

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018
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 nine villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone. Before the meeting began Cllr North noted the recent passing of Sally Harding and gave the details of her funeral. She was a Parish Councillor for four years from May 2011 to May 2015. She worked very hard as a Councillor and as a volunteer in the village shop.

18/01a. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Priestman

18/01b. To receive Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

18/02a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd November 2017 and 23rd November 2017

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd November and 23rd November were approved and signed as a true record of the meetings.

18/02b. Matters Arising

The Chair spoke about work at Pocket Park which has been completed. Mr Fonge advised that a hedge has been removed, three trees felled and all the wood burnt. He suggested that four more trees are planted later in the year. He has the prices. Thanks was given to Mr Osmond and Mr Fonge for their efforts.

18/03. Public Participation Session

Mr Prior advised the meeting that the rent for the village shop has been an ongoing discussion between the Parish Council and shop for a while. It has now been agreed the Parish Council will receive a profit related rent. If the shop makes a profit the Parish Council will benefit. It will draw the two parties closer together as they will have a common interest and take out the contention of what rent should be paid. The amount will be capped at £350.00 maximum in one year. The next step is to draft the addendum of the supplementary lease to note the profit related rent. This has to be signed off next. The Chair added that negotiations have been ongoing for a while and an agreement in principle was reached before Christmas. This will come into effect immediately.

18/04. To record a vote of thanks for the organisation of the Advent Windows

A huge vote of thanks was given to all the organisers of the Advent Windows including Shrimp Christy and Ingram Lloyd who were at the forefront, Colin Wootton for the photos on the website and Annie for the notices.

18/05. To receive an update on the bus shelter project following the local consultation and decide whether to proceed with the application for New Homes Bonus and PWL funding

Councillors looked at costs at the last meeting and agreed to split the funding between the New Homes Bonus Grant and a Public Works Loan (PWL). To apply for the PWL the Parish Council had to be able to demonstrate enough support for it. This had not been done so the Parish Council carried out a consultation in December. A letter drop was done and villagers could respond online. Submissions were open until the beginning of January. 17 responses were received, 8 responses were from the flyer and 7 by email.

20% were in favour of a PWL, 70% were against a PWL and 10% were not clear in what they said. Some comments included the structure was not fit for purpose, not used enough as the children waited outside and the shelter should be repaired instead of being replaced. Councillors discussed the costs for repairing it. In 2015 a quote was received for £2K. It was agreed three tenders should be sought and a solution found to extend the asset for it to be suitable for the community. The idea of the village guide must still be incorporated into the project. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Daniels writes to SNC to refuse the New Homes Bonus Grant offer. The Parish Council will not apply for a PWL.

18/06. To receive an update on the proposed renovation of the Church Hall and consultation responses received

There is a Community and Environmental Fund which would enhance the community as a whole. The Church Hall has been highlighted as it is under utilised. Cllr Faure has been working with Ingram Lloyd and 60% of the work has been done. Sulgrave Manor submitted a bid but were unsuccessful. A builder and architect have been engaged and a meeting is taking place with the neighbours of the Church Hall. A meeting was held on 17th January with the Glebe Manager to discuss the lease. The grant is in the name of the Parochial Church Council as they lease the Church Hall. The lease has been extended for 27 years with a break clause after 27 years. There is a cost of £4.5K plus VAT to change the legal documentation. It is hoped this cost will come out of the fund. All villagers will be consulted again by a letter drop. From the last letter drop 64% were in favour of updating the hall but only 14 people responded. A second questionnaire could help and it will be made very clear that this will not affect any other spending that the Parish Council plan to do in 2018. Thanks was given to Cllr Faure and Ingram Lloyd for their work.

18/07. To receive an update on the HS2 Community Liaison Group Meeting held in December

Both Cllr Faure and Ingram Lloyd attended the Liaison Group meeting held in December just after the snowfall. Groundworks were not able to make the meeting due to the bad weather. HS2 were represented at the meeting. There are no detailed plans for routes until 2019. The road fund for safety for South Northants is £1.65M over ten years. There has been a bad staff turnover within HS2 and poor knowledge. The next meeting is on 9th February to meet Groundworks. Villagers are to forward relevant questions to Cllr Faure and Ingram Lloyd.

18/08. To receive an update on the implementation of the HS2 communication strategy

The HS2 communication strategy was implemented in November. It was to agree a way forward with objectives and actions. These included keeping HS2 as a standing agenda item at Parish Council meetings, making contact with liaison staff, to organise a second information event when more plans are known which is likely to be 2019, to be represented at liaison meetings, to use a range of media to disseminate information, if residents are not online then they get given a hard copy, to put information in the newsletter, consulting with residents about the community fund and developing the website to give out information.

From the floor, Mr Wootton who maintains the website on behalf of the village advised that he will make HS2 a readable post on the website. He will give a simplified version of what HS2 is and what works will affect this village. He had some estimated dates to share at the meeting. The scheme design work will happen in November 2018, construction will commence in the middle of 2020, engineering works at the end of 2023 and the line in use in 2027. The design work is at the Options Stage. Improvement work to the Greatworth junction will commence in Summer 2018. Some positive feedback included for the Parish Council to keep doing what they are doing, to build on it and it will be good for the future.

18/09. To discuss the NCC budget consultation and agree on a response

The Chair gave an update. The Phase 1 consultation was circulated in November and a response given. Some of the services to be cut in Phase 1 included the County Connect bus and the Community Enhancement Gang. The more recent consultation is Phase 2 and includes cuts to back room staff and social care. Council tax is being increased by 5% for all residents. Responses have to be in by the end of January.

Action: The Chair to circulate the links and Councillors to look at the documents before a response is drafted. The Chair to draft a response.

18/10. To receive an update on the recruitment of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme coordinator

One person, Carol Churchill has applied for the position of Co-ordinator. She had some questions to ask.

Action: Cllr Higginson has passed the contact details of Nick King to Carol so they can speak.

18/11. To discuss and agree on the provision of grit bins within the village

Councillors discussed the three grit bins. It was confirmed they were all used in the recent snowfall and should be maintained. The bin on Helmdon Road was reported on Street Doctor as a lorry had hit it. NCC came out and scored the bin very low which means the Parish Council have to pay for the replacement cost.

Action: The Parish Clerk to check that NCC looked at the correct bin.

18/12. To receive an update on the renewal of the grass cutting contract

Cllr Higginson gave an update. Five tenders were sent out and three have been received back. They vary dramatically in price. The tenders are based on 14 to 16 cuts per year. It was agreed the grass should be cut every two weeks during the growing season but this can depend on weather conditions at the time. Cllr Higginson is waiting for a fourth quote. He will then get together with Cllr North and make recommendations to the Council.

18/13. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£600.00 to RD Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting)

£475.00 to Pile & Son (purchase of mower)

£44.20 to Texprep (copying of newsletter)

£210.00 to Sulgrave Church Hall (use of hall for meetings)

£26.80 to Texprep (copying of newsletter)

£319.02 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£23.40 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£146.67 to EON (electricity)

To agree a contribution to the church clock service

It was agreed to give a donation of £150.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the payment.

To set the precept for 2018/19

A draft budget sheet had been circulated. Estimated spend for 2018/19 is just over £16K and income is £16K. It was **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2018/19 at £13,800.00 (2.5 % increase on last year in line with current levels of inflation).

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the paperwork to SNC.

18/14. To receive an update on Planning

Two new applications had been received since the last meeting:

S/2017/2816/TCA, Fell on Norway Spruce at Apple Acre, Manor Road. For info only.

S/2017/3009/LBC, Re-instatement of former doorway into northwest facade of Brewhouse buildings and new door to match existing building door at Sulgrave Manor. Under consideration.

18/15. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:-

Northants CALC, External audit

Police and Crime Commissioner, Sponsor a PCSO

Northants CALC, Audit update

Northamptonshire County Council 2018-19 Budget Consultation: Phase 2

18/16. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Review of grass cutting tenders
Litter in the village

18/17. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 1st February 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm