

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018  
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk and five villagers

**18/99a. To receive apologies for absence**  
Cllr North (work)

**18/99b. To receive Declarations of Interest**  
There were no interests to declare.

**18/100a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**18/100b. Matters Arising**  
Speeding - Cllr Priestman has spoken to Helen Du Bois, Clerk at Greatworth and Steve Barber at Northants Highways. A discussion will take place as to where a sign could be placed and which companies to approach to get quotes. This will be discussed again at the November meeting.

**18/101. To discuss and agree the future of the pocket park pond**  
The park was formed in 1996 and the pond, which is how it is now, in 2010. The pond was dug out and filled by the Fire Brigade. There is no water running into it. It requires a long term commitment to keep the area trimmed and tidy. Mr Fonge is at the park twice a week and offered to keep the area tidy and carry out discrete spraying.

The last formal report from Rod d'Ayala was circulated to Councillors for information. Cllr Daniels suggested that the village is asked to help Mr Fonge by form of a working party. It was agreed to accept the very kind offer of help from Mr Fonge and he is to ask for help if he needs it.

The matter of a fallen tree bow was discussed. It is currently resting on a tree. This is the second incident in nine months. Mr Fonge will have some help to cut it down and chop up. Cllr North is liaising with Mr Barlow.

**18/102. To discuss the idea of sponsoring street signs**  
The Park Lane sign was currently refurbished by the Parish Council and Mr Prior gave a monetary contribution. Northants Highways were going to install another sign in error but agreed to put it at the opposite end of Park Lane. Councillors discussed other self help jobs that could be done. There may be other street signs which could be replaced although some consistency in quality will be required. Councillors to think of ideas and to be discussed at the next meeting. A pending job is to clear the leaves off the Stocks green.

*Action: Cllr Higginson to arrange a date for the leaf clearing and Cllr Daniels to write an article for the newsletter and Next Door.*

**18/103. To receive an update on the defibrillator project**  
The invoice for the cabinet/mounting post and artwork has been paid and the order placed. Estimated delivery is 15th October. The physical and electrical installation will be arranged. The shop committee have been updated through Neil Johnston. The Section 50 license from NCC has been received. It is planned for the defibrillator to be in situ and commissioned by the end of October.

A reclaim form has been submitted to SNC for the cost of the cabinet. A further claim will be made after installation. Training is being organised with the East Midlands Ambulance Service.

**18/104. To receive an update on the purchase of Castle Mound**

The purchase of Castle Mound is proceeding and the solicitor is moving through the legals. Total donations have now exceeded £6K.

Mr Sirot-Smith spoke about the weekend which was a great success. The weather was good and it was comfortable and relaxing. It brought people together. He thanked everyone who attended and all those involved. It will be remembered as an event for a very long time. People have said they would like to see more events like this on Castle Green. The Chair had received thanks from people also and they were pleased to understand what the fund was about. Colin Wootton had prepared a report for the website which has received 150 views.

*Action: Martin Sirot-Smith to put a note in the next newsletter.*

**18/105. To receive an update on the grass cutting work and the new contractor**

Work is going well and seven cuts have taken place. There are two more cuts planned for October and work will be under budget. People are parking on grass verges which can cause issues for the contractor. It was suggested that an A Board is put out to give warning about grass cutting if a date is known beforehand. This will be trialled next season.

Mr Fonge cuts Pocket Park with the mower purchased by the Parish Council. He has carried out 14 cuts and each cut takes 1.5 hours of work. He has used 20 litres of petrol and will arrange a service of the mower soon. The Chair thanked him for his time.

**18/106. To receive an update on HS2**

A village meeting was held last week with an engineer and HS2 representative. The meeting was well attended by 30 people. Written questions were sent through before the meeting. Some questioning was aggressive and the representatives did not have the answers. HS2 are coming back with ideas to move forward and will keep communication open. They are aware of the water main at Lower Thorpe. Information will be put on Next Door and the website. The SEF funding application is proceeding. Cllr Jackson has agreed to review it when it is completed. Another meeting may take place next year. Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Faure and Ingram Lloyd for organising this meeting.

*Action: Cllr Faure to send notes from the meeting to Colin Wootton for the website.*

**18/107. Finance**

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£270.00 to Brethertons Solicitors (work on purchase of Castle Mound)

£89.02 to Texprep (printing of newsletter, entry forms and leaflets)

£50.00 to Parish Clerk (float)

**18/108. To receive an update on Planning**

No new applications have been received.

Concern was expressed about the development on Little Street and soil which is piled against the trees. This could damage them. Councillors are to keep an eye on this.

**18/109. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received and distributed:-

Northants Highways, AY4 footpath

SNC, South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan- Invitation to Parish Council and Member Briefing Sessions

One item of correspondence was highlighted:

SNC, South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan- Invitation to Parish Council and Member Briefing Sessions. The consultation runs from 4th October until 16th November. Mr Wootton will put it on the website and provide a link to Councillors. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

**18/110. Public participation session**

Miss Powell asked if there was an update on the bus service. From the floor Mr Sirot-Smith advised that there is a weekly bus service running between Greatworth, Helmdon and Halse. The old monthly service was very successful and it is being funded by the Parish Council. The Clerk to get in touch with the Clerk at Greatworth. Mr Prior spoke of a community bus service run by volunteers in West Oxfordshire and agreed to forward the contact details to the Chair.

**18/111. Matters for consideration at the next meeting**

Speeding

SNC Part 2 Local Plan consultation

Self help maintenance jobs in the village

Positioning of 30mph sign at the Helmdon end of the village

**18/112. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm