

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024  
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Mike Powell and Will Priestman

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers

**24/85. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Peppiatt (personal) and Cllr Staples (personal), Graham Roberts and Jo Powell

**24/86. To note a Councillor Resignation**

Cllr Castle has had to resign due to a conflict of interest with her job.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to notify WNC of the vacancy.*

**24/87. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

**24/88a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

**24/88b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**

Vegetation at junction of new road on B4525 – It was cleared within 2 days.

**24/89. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor and the meeting with the trustees**

The Chair, Cllr Staples and Cllr Priestman attended the Manor for coffee with the new trustees and Dames of America. It was a lovely opportunity to meet Carole Souter and they understand the need to cement the relationship between the village and the Manor. Councillors had met the Dames before and they are friendly and welcoming. They have achieved many great things in life. Sulgrave Manor have offered the use of the buttery as a meeting room for the same price as the church hall if its not available.

From the floor Mr Wooton noted that he was invited to the Independence Day celebrations. The village were not offered concessions that day so no photographs were taken. He was made very welcome. The village will be offered concessions on other occasions.

The Chair noted they will continue working with the trustees. The hedge requires trimming along the footpath and the cottages have not been sold yet.

**24/90. To receive an update on HS2 work and funding**

Banbury Road will be closed for approximately 4 weeks late August/September due to the removal of old pipes and vegetation. Dates to be confirmed.

Viaduct beams are planned to be installed at Lower Thorpe late summer. No major disruption is planned but the beams are huge.

There will be more lighting around the compounds than usual. The concrete lorries will be using the approved delivery route via B4525 and A43 to get from the batching plants to the Westbury Viaduct. The Local Authority has approved the extended hours working for this to be completed.

Cllr Staples has been looking at match funding for Pocket Park. It has been three years since the Church Hall applied for a grant and the village could apply again. This is work in progress.

**24/91. To receive an update on the work by Gigaclear**

Gigaclear are starting work soon. They are trying to arrange a village meeting.

**24/92. To discuss transitioning to a gov.uk domain**

The Parish Clerk had attended a training course. It is not a legal requirement but using .gov.uk for council business, emails and a website is a sign of good practice, trust and professionalism. It's the separation of personal and professional communications. There is funding available which runs out in March 2025.

*Action: It was agreed for the Parish Clerk to complete an Expression of Interest Form.*

**24/93. To receive an update of the village fete held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

It was a fantastic event which went very well. The cost to the Parish Council was £300.00. Money was raised. From the floor Mr Wootton thanked the Camera Club for taking photos.

**24/94. To discuss the future of the Star Inn PH**

The current tenants are leaving the pub on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The Chair wrote to Hook Norton Brewery and there is some interest in the pub.

**24/95. To receive an update on 'The Chronicles of Sulgrave'**

A pdf version is being proof read. A final layout will be agreed with the publisher and then costings will be available. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**24/96. To discuss the repair of the wall at Castle Green**

A quote to repair the bulging wall on Castle Green has been agreed. Work will start soon.

There are broken posts on the fence by the five bar gate. That repair will be discussed in September.

**24/97. Finance**

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*

£18.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)

£402.66 to EON (street lighting)

£124.70 to Texprep (newsletter copying)

£452.65 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£113.00 to HMRC

£32.40 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

**24/98. To receive an update on Planning**

There were no new planning applications to consider.

**24/99. To receive Councillors Reports**

The Chair noted that the PCC have received a faculty to move the pews. There are four pews to be moved. The PCC will get matting for the floor and the Parish Council will get a table and chairs. There will be new books when the pews are moved. The library is a good facility and used by many.

The Chair spoke about hemlock which is dangerous and poisonous. He has asked West Northants Council if they have a policy to remove it.

The overhead lines in Little Street were mentioned and whether they can be put underground.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to contact BT Openreach to ask.*

**24/100. 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)**  
No matters were raised.

**24/101. To consider matters for the next meeting**  
To review the Play inspection report

**24/102. To note next meeting date and time**  
Thursday 5th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.