

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2017  
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and nine villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**17/45a. To receive apologies for absence**

None

**17/45b. To receive Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**17/46a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**17/46b. Matters Arising**

*AY3 footpath* - The locked gate on this footpath was reported to the Rights of Way Department. The land was given up in September. The farmer has been asked to make a gap in the small section of fence next to the gate to allow access.

**17/47. Public Participation Session**

Mr Christy noted that the website did not have up to date minutes on it. This is in hand. The minutes would also go on the notice-board.

Mr Nicholls spoke about the overgrown bush on Manor Road which is getting bigger. The Chair to speak to the home owner.

**17/48. To decide upon a response to the SNC Local Plan Part 2 consultation**

A very comprehensive response had been compiled. The comments made on the last consultation had been taken into account. Councillors felt the response was well researched and clearly laid out.

*Action: The Chair to respond to NCC and copy Councillors.*

**17/49. To receive a report on the progress and cost of the bus shelter and information board project and to decide on the budgeting of funding for the project**

Cllr Daniels gave an update. Firstly he thanked Cllr Higginson for progressing the project. The Countersthorpe is the preferred option but is more expensive. The total cost of the project including the cost of the bus shelter, delivery, removal of the old shelter, installation and groundworks and cost of poster cases, delivery and printing is £8638.00. It is proposed to apply to the New Homes Bonus Grant scheme and apply for £4376.00. This leaves a shortfall of £4308.00. The Parish Council have to decide whether to fund the shortfall on the precept, fund through reserves or not progress the project.

The existing shelter has been in place for a long time and will become structurally unsafe eventually. Its replacement has been an agenda item for a number of years. It was agreed there are insufficient reserves to draw upon and the whole shortfall cannot be added to the precept. Another option could be to apply for a Public Works Loan over a number of years. Councillors discussed whether it would be cheaper to have a bus shelter made but this would delay the process further.

From the floor, Mr Sirot-Smith on behalf of the History Society and Archaeology Group advised they have a lot of funds and could help fund the shortfall. They would be happy to make a positive contribution to speed the project up. The New Homes Bonus grant application has to be submitted by 30th November. An additional meeting may be needed to agree the grant application. It was agreed for Cllr Daniels to make a New Homes Bonus Grant application.

*Action: Cllr Daniels to complete the paperwork. An extraordinary meeting to be arranged.*

**17/50. To discuss the proposal by Richard Fonge to purchase a mower for the pocket park and carry out additional maintenance works**

Mr Fonge has suggested two proposals to be considered. The first proposal is for the Parish Council to purchase a mower which will cost £620.00. It will have a cut of 46cm and will mulch the grass as it is cut. Mr Fonge will use this mower to cut Pocket Park on a regular basis next year.

The second proposal is to cut down 22 metres of hedge and burn it, to trim 60 metres and clear the suckers, to fell and burn two small dead trees in the woodland and have a general tidy up. The cost for two people to do the work is £350.00.

It was agreed to accept both quotes.

On a separate note Cllr North noted that she has tightened the bolts on the climbing wall. The basketball hoop still needs replacing. She is in discussion with someone who has a garage to store the mower in. It was agreed the mower would be insured after purchase.

**17/51. To discuss grass cutting in the village**

The current grass contractor may be finishing at the end of this season. A tender process will be launched and the current contractor would like the opportunity to bid. Three quotes will be sought and neighbouring parishes will be contacted to ask who cuts their grass.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the grass cutting contract with supplier details and contact details for neighbouring villages to Cllr Daniels/Higginson.*

**17/52. HS2**

*To discuss the recent HS2 information event and future PC strategy for HS2 engagement and information sharing*

The information event was held on 12th October and organised by Lucy Apperly. Thanks was given to her for her work. A range of feedback has been received. Some feel the Parish Council are not doing anything with HS2 and others think that everything is fine. It is important that there is co-ordination as a community as it will be the best chance to get commissions. By working together some issues will be secured and some issues can be mitigated.

The Chair has drafted a strategy which was read out at the meeting. The main points of the document included the background, objective and what the Parish Council will do. Councillors approved the strategy document. It will be publicised in the newsletter.

It has been agreed that Cllr Faure will attend the SNC HS2 Liaison meetings. If she is unable to attend, someone else will try to attend on her behalf. She has a direct line to Parliament and they will update her on the phone when they need to. She can arrange a meeting with them if it is needed. HS2 will be a standing agenda item each month. A second information event will be held next year between the Summer and Autumn of 2018. A new page will be set up on the website. Minutes of the liaison meetings will be put on the website. The Parish Council to use the website, flyers and newsletter for passing on information. Cllr Daniels to take the lead on this.

*To receive an update on the potential update of the Church Hall*

Cllr Faure has met a builder to do an assessment of the hall. Short term goals are to look at the damp and coldness of the hall. The long term goals are to make the hall a commercial facility.

There will be grant funding available. Not everybody is in favour of the work. It was agreed for Cllr Faure to carry out a consultation before Christmas on whether the money should be used to upgrade the Church Hall or not.

From the floor Mr Fonge, who knew people involved in HS1 in Kent advised that the village must co-operate and not fight the project. There is a greater benefit to knowing what is going on. He felt the Church Hall was a vital asset to the village and was in desperate need of updating.

**17/53. To discuss and agree on the development of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Janet Smith currently receives notifications from Neighbourhood Watch. She is not a co-ordinator and does not want to be one. She felt it was more suitable for a town than a village although there have been a few incidents lately. Meetings are held but on the other side of the county. Thanks was given to her for all her work. The new system is online but requires a Co-ordinator. 10% of the village are not online but these are the most vulnerable. It was felt to be a good thing to have the information out there. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes do make a difference with community building. The scheme would require a co-ordinator. There is a free yellow sign to be placed in the village.

*Actions: Cllr Higginson/Daniels to draft an advert for a Co-ordinator for the newsletter. Cllr Higginson to forward the role of the Co-ordinator to the Chair. Cllr Higginson to forward the signpost options to the Chair.*

**17/54. Finance**

*To have an Initial discussion on setting the 2018/19 budget*

A draft precept sheet for 2018/19 had been circulated. The final figure will have to be agreed at the January meeting. The precept was increased last year to allow for the new PWL for the street lighting.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to circulate details of how the figures had been set.*

**17/55. To receive an update on Planning**

The following applications were received:

*S/2017/2432/TCA, Fell 1 x Ash, 1M Crown Reduction of 1 x Acacia at Vinecroft, Manor Road. For info only.*

*S/2017/2579/PA, Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the change of use ..... at Coolington Barn. No comments would be made.*

*S/2017,2491/AGD, Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the erection of an agricultural building in respect of siting, design and external appearance of the building at Sulgrave House, Little Street. For info only.*

**17/56. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:-

- Mobile Library Dates December 2017 to March 2018
- SNC, New Homes Bonus Local Community Grant Notification
- NCC, 2018-19 Budget Consultation, Phase 1
- Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service Review 2017 Consultation
- Northants CALC, Medium Term Financial Plan

Several items were highlighted:

- Mobile Library Dates December 2017 to March 2018. A copy has been put on the notice-board and is in the newsletter.
- NCC, 2018-19 Budget Consultation, Phase 1
- Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service Review 2017 Consultation
- Northants CALC, Medium Term Financial Plan

NCC have a huge budget shortfall. The deadline for the NCC budget consultation is 1st December so there is no time to put anything in the newsletter. It is proposed that a lot of highway services will be withdrawn. The Parish Council to use HS2 as a strong argument.

The deadline for the Library and Information Service Review consultation is 13th January 2018. NCC are trying to save £150M.

*Actions: The Parish Clerk to circulate the emails and Councillors to send comments to the Chair. The Chair to draft a response.*

**17/57. Matters for consideration at the next meeting**

To receive an update on the bus shelter project  
To set the precept for 2018/19  
HS2 and Improvements to the Church Hall

**17/58. To approve the following resolution:-**

*"That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw from the meeting at this point". All Councillors voted in favour.*

**17/61. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

