

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM

Councillors Present

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1a. Apologies

Councillor Jackson

1b. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Roberts declared an interest in the planning application at The Junipers, 1a School Street.

2a. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting of 10th August 2015

An amendment to page 1, under Councillors present.

Sentence to now read Andrew Waite (Chair), Chris Jackson, Graham Roberts, David Walker, Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), ten villagers and Chris Barnes (Project Manager of Nene Construction Management Services Ltd). The minutes were then agreed and signed. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Walker.

2b. Matters Arising

At the last meeting, Cllr Walker reported the finger post at the top of Little Street which is falling apart. He is concerned that once it is reported on Street Doctor, the post may just be removed. The Parish Council would like to see it restored to its original condition as it is an important feature within the Conservation Area.

At the last meeting, it was reported that the bench put in by Mrs Tattersall requires some repair work. The approximate cost is £150.00 as it is a solid oak bench. Mrs Tattersall has agreed to pay half of the repair cost. Cllr Walker will get a firm quote from Dom North. Cllr Walker proposed the Parish Council accept the offer made by Mrs Tattersall and the bench could then be adopted onto the asset register. Councillors were supportive of this proposal and agreed to having the work carried out before adopting the item onto the asset register. Councillors discussed, in general terms, the potential implications for adopting new items onto the register (or maintaining existing items) in the future but no firm conclusions were made.

3. To receive an update on the street lighting project

Following the last council meeting in August, Cllr Roberts had hoped to get hold of an accurate cost schedule and publish the detail in the newsletter. Due to holidays, this did not happen. A meeting was held with Chris Barnes and the contractor yesterday (9th September).

There are two options to consider now, the Strand column or the Galvo column. The Strand seems to be the preferred option. This is the better one as it is a sealed unit and there would be no condensation.

Option A (Strand) - The total cost to replace the lanterns on the service and cropped poles with a Strand lantern is £53K. If the cropped wooden poles were replaced, the total cost would increase to £62K. Option D (Galvo) – The total cost to replace the lanterns on the service and cropped poles with a Galvo lantern is £29K. If the cropped wooden poles were replaced, the total cost would increase to £34K.

Prices are fixed to 30th October 2015 and Cllr Roberts summarised the approximate costs to take out a Public Works Loan and the impact that would have on the precept per dwelling.

There are cost savings to be made as there would be a reduction in energy costs. Option A would break even after 9 years and Option D would break even after 12 years. Both types would come with a one year warranty. There would be an assumed 50% reduction in energy costs for the Strand fitting and assumed 25% reduction for the Galvo fitting. If savings are made over the years, the precept could be reduced in years to come.

Cllr Roberts had circulated a timeline. The process and award takes four weeks. Chris Barnes would prepare the contract. Material lead time is 8 weeks and therefore it is hoped the work could start in January 2016. To move to the next stage, there would have to be a full council meeting and resolution proposed. This would be submitted to the Secretary of State. The Parish Council have to show a current budget, write a full business case and provide information on how the Parish Council will afford the loan repayments. There has to be evidence that the public have been made aware of the increase in precept. The consultation documents have to be submitted to show the Parish Council are acting responsibly.

There has been a discrepancy on how many light fittings there are. The contractor said 24 but there are 25. Cllr Roberts suggested that the cropped poles are left with their brackets on. It would be difficult to take some of the cropped poles out of the ground and a new one could be placed three foot away and nearer to a bedroom window. A lot of the existing lights are covered with vegetation and this would have to be cleared.

From the floor, Mrs Blayney asked if the cropped poles have a life span of 30 years? The poles look fine but there are no guarantees. The poles would be capped with lead to stop water going in. The new lights may be able to go on a timer and dim down automatically after midnight. The Chair asked if the times can be varied and the answer was yes. Mrs Blayney asked if the lights can be changed individually and the answer was yes.

Cllr Walker asked if 25 lights are needed? There is one at the top of Helmdon Road on the hill which is outside of the village. The people there would need to be consulted and the saving would be £1700.00. In the whole scheme, the saving would be minimal. There are also 3 lights in quick succession on Magpie Road which might not be required.

Action: It was agreed that a Special Public meeting would be held prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 8th October to consult upon and to agree the Public Works Loan. The meeting will start at 7.15pm. Cllr Roberts to prepare all the paperwork with the Clerk and put some information in the next newsletter which is due out in early October.

4. Councillors Reports

The Chair noted that work is in progress on improvements to the church hall and new signboard.

5. To discuss issues relating to Pocket Park

This item would stay on the agenda for the time being as it is important to be focussed on trying to get a Pocket Park Warden or a team of people to attend to the pond on a regular basis. It is a useful and educational resource and sad to see the area not being used.

The inspection of the play equipment has been carried out. There are no major issues, the mini bridge is loose and needs securing. Nets are broken on the MUGA. There is a rider sleeve missing from the zip wire.

Susie Blayney suggested that Nene College are contacted and asked if they want to take Pocket Park on as a project. Sue McNally at Sulgrave Manor is in touch with them and she will ask Sue to contact the Chair. Tom Russell, a previous councillor did contact Helen Timms about the pond but she was not keen to do the work. A mum, during the summer, complained she could not take her children to the pond. It was agreed the pond would be easier to clean out in the Spring and the council are to focus on health and safety issues first.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact TB Sports Fencing about repairs to the basketball hoops and to contact the suppliers of the equipment to discuss a service contract.

6. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:

- £288.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)
- £300.00 to Nene Construction Management Services Ltd (street lighting project)
- £318.92 to Parish Clerk (hours)
- £31.62 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Powell.

7. **Planning**

Two new applications had been received:-

- *S/2015/1709/FUL, Erection of a timber framed and clad garden studio in the rear garden at Hill Farm House, Manor Road. No objections.*
- *S/2015/1852/FUL, Ancillary accommodation at The Junipers, 1a School Street. No objections.*

SNC Decisions on older applications

- *S/2015/1444/LBC, New door in place of a window on rear north west elevation at The Old Farmhouse, Manor Road. Approved.*
- *S/2015/1614/FUL and S/2015/1625/LBC, New window openings, insertion of flue and internal alterations to outbuilding at The Old Farmhouse, Manor Road. Approved.*
- *S/2015/1420/PA, Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Coolington Barn, Helmdon Road. Grant of prior approval.* The Chair clarified what grant of prior approval means. It makes it easier for farmers to develop buildings of this type. Cllr Walker asked if the Parish Council would be told if the access of the concrete road would be restricted. The Chair did not think so as it is not a recognised right of way.

8. **Correspondence**

- NCC, Temporary Closure Order 2015 of Public Bridleway AY4
- Ground Control Ltd, Powerline Tree Cutting, Consent
- Northants CALC, Local Council Award Scheme – Approaching the End of Free Foundation Year
- NALC, Dates for reaccrediting after the Free Foundation Year
- Newbottle Parish Council, Parish Councillor Training

- NCC, Temporary Closure Order 2015 of Public Bridleway AY4

Councillors discussed the temporary closure order of AY4 which has been closed for safety reasons. Mr Wootton reminded the meeting of the history to this footpath. An application was submitted by All Souls College to divert the footpath. Mr Wootton placed an objection and suggested a diversion. This was not favoured by NCC. The Chair asked if more should be done to force the issue? Cllr Walker felt that (as it is a public right of way) the landowner should pay for the bridge to be repaired and questioned whether the landowner or tenant should have insurance like home owners. Mr Wootton felt the tenant might have to pay. It is not clear who the tenancy agreement is with, whether the owner or the tenant. Mrs Blayney asked if the bridge could be knocked down. It would be cheaper to repair than knock down. However it is a feature of the village and Councillors would like to see it restored.

Mr Wootton will contact NCC as he was an original objector.

Action: The Chair to contact Northants County Council and ask for an update.

- Northants CALC, Local Council Award Scheme – Approaching the End of Free Foundation Year
To keep an unbroken accreditation record, the latest that councils can register is 1st October. The application form would have to be submitted by 1st November. The Parish Clerk to look into this further.

9. Open Forum

Mrs Blayney asked for an update as the tree had not been cut back by the path in Madams Close. In the last email from NCC, they had said that their budget had been used up and there were no funds left. The Chair to contact Helen Howard.

Cllr Walker asked if the Post Office had come back with a reason for putting the post box where it is. The Parish Clerk contacted Mr Davis at Royal Mail immediately after the July meeting. Two options were discussed and Mr Davis agreed to speak to his team and establish actual reasons. Mr Davis also said that Royal Mail reserve the right to decide the actual location. It seems that most people are using the shop to post letters. The Parish Clerk to get an update and ask if they will consider moving the box.

Mr Fonge asked for an update on the defibrillator. The Parish Clerk did email Richard McDonald in June. She agreed to email him again.

Colin Wootton gave an update on the Windfarm. The developers are seeking leave to appeal. If the case goes to the Court of Appeal a decision will not be known until June 2016.

The sign post opposite the Magpie has finally been put back in the ground.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting on 8th October 2015 at 7.15pm at the Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm