

Summary of the Meeting held on Thursday 6th February.

Present: Cllrs Richard Fonge (Chairman), Laura North, Anna Faure, Neil Higginson and Will Priestman.

Apologies: Cllr Mike Harmon. Graham Roberts and Janet Smith.

Declarations of Interest: Councillor Faure in respect of a planning application for changes to The Cottage, Magpie Road.

HS2 (High Speed Rail)

There continues to be concern about the location of a concrete batching plant on the construction compound to be located near to the Magpie Farm. Further reassurances are being sought from the contractors.

Enabling works are continuing at the junction of Sulgrave Road, Greatworth with the B4525. These comprise earthworks and telecom diversion works which are expected to take another four weeks after which highway surfacing works will follow to reinstate the road. In addition a programme of archaeological investigation work is being undertaken in the Greatworth area. A number of trial trenches are being dug, which will be backfilled after the investigation works have been completed.

Councillor Faure reported that HS2 will be holding a presentation event in Chipping Warden Village Hall on 12th February.

Allotments:

The Chairman has spoken with Dom North of the Allotments Committee with a view to expediting the re-letting of unused allotments.

Sulgrave Manor.

Councillor Priestman reported that interior works to the Manor were on schedule for completion in time for the new season, with penalty clauses in place.

The Manor had agreed to have a participation in the Summer Fair on Castle Green.

Pocket Park:

The chairman reported that some seventeen adults and children had planted fourteen trees - two Rowans and two crabs by the pond, two poplars, two silver birches, two oaks, three hollies and five laurels in the wood. He expressed his thanks to all who came.

Castle Green:

Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman of the Castle Green Committee, outlined the plans for the Midsummer Fair to be staged on June 21st. It will be an afternoon/ evening event, which will be raising funds on an equal basis for Castle Green and the Brackley Community Hospital. The fair will be a truly community occasion for all to enjoy. More specific details to follow. Martin also reported that the Committee had agreed a location for the kissing gate to be placed in the fence between Castle Green and Castle Hill. A notice inviting villagers to visit the hill itself via the gate had been prepared and was presented to the meeting.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

Councillor Priestman reported on a meeting with Steve Barber from Northants Highways. Progress was being made, with a funding application for grant aid on the Hemdon road sign being submitted. He and the Chairman had looked at a variety of signs and recommended the one in use in Helmdon. This proposal was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed to proceed with an application for an identical sign in the Magpie Road.

Grass Verges:

Councillor Higginson reported that he and the Chairman had looked at three areas of concern. Council gave their approval for the removal of two Lilandii obstructing the path by Castle Hill house. Two other areas in need of repair, one in Towrise and the other by the shop, would be repaired in the spring. To avoid additional costs, this work will be done on a voluntary basis. The challenge will be to protect the areas from vehicles parking after re-seeding.

Payments were approved as set out in the Agenda for the Meeting.

Planning:

It was agreed to defer a decision on the planning application for a garden room to replace the conservatory at The Cottage, Magpie Rd until after the site meeting on Saturday the 8th February.

Other Matters:

A thank you letter had been received from the Parochial Church Council for monies for the Church clock.

Councillor North proposed a village litter pick for Sunday March 29th. Volunteers to assemble in the Church Hall car park at 10 am. This was agreed.

The Chairman thanked Peter Ormond for making and fitting a bench in the bus shelter at no expense to the Council. He also thanked Councillorl Priestman and Micaela Haslam for their continuing litter picking activities.

Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 5th March when Caryl Billingham of South Northants Council will speak on the new Community Hospital in Brackley. The Chairman expressed his wish that as many villagers as possible should be encouraged to attend this meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.