

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Jen Castle, Neil Higginson, Will Priestman and Sara Staples

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), Simon Davis (HS2 Engagement Manager) and six villagers

23/39. To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Powell (work) and Colin Wootton

23/40. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
There were no interests to declare.

23/41a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd February and 14th February 2023
The minutes were both approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

23/41b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda
Village Shop – Two points came from the last meeting. An email has been sent out to neighbouring villages to ask for help with Management Committee roles. It was agreed to carry out another village survey. A sample will be put together and circulated to Councillors. 84 people have changed houses in the last 14 years which represents 40% of the village. Therefore it is appropriate to carry out another survey.

23/44. To receive an update on HS2
Simon Davis (SD) thanked the parish for inviting him to the meeting. He can attend any time. HS2 Phase 1 is the route from London to Birmingham. SD covers G2S area which is Greatworth to Southam. This comes with different features and challenges working with rural communities. There are impacts on farmers, small villages and country lanes.

SD then gave an update on the HS2 project to date.

Lower Thorpe – There has been work to sort out surface water improvements. They are building the sub structure for the viaduct. There will be a noticeable visual change in 6-8 months. There is still access to the footpath.

The Greatworth T Junction is taking shape. The lighting at the compound was discussed as it is smarter lighting now. Lighting has been defused and is either off or at a dull level. Lighting has to remain on as to turn off would mean there would be a security risk and there have been thefts in the area. The new earthworks lorries were bought by the contractor and are being stored at the local compound. The benefits are lower emissions and less noise. They will use their operating life on the work to be done here in moving the earth.

Work to the Chipping Warden tunnel will start first. A villager asked if the Greatworth temporary road will have a cycle lane or hard shoulder. SD agreed to find out.

Working hours were discussed as HS2 have requested a 7 day working week. This has to go through the Environmental Health Officer and be assessed if suitable. 7 days will be worked where the tunnel is being built. Noise problems can be reported and will be dealt with only if there is an impact.

There will be community funding for Sulgrave, similar to Greatworth. They will use the Church Hall and car park to talk to residents.

Banbury Road will be closed until 12th March as Anglian Water are doing work on behalf of HS2. The Parish Council thanked SD and he left the meeting.

23/42. To receive an update on the outstanding highway work (village sign poles and bollards outside the shop)

The highway work is still outstanding. The village shop was raided one year ago and agreement reached very quickly with Highways that two bollards could be put in front. The Parish Council paid for this work in May 2022 but still await for the work to be done. Excuses have been given since a new highway contract was awarded in September 2022 and different people have got involved. Thanks was given to Cllr Eastwood for her help. It was agreed to give them another chance.

23/43. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

A planning application for the Thatched Cottage is being prepared for internal renovations of the cottages to make them habitable. The Manor will reopen on April 2nd for the summer. The Manor has a newsletter and parishioners are encouraged to sign up to receive it. The Manors news updates are on the website as well. Parishioners can apply for a free pass as in the past. Cllr Priestman will join the mailing list.

The decision on the planning application for the garden shed has been delayed. The Parish Council's withdrawal of its observations has not been posted on the internet but they hope it has been noted by the planners. This was an error made by the Parish Council as they thought the shed was already in place. The shed is urgently needed to safely secure gardening equipment being stored somewhere else in the Courtyard buildings.

HS2 have promised an oak tree for the Kings Coronation. Madams Close could be suitable but more thought is needed. Cllr Staples agreed to look after the tree and it will be planted in the winter.

23/45. To discuss plans for the Kings Coronation in May 2023 and agree the purchase of Coronation Mugs (details circulated)

A marquee measuring 21m x 9m has been ordered and a deposit paid. It has windows and lighting. It will be put up on the Friday and taken down on the Monday. It was agreed to purchase a mug for children under 12 years of age. Two boxes of mugs will cost £486.00 plus VAT.

Action: The Clerk to circulate a picture of the mug.

A new sound system (speakers and mixing desk) was discussed and whether the Parish Council should invest in one. Costs are approximately £900.00-£1050.00. Cllr Priestman to get prices and bring to the meeting in April.

23/46. To receive an update on work to the library

Work is going ahead but the PCC require a faculty. This is in hand.

23/47. To discuss new signage for Pocket Park and the Stocks area

New signage was suggested after the Best Village Competition for Pocket Park and the Stocks Area. It was suggested to keep signs of a similar design.

Action: The Chair to talk to Martin Sirot-Smith.

23/48. To discuss new grass cutting costs for 2023

Costs have increased for this year. A cut has gone up from £165.00 to £185.00. If there are twelve cuts this year it will be an 11.5% increase. It was agreed to accept the cost.

The Parish Clerk is unable to claim the grass cutting grant from WNC for this financial year. She will keep trying. Inconsiderate parking along Magpie Road was discussed. The verge is cut by the grass contractor and it damages the look of the village.

Action: Cllr Higginson to write a polite note for the newsletter.

23/49. To discuss the drains in Manor Road

Cllr Powell will be asked to report on Fix My Street.

23/50. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£30.00 to Parish Clerk (broadband contribution)

£162.41 to F N Pile & Son (service of mower)

£397.88 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£12.90 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

23/51. To receive an update on Planning

One application had been received since the last meeting

WNS/2023/0240/TCA, T1 - Tulip tree, reduce the height by 3M and reduce sides by 2-3M. T2 - Beech tree, Fell the beech tree only to just below hedge height. T3 - Beech tree, reduce by 3-4M in height and reduce the sides by approx 3M. T4 - Walnut tree (neighbours), selectively reduce the garden side only (eastern side) by up to 3M at Stone Court, Helmdon Road. For information only.

23/52. To receive Councillors Reports

Trees have been pruned on Castle Green, in Pocket Park and Manor Road.

23/53. Public participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes)

Lisa Roberts is the new newsletter editor and spoke about advertising. She is receiving different requests. This will be discussed at the April meeting. She would like to get more copies printed, to leave some in the pub and for visitors to the area. A 24 page copy costs £61.60. Advertising may help pay for the printing costs. In Greatworth different organisations give a donation for the Glimpse to be printed.

Martin Sirot-Smith showed the draft village walk sign leaflet. It has been funded by the History Society.

Martin Sirot-Smith suggested the 'Chronicles of Sulgrave' book is updated and reprinted. He will bring costings to the next meeting.

Graham Roberts spoke about the misplacement of the Standing Soldier. The RBL Wappenham branch will take the matter forward.

There is an increase in dog poo. A note will be put in the next newsletter.

23/54. To consider matters for the next meeting

Newsletter and whether to charge for advertising

New Sound System and costs

23/55. Date and Time of Next Meetings

Thursday 6th April 2023. Parish Council meeting at 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.