

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and ten villagers

24/50. Elections

Election of Chairperson and signing of Acceptance of Office

It was proposed by Cllr Castle and seconded by Cllr Powell that Cllr Fonge be Chair. He signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Staples that Cllr Priestman be Vice-Chair.

24/51. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Priestman (personal)

24/52. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/53. To note the resignation of Neil Higginson

Neil Higginson has been on the Parish Council for six years and provided a great service. He has resigned for family reasons. He has helped the Parish Council in many ways and the Parish Council expressed their thanks.

24/54a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

24/54b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

- *Update from Gigaclear.* The project is on hold still.

24/55. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

The sale of the cottages is proceeding well. There is a good relationship now between the Manor and the village. They have agreed to be part of the village fete and will open it. Some Councillors have been invited to a future event at the Manor.

24/56. To receive an update on HS2 work

Simon Davis, Engagement Manager for EKFB is leaving in three weeks time and Haidee Williams is taking over. The new Greatworth T road is finally open.

During 2025 the B4525 will be closed at different times whilst they build the tunnel. Use of the Greatworth T will continue but there will be a change in the traffic flow at this time. The working hours have been extended, 6am to 10pm. There will be no Sunday working. A mobile unit will be at Greatworth on 22nd May with maps and diagrams.

The Chair noted that an invoice for £1500.00 has been submitted to HS2 to cover expenditure for the June event. He is disappointed that they agreed to submit a piece for the newsletter but did not. There is a lack of trust.

24/57. To discuss moving the flagpole

This matter was looked at last year. Its currently in the churchyard but can only be seen if standing in Church Street. The quote was expensive to move it elsewhere. Another cheaper quote has been obtained to put the flagpole by the bus shelter on Magpie Road. Permission will be needed from Highways. All Councillors agreed to move the flagpole to a new position.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Highways.

24/58. To discuss the HS2 match funding to purchase new equipment for Pocket Park

It was agreed to ask for match funding from HS2 for the sum of £5K.

Action: Cllr Staples to complete the form.

24/59. To receive an update on the summer fete

To be held on 8th June. A couple of meetings have been held and have gone well. A decorated marquee will be put up. Entertainment will be a dog show, birds of prey display, Morris Men and the Brackley Brass Band. Castle Green is a nice place to use for the event. The shop volunteers have offered to sell ice cream. A villager asked if there will be a portaloo but they are expensive to hire.

24/60. To discuss the placement of a CCTV camera in the centre of the village

A request from a villager via South Northants Police had been received due to a recent crime incident in the village. Four wheels had been stolen from a Land Rover. It was agreed that CCTV would be an intrusion on privacy and be expensive to purchase and run. It was not justified for one crime taking place and the householder should sort out their own home security.

24/61. To discuss public liability cover for the allotments

The Parish Council have helped with grants in the past.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact their insurance company about their own public liability cover being extended for the allotment area.

24/62. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £23.46 to R Fonge (petrol for mower)
- £14.70 to R Fonge (thank you present for I Cherry)
- £198.00 to Complete Ground Management Ltd (grass cutting)
- £260.00 to R Fletcher (internal audit)
- £475.00 to S G Watts (fencing work on Castle Green)
- £511.06 to Npower (electricity)
- £331.10 to Northants CALC (membership)
- £80.20 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £2314.34 to Gallager (Insurance)

To add another signatory to the bank mandate

It was agreed to add Cllr Powell to the bank mandate to replace Neil Higginson.

24/63. To receive an update on Planning

Three new applications had been received since the last meeting.

- 2024/1899/FULL, Demolition of rear extension and part of existing garage. erection of single storey rear extension, insertion of rooflights and re-build part of the original garage structure. Remove gable doors to existing cottage and replace with new window at Westfields, Park Lane. It was agreed to give no comment.
- 2024/1977/TPO, Pollarding of 6 x lime trees at The Magpies, Manor Road. It was agreed to give no comment.

- *2024/2136/FULL, Phased development consisting of Removal of existing buildings, erection of 2 no self-build dwellinghouses with associated outbuildings, parking and landscaping of site at Kiln Farm, Manor Road.* This is a new planning application and has no bearing on previous applications. The area is a mess and the village were not happy with the Manors proposals before. The new proposal today is middle ground. The Parish Council were surprised at the size of houses proposed. A villager noted there is no public notice on display and he had the same concerns as before. All Councillors to look at the application before comments are made.

24/64. To receive the following correspondence

- Marcus Young Environmental Services – Increase in dog bin emptying charges. This is the first increase since April 2021. The new cost is £3.80 per bin effective 1st April 2024.
- NAB – Sight support for Northamptonshire. Detail to be put in the newsletter and website.
- Ability – Bus Service. Detail to be put in the newsletter and website.

24/65. To receive Councillors Reports

There were no reports to receive.

24/66. 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)

A villager spoke about the Remembrance Day Soldier. The Royal British Legion have asked if it can be put out to celebrate D Day. It was agreed it will be put out on 31st May for one week and moved to Castle Green for the event on 8th June.

24/67. To consider matters for the next meeting

- Repair of Castle Green
- Match funding for new play equipment
- Replacement Footpath Warden

24/68. To note next meeting date and time

Thursday 6th June 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.