

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2022
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Jen Castle, Neil Higginson, Mike Powell and Sara Staples

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), Simon Davis of HS2 and five villagers

22/141. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Priestman (family commitment), Colin Wootton and Colin Wagman

22/142. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

There were no interests to declare.

22/143a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2022

The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22/143b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Dog Bin for Castle Green – This has been delivered and will be installed. The company who empty the dog bins will be notified.

Best Village Competition – The audit paperwork has been received and circulated. It will be discussed at the January meeting.

Light outside shop – It was reported to EON but is still not working. The Clerk to report again.

Light outside Southland Cottage, Helmdon Road. It has been straightened.

Silhouette Soldier – It will be put out on 20th October ready for the service on 11th November. Graham Roberts has put a note in the newsletter and bought a wreath.

22/144. To receive an update on HS2

Simon Davis (SD) reported that the nearby road closure has been extended to 12th November due to more work being done by Anglian Water. The points raised at the last meeting were passed on. Road sweepers have been seen on the road but may not be that effective in clearing the mud away. SD will check the wheel washing facility is working. The driving issues were reported to the Construction Team and speed enforcement issues have been reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. SD recommended that all issues are reported to the Contact Help Desk. Issues are then fully recorded, tracked and monitored.

Work has started on the Greatworth T Temporary Road. There will be night time closures on Welsh Lane and the HS2 team are working hard to alleviate the traffic impact the closures will have on Greatworth.

From the floor a villager mentioned the compound lights which can be dazzling at night in bad weather. The compound lights on the right are dimmed. SD agreed to look at this and try and tilt them.

The Chair spoke about plant vehicles which are not being used but can be seen clearly from the road. SD advised that they are being stored there ready for use later on.

The Chair thanked SD for attending and he left the meeting.

- 22/145. To receive an update on the bollards for the shop entrance and poles for the village sign**
Both the Parish Clerk and Cllr Alison Eastwood are chasing this outstanding work with Highways.
- 22/146. To discuss a new VAS and agree costs to purchase one**
Cllr Priestman has circulated prices and designs similar to local signs. Councillors to consider and agree in January.
- 22/147. To discuss Christmas celebrations**
The Christmas tree has been ordered and carol singing will take place on 14th December at 6pm. Refreshments will be served in the church hall after. It was agreed to collect for the SANDS charity. SANDS supports families who suffer the bereavement of a baby.
Action: Cllr Castle to ask the Church Hall committee if the tree can be placed in the car park.
- 22/148. To receive a report on tree work and recommendations**
Trees in Pocket Park and the Woodland Area have been looked at. There is no room for further trees. Some near the pond area are overhanging. There are overhanging branches on Castle Green. An oak tree planted 10 years ago has been pruned. Squirrels are causing a lot of damage to trees.
- 22/149. To discuss the questionnaire for the Church Hall**
Councillors met last week to discuss the survey which will be distributed to the village. The primary route of the survey will be online and hard copies will be left in the shop. It will be publicised in the newsletter, facebook page, website and on Next Door. The survey will demonstrate where people live and look at the demographics of the village. The questions will be inclusive to all age groups.
- 22/150. Finance**
The following payments were approved under statutory powers:
£30.00 to Parish Clerk (broadband contribution)
£52.90 to Texprep (copying)
£255.74 to N Power (street lighting)
£198.00 to Complete Ground Management (grass cut)
£48.00 to Parish Online (Digital mapping)
£174.58 to Glasdon (dog bin)
- 22/151. To receive an update on Planning**
Two applications were received after the agenda had been published.
WNS/2022/2041/FUL, Single storey rear extension at The Retreat, Park Lane. It was agreed to support the application.
WNS/2022/2072/FUL, Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and two storey side extension at Coolington Barn, Helmdon Road. It was agreed to support the application.
- 22/152. To receive Councillors Reports**
A report was received from the Manor. It is now closed from 1st November until April 2023 except for special events. Comments had been received about the floodlights being on all night. There was a timer problem which has been fixed. As the Manor is now closed the lights will be turned off. The Trust has developed a Development Plan to raise a substantial Endowment Fund over the next eight years to secure the Manor's future. The sale of properties around the Manor will provide the seed capital for a fund in excess of £2M. There are new directors and trustees. Nick Way and Will Twiddy retired in May. Carole Souter will take over from Nigel Bowles as Chairperson on 1st January 2023. Stephen Hague and Dr Sam Edwards will become new trustees. The sale of Kiln Farm has been completed and the sale of the Thatched Cottages, Manor Cottage and Kiln Farm Cottage continues in the hands of solicitors. Forthcoming events include a zoom online webinar on 30th November at 4pm on the Crisis that made the special relationship, hosted by Sam Edwards, the Manor's new Trustee. 8th December 7.30 to 9.30pm – a Christmas Wreath workshop suitable for all ages. £60 pp.

Booking is essential for both events. 10th and 11th December 11am to 4pm, Christmas Family Fun weekend and Santa's Grotto. Open to all the family with Christmas activities.

Leaf clearing by the Stocks will take place at the end of November. The cost will be £200.00 which was approved. Grass cutting costs will increase in 2023. Each cut will cost £185.00 (£20.00 increase on 2022 prices). 14 cuts are normally scheduled each year but this can vary with different weather types. There were ten cuts in 2022. The contractor does a good job and the price increases were accepted.

22/153. 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)

The farm gate at the bottom of the paddock (by Magnay's field) is hard to open. Graham Roberts (GR) has spoken to ROW and they may have funding to put a kissing gate in. Both landowners have to be contacted.

Action: The Chair and GR to ensure both landowners are contacted.

There is damage to the path by Andrew Barlow's gate. The ground is sunk and dangerous to walk on.

Action: Cllr Powell to report to Street Doctor.

22/154. To consider matters for the next meeting

New VAS for Magpie Road
Setting precept for 2023/24
Funding for the Church Hall
Best Village Audit report

22/155. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 5th January 2023 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.