

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2017
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Chris Jackson (Chairman), Anna Faure, Neil Higginson, Troy Daniels, Laura North

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and eight villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17/32a. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Priestman (funeral)

17/32b. To receive Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

17/33a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2017

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 31st August were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

17/33b. Matters Arising

The Chair gave an update on the Village shop. An email was received from them 1-2 weeks ago and a meeting will be arranged in due course.

17/34. Guest Speaker, Nick King of South Northants Area Support Team for Neighbourhood Watch

Mr King thanked the Parish Council for the invitation to attend this meeting. Towcester Neighbourhood Watch has been going for 30 years and is an independent charity. It has the biggest band of volunteers in the UK. Police resources are getting thinner and thinner and rural crime is of concern in villages. Mr King reminded the meeting that South Northants is fairly crime free. The old school of thought was someone in the village building an email list of names and the information being cascaded on to those on the list. The problem would arise when the person moved as the database would be lost. The new school of thought is for people to register themselves on the County Council website. They would receive direct messages from the Police and this would create a network of information. People would have to become a member of the local scheme first. Mr King passed over a free yellow sign worth £16 and offered to return and talk to everyone or send an article for the newsletter.

Cllr North asked if the idea of joining the County Council website may create scaremongering in the community. Mr King replied that it may do but it is better for people to know what is happening. Crime is static in this area but it is useful to know the crime profiles in other villages. Cllr Higginson asked if a co-ordinator would be needed? Mr King replied yes. From the floor, Mr Wootton who maintains the village website, agreed he would be happy to put any information on it. Mr Roberts asked what level of influence NW had with the police force? Mr King replied that they have a good relationship with the Police Crime and Commissioner and Neighbourhood Policing. Councillors agreed the village would join the scheme. Thanks was given to Mr King for attending the meeting and he left the room.

17/35. Public Participation Session

Mr Roberts reported the gate on the footpath at the top of the Gated Road which is padlocked. He will forward the information to the Parish Clerk to report to Rights of Way.

Mr Fonge advised that he and Mr Osman took responsibility for the wooded area of Pocket Park 12 months ago. There is more work to be done to the bottom hedge and remedial work to be done to trees. They estimate it to be one and a half days work at a cost of £300.00.

Action: Mr Fonge to send the details to the Parish Clerk for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mowing in the village was discussed as it was felt to be of a low standard again. Grass cutting will be reviewed at the next meeting. Mr Fonge suggested that the Parish Council purchase a mower which will cost £275.00 and he agreed to mow Pocket Park next year on a regular basis. The mower would need to be stored and the Parish Council are to cover the running costs such as petrol and oil. There may be a storage area in Towrise which can be used.

Action: Mr Fonge to send the details in writing to the Parish Clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

Overgrown bushes were reported in front of the cottages on Manor Road which are impinging onto the footpath. The Chair to have a polite word first with the owners.

17/36. To discuss the request to use the bus shelter as a nativity scene for part of the Advent Window Event in December

A request had been received from Shrimp Christy and Joy Grice to ask if they can use the village bus shelter as a nativity scene for part of the Advent Window Event this year? They would like to put a painted scene on the back wall and a crib in the shelter, and possibly figures on the front outside walls. Rechargeable battery powered lights would illuminate the scene for a few hours each evening. It was agreed to be a good idea and the use of the bus shelter would not be impaired. The finer details will need to be agreed.

Action: The Parish Clerk to reply.

17/37. To receive an update from Angus Richards on footpath AY4

The Chair gave a brief update. The footpath has been closed for some time and several alternatives to the routing of the path were proposed. The Parish Council and Colin Wootton had objected. Another proposal was later put forward which was approved by the Parish Council with conditions.

Mr Richards noted the work will be done to a good standard. He wanted there to be an understanding about what would be done at the site visit and by the contractor. There will be access control at both ends. Horses will not have access and wheelchairs and buggy users will have to use the longer route. The path will be 2.5 metres wide and the bank will be sloped at a gradient of 1:12 which is sensible. There should be sufficient earth to block both ends of the tunnel. The path surface will be left as compacted earth. The Chair reminded him that the path has to be of an adequate standard and durable. In five years, it must still be a path. An option may be to put wood chippings down. Mr Richards agreed there would be a site visit halfway through the project.

Cllr North asked when would the work be done and how it would fit in with lambing season? Mr Richards replied the work would be done in the Autumn time. From the floor, Mr Wootton, an original objector noted that he has contacted Highways and removed his objection. Cllr North advised that there is access further along the bridge (although not legal) and asked if it would be blocked? The landowner has a duty of care and this will be covered during the site visit.

In conclusion the Chair noted the Parish Council are still happy with the principle. They will continue to support the Right of Way Order and not object.

Action: The Chair to send an email to Angus Richards confirming this.

17/38. To discuss the South Northants Local Plan Pre-submission Draft –Consultation

Local plans contain policies and proposals which guide decisions on the use and development of land within a prescribed period. They are prepared by District Councils in accordance with relevant National and Regional planning policies, in consultation with all interested parties, organisations and the general public. The current Local Plan was adopted by SNC in 1997.

The Council is preparing a replacement plan for the period up to 2029 which will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District, propose amendments to town and village confine lines, beyond which expansion would not normally be permitted and identify areas of important open spaces within settlements and address local development needs. In 2016 SNC published a consultation document inviting comments on the various options then under consideration. Sulgrave Parish Council responded with help from Colin Wootton (a villager). After due consideration SNC has now published its Pre-Submission Draft Plan for consultation.

The Joint Core Strategy provides for 11020 houses in South Northants. The South Northants Allocation is as follows:

Brackley Town 2160, Towcester Town 2650, Northampton Related Development Area 3850 and South Northants Rural Area 2360.

There is a hierarchy of villages with the bulk expected to be accommodated in Primary Service Villages, Secondary Service Villages and Small villages. Sulgrave is classed as a small village. In small villages there is scope for very limited development within or adjoining the village confines of the settlement where this is limited to meet any identified local or specialist need of where there are opportunities for the redevelopment of brownfield sites. The plan is clear that any application including the development of open market housing on sites outside the village confines will need to be accompanied with evidence that alternative sites within the confines are not suitable or available for development.

SNC has made a number of small amendments to the confines lines for Sulgrave and these were shown in the document prepared by Colin Wootton. The changes are made so that the line follows garden boundaries rather than cutting across properties in the past. The line also reflects the granting of planning permission for housing development in Little Street.

Special Landscape Areas are noted. This is to recognise that some areas are of greater landscape value than others. For the first time, Sulgrave and its surrounding landscapes are included in this designation. The newly designated area is to be called 'Sulgrave & Great Central Railway' and is described as:

"An intimate landscape characterised within the topography given by the transition of the landscape character from the Northamptonshire Uplands to the Northamptonshire Vales and the Yardley - Whittlewood Ridge." It was noted that Eydon, Culworth and Thorpe Mandeville areas to the west are already designated as Special Landscape Areas. While such areas do not have the status of national designations such as "Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty" the designation does give further protection from unsuitable developments. The policy for such areas states "...the Council will seek to conserve and enhance the quality of the landscape and development opportunities within those areas will be limited because of their special environmental quality."

There are no changes to the Conservation Area and the Local Plan gives reference to HS2. Comments have to be submitted by 10th November. A draft response has been prepared by Colin Wootton and this has been circulated within Council. Thanks was given to Colin Wootton.

Action: Councillors to read the response and reply to the Chair as soon as possible. The matter to be considered and discussed at the next meeting.

17/39. To discuss Councillor Responsibilities

The following areas of responsibility were agreed:

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| - Pocket Park | Cllr North |
| - Communication (website, facebook, newsletter etc) | Cllr Daniels |
| - District / County Council liaison (consultation documents, NCALC, etc) | Cllr Jackson |
| - Environment (grass cutting, recycling, street lighting, highways, footpaths) | Cllr Daniels/Cllr Higginson |
| - Heritage and Cultural (Castle Green) | Cllr Priestman |
| - Planning | Cllr Jackson |
| - Utilities | Cllr Higginson |
| - HS2 Liaison and Village Hall | Cllr Faure |

- Defibrillator
- Bus Shelter
- Village Shop
- Sulgrave Manor liaison

CLlr Daniels
 CLlr Daniels
 CLlr Jackson
 CLlr Jackson

17/40. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £300.00 to RD Landscapes (grass cutting)
- £47.90 to Texprep (printing of newsletter)
- £50.00 to Parish Clerk (float)
- £343.56 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £21.08 to Parish Clerk (mileage)
- £360.00 to BDO LLP (external audit)

To approve and accept the Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2017 and discuss the Issues Arising Report

The Annual Return was presented and approved and accepted. All of the Annual Return information has been scanned and is on the website. The issue arising from the external auditor is the value of fixed assets being under valued. This note was accepted and will be amended next year.

17/41. To receive an update on Planning

The following applications were received:

- S/2017/2204/FUL, 2 storey rear and side extension, single storey lean too extension to rear and new front entrance porch at 2 Spinners Cottages, Magpie Road. No objections.
- S/2107/2155/TCA, Tree work at Dippers Cottage, Little Street. For info only.
- S/2017/2178/TCA, Remove one stem from Sycamore Tree at Swallow Cottage, Manor Road. For info only.
- S/2017/2262/TCA, Fell one yew tree and two Hawthorn trees at The Old Vicarage, Magpie Road. For info only.
- S/2017/2346/TCA, Remove 15 leylandii trees and one cherry tree at The Old Forge House, Church St. For info only.

17/42. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:-

- SNC Parish Council Event on 23rd November
- SNC, Peer Review
- Lucy Apperly, HS2 (Details of meeting). HS2 was briefly discussed as there is an open meeting at Sulgrave Manor on 12th October. The Chair reminded the Councillors' that the Parish Council have not taken a view of the concept formally.

17/43. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

- Response to SNC Local Plan Part 2 consultation
- Ongoing work in Pocket Park
- Review of Grass cutting contract

17/44. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.50pm