

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2024
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Mike Powell, Jo Peppiatt and Will Priestman

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Alison Eastwood and nine villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/103. To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Staples (personal)

24/104. Co-option of New Councillor
Sarah Parker was co-opted onto the Parish Council. She has lived in Little Street for three years and has two young children. She signed the Acceptance of Office form and will complete a Register of Interest form.

24/105. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
No interests were declared.

24/106a. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2024
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

24/106b. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

- *Update on work by Gigaclear.* Work has started and the workmen are courteous and helpful. A village meeting is being held on 23rd September at 6.30pm. Gigaclear will be asked if they can provide a free broadband service to the church hall. They have asked residents to park on the verge at Spinners Cottages on Monday 9th September. A note to be put on Next Door.
- *Update on work on Castle Green.* A quote has been received and accepted to repair the wall and it is hoped the work will be done this month.

24/107. To receive an update on HS2 work
The Banbury Road will be closed for a month from 16th September. This is in preparation for the tunnel and requires the upgrade/removal of various pipes under the road.

24/108. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor
The season ends on 31st October. There is a new and improved website which is user friendly and informative.

24/109. To receive an update on the library
The library is moving from one side of the church to the other. The pews have been removed. The next step is to furnish it. Cllr Peppiatt is looking at different types of rugs and prices. It should be hard wearing with underlay. A table has been made and two chairs donated. Cllr Peppiatt has agreed to provide a basket of colouring items on completion.

24/110. To discuss the upkeep of Pocket Park and agree the purchase of new play equipment
A safety report was carried out in the summer. The shackles on the basket swing were replaced. The zip wire is sagging. The Chair has found a contractor in Lymington who can service the zip wire. The cost is £330.00. It was agreed to accept the cost and book the cost.
Action: The Chair to ask the maximum weight to use the zip wire and a sign will be made and displayed.

The swings require replacing. The Parish Clerk has got a quote from Wicksteed Leisure. Sulgrave Charities have offered to make a contribution but there is no news on the HS2 funding. The Parish Council cannot proceed until they know if HS2 can offer a contribution.

Mowing of Pocket Park was discussed. The Chair has mowed it for the last seven years but will not be able to carry on after this year. The Chair's grandson has stepped in to help out and has charged £30.00 per cut. This is good value in comparison with other quotes of £50.00 and £65.00. He will continue until the end of the season. This will be reviewed in October.

24/111. To receive an update on 'The Chronicles of Sulgrave'

The next part of the process is to advertise the book through the newsletter with a flyer to order copies. A PC account with Amazon is to be set up. It was agreed to start with 50 books. The cost of £250.00 for design and presentation was agreed.

24/112. To discuss archive material belonging to a resident

The Parish Council have been contacted by Neil Metcalfe, son of George Metcalfe, a resident aged 97 years who lives in the village. The family are sorting out paperwork and found lots of artwork, maps and drawings that George produced for the village. It was agreed it should be put in the village library for safe keeping.

24/113. To receive an update on the Star PH

The Chair has spoken to Hook Norton Brewery (HNB). Two prospective tenants have visited and been interviewed. The Chair to keep in regular contact with HNB and keep the village informed.

24/114. To discuss increasing the number of Councillors

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council look to increasing their Councillor numbers from six to seven seats. Villages of this size normally have seven or eight Councillors. There are elections in 2025 as the current four year term comes to an end.

Action: The Parish Clerk will get advice of the process from WNC.

24/115. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£468.00 to Complete Ground Management Ltd (grass cutting May)

£468.00 to Complete Ground Management Ltd (grass cutting June)

£141.60 to Playsafety Ltd (Pocket Park play inspection)

£15.01 to R Fonge (petrol for mower)

£28.16 to EON (repair of street light)

£60.00 to Texprep (newsletter printing)

£234.00 to Complete Ground Management (grass cutting July)

£7.82 to R Fonge (petrol for mower)

£6.48 to R Fonge (new swing shackles)

£90.00 to Oliver Howe (cutting of Pocket Park)

24/116. To receive an update on Planning

No planning applications had been received.

24/117. To receive Councillors Reports

The village mowing has been hit and miss this year. The weather was wet very early on and the contractor has not been cutting as frequently as agreed. Cllr Powell to look at the contract.

The street light (No 14) opposite Sulgrave House has not been repaired.

Action: The Parish Clerk to chase EON.

The fence posts on Castle Green are broken and require replacing. A quote has been received from Simon Watts. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillor Eastwood spoke about the drain on Towrise which may be blocked again. It was repaired last winter.

24/118. 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)

From the floor a villager spoke about two occasions in late July/early August where paragliders were seen flying over the village on a Sunday. It was anti social and intrusive.

Action: The Chair to speak to the land owner.

A villager spoke about the overgrown verge at the bottom of Helmdon Road. It was cut last year by CGM and is a blind spot for people out walking.

Action: Cllr Powell to speak to CGM.

The Chair noted that ash trees with ash die back are being taken down on the village outskirts. Two trees will be planted for every one that is taken down.

24/119. To consider matters for the next meeting

Placement of a Christmas tree
Remembrance Day Parade
HS2 funding

24/120. To note next meeting date and time

Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.