

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2021
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Anna Faure, Neil Higginson, Mike Powell and Will Priestman

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk and two villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/50. Elections

Election of Chairperson and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

Cllr Priestman proposed that Cllr Fonge be Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Higginson. Cllr Fonge signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chairperson

The Chair proposed that Cllr Priestman be Vice-Chairperson and this was seconded by Cllr Faure.

21/51. To receive an Annual Report from Cllr Fonge

The Chair read out the following report:

The Parish Council are all well aware of the difficulties of the past year, but the Parish have come through it fairly unscathed and indeed have succeeded as a Council to achieve their objectives, and much more.

Firstly a grateful thanks was given to all those who volunteered to help others over the past year, with special recognition to the management, staff and volunteers of the shop. The service given under difficult and fluctuating circumstances have been fantastic. The last year has seen the installation of the variable speed sign on Helmdon Road, which has helped reduce the speeding entering the village.

A planter was put on the verge near the shop. An attractive feature, solving a long standing problem. In October a Silhouette soldier was purchased and placed on Magpie Road and then moved to Castle Green for a Remembrance Ceremony on the 11th of November, with some seventy villagers attending. With Churches closed the Parish Council bought and erected a Christmas tree in the Castle Green field, and carol singing took place around it on a wet evening just before Christmas

The most rewarding initiative was the giving of food hampers at Christmas to the most senior citizens, very kindly put together by the shop. Websters and the Star also supported the idea with their own parcels. Showing how the community pull together in difficult times to support each other.

The grass mowing contractor is doing a superb job, and has been given the contract for the next three years on the same terms and price.

The library idea is progressing with an opening scheduled for late June in the Church. The Chair gave thanks and appreciation to the P.C.C. By working together the Parish Council can provide a much needed facility and meeting point for all.

The Pocket Park continues to be well used and half a dozen trees were planted in January, along with pond clearance. The allotments have been transformed over the past year, including the clearance of the ditch, and now have only one uncultivated.

The Parish Council continue to liaise with and meet up with HS2 representatives, and are kept informed of the Church Hall progress.

Graham Roberts the village footpath officer has overseen the improvements to the footpaths, with wood chips being laid down, steps made, and new kissing gates on the Path to Moreton Pinkney over the old railway line.

The Chair gave his thanks and appreciation to Colin Wootton for his tireless work on the village website. A great many people have been involved in helping the Parish Council to bring all these achievements to fruition, and the Chair gave thanks to all, as it also shows how everyone comes together as a village. Finally the Chair gave sincere thanks to his fellow councillors and Christine Coles, the Clerk for all their hard work and advice over the year. A year in which the Parish Council welcomed Mike Powell and said goodbye to Laura North from the council. Many thanks to Laura for her contribution in word and deed to the benefit of the village.

This is a lovely village to live in with a great spirit, and the Chair hopes everyone can all come together on Castle Green on Sunday the 11th of July to celebrate with their picnics the return to normality.

21/52. To receive apologies for absence

Graham Roberts

21/53. To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no interests to declare.

21/54a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4TH March 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

21/54b. Matters Arising

The street light on Magpie Road is still not working. The Parish Clerk to chase EON.

21/55. To receive an update on HS2

A recent meeting was held with Cllr Faure, the Chair, Cllr Higginson, Ingram Lloyd and two representatives of HS2. They walked the paths. A temporary road is being put in late summer whilst the work is going on. The road to Thorpe will be closed. It's a three year project. The Chair explained the layout of the road. The roads will be re-instated after. It was a good meeting and there is a good rapport with the HS2 team.

21/56. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

Sulgrave Manor are holding a live seminar on 10th June with speakers to look at the history of Sulgrave Manor. There are ten places available.

Action: Cllr Priestman to circulate the details.

21/57. To discuss Post Covid celebrations

The village pop up picnic postponed from last September will be held on 11th July at 1.30pm on Castle Green. It has been advertised already. The charge is £10 per head for a prepared picnic by Danny and the pub will provide a bar. It was agreed that Caryl Billingham from Brackley Community Hospital should be invited.

Action: The Parish Clerk to invite Caryl Billingham.

21/58. To receive an update on Pocket Park

It was agreed that the Chair will purchase the felt for the roof of the shelter. He will be reimbursed.

A fallen tree was dealt with some time ago by Andrew Osmond. Thanks was given to him for sorting it out. There are two more bigger trees which require attention on land owned by Andrew Barlow.

Action: The Chair to contact Andrew Barlow.

21/59. To discuss the purchase of a flagpole and position for it

The idea to purchase a flagpole was agreed in principle. The costs are unknown and where the flagpole will be put.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask Helmdon PC how much their one cost and if permission is needed to put it up.

21/60. To discuss the library

The idea is coming together. Two volunteers will be running it. There will be a children's section and the library will be situated to the left of the church. The library needs to be movable. A lot of books have been promised. It will be a lending library with the option to purchase books and give a donation. The library needs to be movable. It was agreed to buy four book cases from Ikea at a cost of £34 each and a villager will put castors on them. The total approximate cost will be £250.00.

21/61. Councillors Reports

Cllr Powell has reported blocked drains on Magpie Road to Street Doctor.

21/62. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £32.34 to Cllr Higginson (litter pickers)
- £20.95 to Cllr Fonge (petrol for mower)
- £20.00 to Andrew Osmond (tree work in Pocket Park)
- £35.50 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £283.16 to Northants CALC (membership)
- £30.00 to Parish Clerk (broadband contribution)
- £19.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC Membership)
- £396.00 to The Ground Care Company (grass cutting)
- £44.20 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £1687.68 to Came & Company (insurance)
- £201.34 to EON (electricity)
- £213.75 to R Fletcher (internal audit)

AGAR for year ending 31st March 2021

The internal audit has been carried out. The papers were circulated before the meeting. The Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 and Section 2 were approved and signed.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the Certificate of Exemption to the external auditor before 30th June 2021 and forward the financial documents to Colin Wootton for the website.

21/63. To receive an update on Planning

The following applications were received:

- *S/2021/0458/FUL, Replace existing wooden lean-to glasshouse with a powder coated aluminium lean to glasshouse sited on existing brick wall in keeping with existing brick work within the property at Garden House, Manor Road. No objection by PC.*
- *WNS/2021/0123/FUL and WNS/2021/0124/LBC, Exchange location of door and window in C20th extension plus flush fitting roof light over and minor internal alterations to facilitate new main entrance. Re-roofing of outbuildings to the rear (north) at The Thatched House, Manor Road. Under consideration.*
- *WNS/2021/0196/FUL, Ground floor extension to rear of property at 2 Spinners Cottages, Magpie Road. Under consideration.*

21/64. To receive the following correspondence:-

The following correspondence had been circulated:

- Caryl Billingham, Brackley Community Hospital
- HS2 Liaison Group, Draft notes
- Thorpe Mandeville PC, Road Closure (due to HS2 work)

21/65. Public participation session

Martin Sirot-Smith gave a brief report on Castle Green. They met recently to thank Clare and Peter Pollak for all their work over the years. A special vote of thanks was given to Clare although she no longer lives in the village. Peter will be invited back to the pop up picnic in July. The last meeting of the Castle Green Committee was held in October 2020. There are sheep grazing on the Mound now so dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Signs have been put up. MSS has agreed to write a piece for the newsletter.

21/66. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Flagpole

Grants

Wildflower area

21/67. Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7.30pm. The Church Hall will be unavailable for the June and July meeting.

Action: The Parish Clerk to look at alternative venues.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm