th December on whether to accept or object the offer made by BT or to adopt the kiosk.

Councillors discussed whether the kiosk would be useful to the village if it stayed as not everyone has a mobile phone. However only one call has been made in the last year. In an emergency situation there are places to go to. The mast has made a difference to mobile signals and reception.

The Chair had contacted Richard Macdonald who had offered a defibrillator through his company Cardiac Science some time ago. He has provided costs for a cabinet (£495 plus VAT), bracket (£50 plus VAT), installation costs (£100) and running costs (£30 per year). He recommended that a unit is not put in a kiosk as he has not seen one anywhere. The Parish Clerk is currently involved with two other parishes who are putting defibrillators into kiosks. She will have an idea of installation costs soon. Cllr Walker had seen a defibrillator in Wardington which is linked to a private company and not 999. He asked for clarification.

Action: Councillors agreed to adopt the kiosk from BT and then decide on its use later on. The Parish Clerk to reply to the email from SNC. Cllr Daniels to draft a note for the newsletter to consult the village on uses for the kiosk. The Parish Clerk to ask Mac to clarify if the defibrillator would be linked to 999 or a private company.

9. To receive an update on village lighting

Cllr Roberts has contacted T Clarke to get a quotation for a shield to be fitted to lanterns no 6 and no 11. The other problem could be solved by fitting two cowels. A flickering light was reported outside Wisteria Cottage on Helmdon Road. This will be reported to T Clarke. The new lights, poles and installation costs are now covered on the insurance policy.

10. To discuss Council Objectives for 2017

It was agreed that Council objectives for 2017 would be:

Replacement of bus shelter, defibrillator, replacement notice-boards, ongoing work in Pocket Park, including work required to trees, refurbishment of the Church Hall, cultural activities which would involve supporting musical events in the church. Other objectives include tree work on Castle Green and work to the Wall Around the Green. There is also money which was received from a community spaces grant in 2013 to purchase equipment to be used at events.

Trees in general were discussed. The ash trees may need replacing and the beech trees by the Stocks will need testing again. This could be incorporated into a general asset management plan. The Clerk to circulate the current asset list to Councillors.

Cllr Daniels suggested whether the Council should ask the village for more ideas. However the current list is fairly lengthy with a couple of important objectives such as the defibrillator and Organ Fund.

11. Councillors Reports

Cllr Walker has taken the walking leaflets to the Manor and they are on sale now.

Cllr Walker is to take photos of the Gated Road for the Parish Clerk to forward to NCC.

Cllr Roberts reported the bottom of Manor Road where part of the road has lifted. The Parish Clerk to report to Street Doctor.

A response has been received from NCC about the verge between Manor Road and Magpie Road was discussed. They have confirmed that bollards are not permitted for the sole purpose of preventing damage to grass verges. If they were installed a precedent would then be set. Cllr Roberts to ask Colin Wootton to laminate a new notice which will be put in the verge.

12. Finance

The following payments were approved:-

£215.71 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£21.08 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£30.00 to Parish Clerk (contribution to broadband costs)

An additional two invoices (£576.00 each) from RD Landscapes Ltd were approved for payment. They were received after the agenda had been issued.

To discuss and decide whether to replace the Bank of Ireland accounts

The Bank of Ireland accounts were closed in February as the bank were going to freeze the accounts due to inactivity. It was agreed to keep the Burial Ground fund of £3K ring fenced. The Parish Clerk to ask the Vicar how many plots are currently left in the churchyard.

To review the budget sheet and discuss the precept for 2017/18

A draft budget sheet for 2017/18 had been circulated by the Clerk. Projected expenditure is £16,544.00 and projected income is £15,773.00. It was agreed to set the precept for 2017/18 at £13,500.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SNC.

13. Planning

S/2016/2699/TCA, Fell 1 x cherry, Crown reduce 1 x apple, crown reduce 1 x plum at Eagles Court, Helmdon Road. For information only.

14. Correspondence

- Stephen Mold, PCC Police and Crime Plan Consultation
- Northants ACRE AGM on 16th November
- Sulgrave PCC, Thank you letter
- Keep the Horton General

15. Open Forum

There were no matters raised.

16. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Use of the telephone kiosk

Work at Pocket Park

Adoption of Standing Orders

Restoration of the Organ

17. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm