

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and seven villagers

24/33. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Castle (work) and Cllr Powell (personal)

24/34. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/35a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

24/35b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

- *Update from Gigaclear.* The project is pending a comprehensive review of the build design and implementation strategy and will be delayed.
- *Overgrown vegetation near the Stocks.* A letter was sent and the vegetation was cleared separate to the person receiving the letter.

24/36. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

Cllr Priestman had received the Spring newsletter. The Spring garden is brimming with colour and vitality. Their focus over the last few weeks has been hedge cutting before the nesting season begins and pruning the last few of the summer flowering deciduous shrubs. This year they are growing a number of different seeds in the glasshouse. To commemorate George Washingtons birthday on 22nd February they opened the garden for the local community to come and visit. On 30th January they welcomed the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum for their first full forum meeting of 2024.

The Chair noted that on 1st March he and Cllr Staples attended the meeting with other dignitaries such as the Lord-Lieutenant. They were introduced to the new Chair, Carole Souter. Two new ladies are employed by the Manor to organize marketing and events. The Chair wrote to the Manor to thank them and told them about the event on June 8th on Castle Green. He also said it might be to their advantage to drop the admin charge for villagers.

24/37. To receive an update on HS2 work

The drop in event on 27th February was well attended and villagers were very angry especially about the six month delay in opening the nearby road. The Chair spoke to David Griffith Allen after and arranged to meet him separately. The meeting was beneficial and the HS2 staff apologised. Cllr Staples went on to say it was a robust conversation and they apologised at the lack of communication. They agreed to try and get Simon Davis to re-engage like he has done before. There are more road closures coming up. The document handed over with the road closures on is incorrect. Banbury Lane and Welsh Lane are going to be closed for 3 weekends in a row. Welsh Lane will be closed from 8pm to 6am from 8th March to 11th March. There is signage giving advance warning on the A43/A422 roundabout but local traffic can access these roads. Cllr Staples will get a correct map to put on Nextdoor.

On a positive note the HS2 team have agreed to give funding for Pocket Park. There are three options.

1. Match funding
2. Apply for funds similar to when the Church Hall applied for money as the three year time limit is nearly up.
3. HS2 contribute £1500.00 towards the summer event.

It was agreed to apply for match funding. The Chair thanked Cllr Staples and Cllr Powell for attending the meeting. From the floor, Graham Roberts thanked the PC for all their effort and work.

24/38. To discuss the village newsletter and agree guidelines of use

Lisa Roberts is the new editor and has received good feedback about the newsletter. Since being editor she has received complaints, questions and queries. Some newsletters have become lengthy and the cost of printing has gone up. She asked about the spirit of the newsletter and felt that level of content should be agreed by the Parish Council as they pay for the copying. It was agreed that two pages of general articles should be allowed each month.

Action: The Parish Clerk to confirm this in writing to Lisa Roberts and send 2024 PC meeting dates to her.

24/39. To receive an update on outstanding highway issues

Two potholes opposite the shop have been repaired. There is still a third one to be done.

The new Vehicle Activated Speed sign purchased in March 2023 was finally put on a pole at the Magpie Road end of the village.

24/40. To discuss the Summer Event on Castle Green

The event will take place on Saturday 8th June. The Chair has already met with 7-8 village representatives and another meeting will be held on 14th March. Different ideas have been expressed. The Brackley Brass Band will be booked and the Parish Clerk is still trying to book a marquee.

24/41. To receive an update on the library

The Diocese would like to see photos of the comfortable chairs which will be placed in the library section of the Church.

Action: Cllr Higginson to take photos to send to Andrew Dixon.

24/42. To discuss Castle Green maintenance

The fence on Castle Green requires replacing. Two quotes have been received. It was agreed to accept the cheaper quote from Simon Watts.

There is a large bulge in the Wall of Castle Green which will require repairing soon.

Action: The Chair to meet Geoff Ratley to show him the work that is required.

24/43. To discuss the quotes for new play equipment in Pocket Park (details circulated)

Two quotes were received to replace the play equipment. Sulgrave Charities have agreed to offer £1.5K and the Parish Council agreed to add £3.5K totalling £5K. HS2 will be asked to match fund £5K.

HS2 have also offered recycled wood which could be used to make new picnic benches and enhance Pocket Park. The PC like this idea.

Action: Cllr Staples to write to HS2 about the match funding and wood for new picnic benches.

24/44. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£30.00 to Parish Clerk (broadband contribution)

£2160.00 to Complete Ground Management Ltd (tidying pathways)

£96.24 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
£873.60 to Marcus Young Environmental Services Ltd (dog bin emptying)
£28.16 to EON (street light repair)
£80.20 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
£502.14 to Parish Clerk (hours)
£32.40 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

24/45. To receive an update on Planning

- 2024/0485/RM, *Application for approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission WNS/2022/0356/OUT (Erection of single storey dwelling) at Stonehurst, Little Street.* No comment by PC.
- 2024/0710/RM, *Access, appearance, including materials, landscaping, layout and scale at land south of The Retreat, Park Lane.* Comments made by PC.
- 2024/0503/TCA, *Oak to be felled at Oaktree House, Helmdon Road.* Supported by PC.
- 2024/1250/TCA, *To fell two conifer trees, due to excessive shading at The Junipers 1A School Street.* No objection by PC.

24/46. To receive Councillors Reports

The Chair thanked Ian Cherry who has helped him recently with jobs in the village. He purchased two bottles of wine to say thank you.

The Chair and Parish Clerk are meeting PC Mel Carter on 22nd March at 10am outside the shop to discuss local issues.

There are a couple of spare allotments. Anyone interested should contact Jill Barrett the Treasurer.

24/47. 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)

Mr Martin Sirot-Smith advised that work is ongoing with producing 'the Chronicles of Sulgrave'. He has asked people to send articles to him.

24/48. To consider matters for the next meeting

Summer event on Castle Green on 8th June

24/49. To note next meeting date and time

Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.