

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2022
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and seven villagers

The Chair welcomed Lisa Roberts to the meeting. She is taking over the newsletter from 1st January 2023.

The Chair expressed his sadness at the recent loss of two gentlemen in the village, Roger Ellis who was a barrister and gave a huge contribution to the village and Paul Wilkinson, a brilliant lecturer here and overseas.

22/121. To receive apologies for absence
Graham Roberts

22/122. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
There were no interests to declare.

22/123a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2022
The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22/123b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only
New dog bin – This has been ordered. Still awaiting delivery.

Best Village Competition – Audit paperwork has not been received yet.

22/124. To receive an update on Operation London Bridge
The proclamation went very well and was attended by 90 people. Northants CALC were excellent in providing daily updates during the mourning period to keep parishes updated.

22/125. To receive an update on HS2
There was little to report. Road closures are in place. There have been two incidents with dangerous driving near to the compound. Excess mud on nearby roads was reported. Signs are blocking drivers views at the Marston crossroads. These issues will be reported to HS2.

22/126. To discuss recent issues with Anglian Water
They recently worked on Helmdon Road but gave no notification to the village to close the road. The village would like to be told if remedial work is being done. It was acknowledged that burst pipes are different and have to be dealt with urgently. There is a weak spot in the dip on Helmdon Road.

22/127. To discuss the Church Hall
After the Ukranian event in August, the Chair had written to the PCC for clear guidance on prices to hire the Church Hall. A constructive meeting was held with the PCC and Parish Council members. There is a huge workload and the hall is losing money. The village will be asked what they want to see going on in the hall. It was agreed to hold quarterly meetings and Cllr Powell, Cllr Castle and Cllr Staples will be part of the committee. The next meeting is in January. A lot of events held in the hall do not generate money. A cleaner will be sourced to work on an ad hoc basis.
Action: The Parish Council to prepare a questionnaire to distribute.

22/128. To receive an update on the new village history signboard

Martin Sirot-Smith advised the license has been approved by Highways. The History Society have paid a 50% deposit.

22/129. To discuss street lighting and rising energy costs

The Parish Council have received a request to turn the street lights off at midnight. The new lights were a tremendous investment. The main road is salted by Highways in the winter and if the lights were dimmed it would make people more vulnerable. Five years ago, the Parish Council did obtain a cost to turn one light off at night and the cost was £700.00.

The ivy has been trimmed outside Southland Cottage, Helmdon Road but the light has twisted.

Action: The Chair to ask Ian Cherry if he can straighten it.

The broken light outside the shop should be fixed soon.

22/130. To discuss a new VAS

It has been agreed to purchase a new VAS for the Magpie Road end and it be visually pleasing. A moveable sign was discussed. The sign on the Helmdon Road is solar powered and this stops someone having to charge and change batteries.

Action: Cllr Priestman to get prices for a smaller solar powered sign.

22/131. To discuss Christmas celebrations

Last year a tree was placed on Castle Green. A tree will be purchased this year and a position for it is still to be agreed. The church hall car park was mentioned and an event could be used to promote the church hall. An idea of carol singing, using the float and knocking on doors and ending at the hall with drinks and refreshments could be an option.

22/132. To discuss Pocket Park

There will be a village clear up on Saturday 8th October at 10am. The grass has been cut but the path needs cutting back. The Chair and a villager have checked the zip wire and its in good working condition. However it needs to officially signed off. The tree that looked dead is looking better after being watered. The mower will be serviced by F N Pile.

22/133. To discuss storage and archive of PC paperwork

All of the Parish Council paperwork is currently stored at the house of the Parish Clerk. The shop have a similar problem of finding somewhere suitable to store paperwork. The new committee will ask the Church Hall if a filing cabinet can be placed in the hall at their meeting in January.

Action: The Parish Clerk to get prices for different sized storage facilities from a local storage company.

22/134. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£52.90 to Texprep

£432.00 to Complete Ground Management Ltd (grass cut and removal of creeper)

£36.00 to CPRE (membership)

£290.00 To Parish Clerk (Hours)

£72.60 to HMRC

£19.35 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

22/135. To receive an update on Planning

Two applications had been received since the last meeting:-

- WNS/2022/1824/FUL, Replace garage door with window on front elevation and conversion of garage to workshop at Bentleys Farm Bungalow, Helmdon Road. No objections by PC.

- WNS/2022/1829/OUT, Outline application for proposed detached two storey dwelling, all matters reserved at Land South of The Retreat, Park Lane. A site meeting will be held on 8th October at 9.30am. It was agreed to say no comment.

22/136. The following correspondence was circulated:

- West Northants Council, New contract service for Highways Service

22/137. To receive Councillors Reports

Sulgrave Manor will be open until the end of October. There will be a Halloween fun day on 30th October and open for Christmas. Contracts are with solicitors for the purchase of Kiln Farm.

The private soldier is currently stored in the Chairs garage. It will be put out on 20th October. A two minutes silence will be held on Remembrance Sunday.

22/138. 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 leaves by the Stocks will be cleared soon.

The drain on Park Lane will be reported as its blocked.

Action: Cllr Powell to report on Fix My Street.

22/139. To consider matters for the next meeting

New VAS for Magpie Road end

Decision where to place the Christmas tree

22/140. Date and Time of Next Meeting

3rd November 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.