

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

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Sarah Parker, Mike Powell, Will Priestman and Sara Staples

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and six villagers

24/137. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr J Peppiatt (personal) and Cllr A Eastwood

24/138. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/139a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

24/139b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Remembrance Service - Arrangements for the service on 11th November are in hand.

24/140. To receive an update on HS2 work and funding for Pocket Park

There is no update on any new highway work. There are videos on the HS2 website showing drone footage.

Cllr Staples and the Parish Clerk met to look at the funding application. Part of the application is to carry out a public consultation. A set of questions were drafted and included in the recent newsletter. 12 responses have been received so far. The key themes for funding are Environmental and Sustainability. The funding could include updating the signage, clearing the pond and planting more trees. The application will be submitted in January and reviewed by Groundworks. A villager noted to check the calendar year for applications and whether there might be an underspend or overspend for funds. Thanks was given to Cllr Staples for her work.

24/141. To receive an update after the official opening of the Library

The official opening went well and was attended by many people. Lots of books have been borrowed since. It was agreed to purchase another bookcase. Archive paperwork will be stored here. £25.00 was collected and given to the Children's Society. A letter of thanks was sent by Kate Miles.

24/142. To discuss Christmas celebrations

The Christmas tree will be delivered at the end of November and positioned opposite the shop near the bus shelter. It will be central to the village and lighting provided by a nearby villager. During the evening of 14th December a tractor and trailer will go round the village with people singing carols. Refreshments will be served after.

24/143. To receive an update on 'The Chronicles of Sulgrave'

Martin Sirot Smith (MSS) gave the following update. 35 copies have been ordered and more are coming through. An advert will be put in the shop and the December issue of the newsletter. MSS is looking for sponsors and names will be acknowledged in the book.

Action: The Parish Clerk to set up an Amazon account.

24/144. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

There has been no contact from the Manor. The Parish Council have tried very hard for the last five years and feel extremely let down. This will no longer be an agenda item after Christmas.

24/145. To receive an update on Pocket Park

There was poor attendance at the recent clear up of Pocket Park. The long grass has been cut and work will be done to clear the pond. The mower will be serviced. The Chair's grandson will cut the grass. The zip wire was serviced. The tightening tool for the zip wire has been handed over but the zip wire will still be serviced by an outside company.

24/146. To discuss the placement of the Kings Portrait

The Village Hall committee did not approve the placing of the official framed portrait in the hall.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email a photo and measurements of the portrait to the Chair. The Chair to ask the hall to reconsider their decision.

24/147. Castle Green – To discuss the quote to replace the post and rail fencing

The quote to replace the post and rail fencing is £490.00 & £35.00 to remove the old fencing from site. This cost was agreed.

Work to the wall, as previously agreed, is in progress.

24/148. Footpaths - To discuss the temporary closure of footpath AY5 and maintenance of other footpaths

A temporary closure notice was received as the bridge has been washed away and broken up the flood waters. There is no safe route across the stream so a closure is required. Remedial work on other footpaths is taking place.

24/149. Finance

To note the Pay Award for the Parish Clerk in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25 – This has been approved and is applicable to the Parish Clerk on SCP 20, to be back dated to 1st April 2024, equivalent of 63p per hour.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £382.48 to Npower (street lighting)
- £84.30 to EON (repair of street light 14)
- £252.00 to PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit)
- £48.00 to Geosphere Ltd (mapping software)
- £65.90 to Texprep (newsletter printing)
- £201.60 to P Lewis Ltd (repair of gatepost)
- £90.00 to H Howe (cutting of Pocket Park)
- £143.74 to Texprep (newsletter printing)
- £234.00 to Complete Ground Management (grass cutting)
- £509.00 To Parish Clerk (hours)
- £127.20 to HMRC
- £40.50 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

Audit for y/e 31.03.24 - To note the comments from the External Auditor and approve the closing of the accounts for 2023/24. One point was made by the External Auditor. A payment of £80.00 was incorrectly included as part of expenditure. The Parish Clerk included the expenditure as the invoice was dated 31.03.24. The comments were noted and it was agreed to approve the closure of the accounts.

24/150. To receive an update on Planning

No planning applications had been received.

24/151. To receive Councillors Reports

The Parish Clerk contacted Gigaclear as some properties are not included in the current build programme. Gigaclear will look at the sites but it could be a potential wayleave issue.

Light No 13 at Rectory Farm was reported again.

An allotment meeting is taking place on 20th November to discuss the change in the bank account and new bank charges which are effective in January 2025. The Chair will attend and report back at the next meeting.

24/152. 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.

24/153. To consider matters for the next meeting

Grass cutting for 2025

Discuss how to help the Allotment Society with proposed banking charges

24/154. To note meeting dates for 2025

9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 8th May (TBC as there is a PC election on 1st May), 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October and 6th November.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Staples announced she would be resigning. She joined the council three years ago but has family commitments to concentrate on. Thanks was given to Sara by the Chair for her work whilst being on the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.