

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020  
AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Anna Faure (late), Neil Higginson, Laura North and Will Priestman

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk and two villagers

**20/51. Elections**

*Election of Chairperson*

Cllr Priestman proposed that Cllr Fonge be Chairperson. Seconded by Cllr North.

*Signing of Acceptance of Office form.*

This will be signed by the Chair.

*Election of Vice-Chairperson*

Cllr North proposed that Cllr Priestman be Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by the Chair.

The full report given by the Chairman is on the village website.

**20/52. To receive apologies for absence**

None.

**20/53. To receive Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests to declare.

**20/54a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 5th March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

The minutes of the last two meetings were approved.

**20/54b. Matters Arising**

Due to the resignation of Mike Harmon, the vacancy is currently being advertised. The vacancy can be filled after 14 days.

Work has been done to the tree in Church Street.

Best Village competition - Judging has been delayed until July/August time.

**20/55. To receive an update on HS2**

Work is continuing. There will be road closure on the A361 at Aston Le Walls from 11th May to the end of July. The next liaison meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**20/56. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor**

There was nothing to report.

**20/57. To receive an update on the Allotments**

The bottom half of the allotment area has been strimmed. Two plots are being worked on and two plots are vacant. The current tenants are working really hard. A note will be put in the next newsletter.

**20/58. To receive an update on the VAS**

The Parish Council are waiting for the pole to be moved by NCC Highways. Coval are still working on production of the sign. A formal request has been made to Helen Howard to ask for the 30mph sign at the Magpie Road end to be moved further out of the village.

**20/59. To receive an update on grass mowing**

Villagers regularly say that the village continues to look nice. The grass cannot be cut on Magpie Road due to parked cars on verges. Ideas of how to stop this are needed as this area will one that is judged for the Best Village Competition.

**20/60. To receive an update on Pocket Park**

The park is still closed and the Parish Council will wait for official guidance as to when it can be re-opened. The Chair is mowing the grass and the pond area looks nice.

**20/61. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden**

Graham Roberts gave the following report. He took up the appointment as the Parish Footpath Warden at the end of 2019 and the parish footpaths and bridle ways have been walked to find out if that they are in a suitable condition and reasonably well maintained.

This has been all the more important during these times as the COCOVID 19 lockdown has brought many more walkers, runners and cyclists onto our footpaths as they provide the only means of exercise available.

Most of the footpaths are reasonably accessible, some pass through fields with farm animals or horses and so it is important to keep to the marked footpath and, if accompanied by dogs they should be securely on a lead and owners should clean up after them.

Footpath AY 9, which passes from the Morton Road (Gated Lane) to the Weston Road is one exception as it is not in a good condition where it traverses the old railway line. Unfortunately the footpath is trampled by horses and off road motor bikes and little can be done in the present circumstances to restore the path in the near future but the matter will be raised with the County Council Rights of Way Officer to see if some preventative measures can be put in place.

Footpath AY 8, from Helmdon Road towards Stuchbury has been partly ploughed over and we will wait to see if it is restored after the seeded crop has established, it is expected this will be dealt with by the farmer in due course.

**20/62. To receive matters relating to the Covid -19 outbreak and the community**

Work is continuing in supporting the community in the current pandemic. There have been six cases in the village. it is hoped that some form of celebration can be arranged when the current situation changes. Councillors to think of ideas for a celebration. Cllr North thanked Paul Shanley for all his work with the Community Resilience Hub.

**20/63. Finance**

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£284.11 to Northants CALC (membership)

£203.57 to EON (electricity)

£18.00 to SLCC (membership)

£396.00 to The Ground Care Company (grass cutting)

*To authorise changes to the banking arrangements*

The Parish Council will be proceeding with online banking which will involve one person setting the payment up and the second person authorizing it. This will help with the current situation and be helpful for the future.

**20/64. To receive an update on Planning**

Two applications had been received since the last meeting:

*S/2020/0566/FUL, Carport and storage building at Manor Barn, Little Street. No objections.*

*S/2020/0194/TPO, Tree work at Sulgrave House, Little Street. Permitted by SNC.*

**20/65. Public participation session**

Colin Wootton read the following report on behalf of Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman of the Castle Green Committee (CGC). The full report to read is on the village website.

Mr Roberts reported the footpath which runs from Welsh Lane to Banbury Lane along the hedge boundary of the old Model Flying Field. Finger posts have been removed at Banbury Lane and re-directed to Welsh Lane. He believes this is due to HS2 tasking the field for a construction depot. They should formally apply to NCC to close the path and notices put up for walkers.

*Action: Cllr Faure to take this up with HS2.*

**20/66. Matters for consideration at the next meeting**

Standing Orders

Recognition of Shop Committee during Covid 19 outbreak

Refurbishment of street signs

Update on Church Hall refurbishment

**20/67. Date and time of next meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm