

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2024  
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 three villagers

- 24/16. To receive apologies for absence**  
Colin Wootton and Graham Roberts
- 24/17. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**  
Cllr Priestman declared an interest in his tree application at The Limes, 2 Manor Road.
- 24/18a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
The minutes were approved and signed.
- 24/18b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**  
The highway issues on Manor Road are complete. The two broken drains have been replaced. Thank you emails were sent to those involved.
- 24/19. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor**  
There is an open day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to celebrate George Washingtons birthday.
- 24/20. To receive an update on HS2 work**  
There is little news and no date as to when the road will re-open. Cllr Staples has responded to an email from a HS2 representative as she was not happy. There will be a drop in event in the village on 27<sup>th</sup> February 5-7pm at the Church Hall. There are left over hedgerow plants but it is too short notice to let the village know. HS2 will be asked for funding for Pocket Park to make up for the inconvenience to villagers.
- A villager spoke about road closures on the Radstone Road and A43. Both roads are closed at the same time making access to Buckingham/Brackley and beyond difficult. There was supposed to be a clinic in Syresham on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The villager turned up but there was no-one there. The villager has contacted the local Councillor.
- 24/21. To receive an update on outstanding highway issues**  
West Northants Council have confirmed the site for the new pole for the VAS on Magpie Road. The pole should be installed soon.
- 24/22. To discuss the Summer Event on Castle Green**  
All village organisations were written to and a meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Two people per organization will attend. There has been a good response. It was agreed to book the Brackley Brass Band at a cost of £250.00.  
*Action: The Chair to book the band.*
- 24/23. To receive an update on the library**  
The Chair has spoken to Andrew Dixon and the church has a faculty to remove the pews. It was agreed to spend up to £200.00 to furnish the area with a coffee table, two chairs and two bean bags. Contributions from the summer event will be put towards the library.

- 24/24. To discuss Castle Green maintenance**  
There are two current issues. The four steps in Church Street are dangerous. The fence needs to be changed. The posts are rotten and it is hoped the new base of the posts can be protected from mowers. It was agreed to set aside £2K from the funds for this work.
- 24/25. To discuss the quotes for new play equipment in Pocket Park (details circulated)**  
A second competitive quote has been received from Wicksteed. Sulgrave Charities are meeting in two weeks time to discuss a possible contribution. The quotes will be reviewed at the March meeting.
- 24/26. To accept the grass cutting quote for 2024**  
Costs have increased from last year. It was agreed to accept the new costs effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
- 24/27. Finance**  
*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*  
£29.94 to M Powell (creation of surveys for Chronicles of Sulgrave)  
£132.00 to Greatfield Plants (Christmas tree in 2022)  
£270.00 to CGM Ltd (Clear leaves by stocks)  
£2160.00 to CGM Ltd (Edge and remove grass from pathways)
- 24/28. To receive an update on Planning**  
A tree application was received after the agenda had been published.  
• 2024/0368/TPO, Works to 8 x Lime trees subject to TPO 98/1973 at The Limes, 2 Manor Road.
- 24/29. To receive Councillors Reports**  
A litter pick will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> March and a note will be put in the newsletter.  
  
The leylandii by the Stocks is overgrown.  
*Action: A letter to be sent to the landowner.*  
  
The Chair thanked Cllr Castle for helping with a recent problem in the village.  
  
The newsletter was briefly discussed. Advertising will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting with clear guidelines. Its good to support local businesses.  
*Action: The Chair to invite Lisa Roberts to the next meeting.*
- 24/30. 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 verge along Helmdon Road near Bentleys Farmhouse is being eroded each day by large vehicles. The local road closures are causing additional traffic to drive through the village.  
*Action: Cllr Castle to take photos and report on FMS.*
- 24/31. To consider matters for the next meeting**  
Newsletter – guidelines  
Quotes for new equipment in Pocket Park
- 24/32. To note next meeting date and time**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.