

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2025
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL, MAGPIE ROAD AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

Richard Fonge (Chairman), Neil Higginson, Mike Powell, Will Priestman, Sarah Parker and Jo Peppiatt

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and six villagers

25/36. To receive apologies for absence

None.

25/37. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/38. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

25/39. To discuss the e-petition received from Farthinghoe Parish Council concerning the removal the Farthinghoe Bypass from the WNC Local Transport Plan and consider a response

The e-petition is to ask WNC to reinstate Farthinghoe Bypass in the WNC Local Transport Plan. The local transport plan is a WNC document that plans expenditure on roads for up to 40 years ahead. WNC have removed a Bypass option for Farthinghoe. By removing the option of having a bypass means there will be no chance of one being considered in the long term. The Parish Council have repeatedly asked that a bypass option remains on the local transport plan but their requests have been ignored. It was agreed to send a letter of support and the link will be put in the newsletter.

25/40. To receive an update on the work being carried out by Gigaclear

Work was delayed due to flooding issues. The service will be 80% ready by April. There will be a full reinstatement programme once works have been complete and the areas made good. Residents have been trying to contact Gigaclear but without success. This would be fed back to them. The free wifi for the church hall has not been sorted out yet.

Action: Cllr Powell to make contact with Gigaclear.

25/41. To discuss celebrations for VE Day

An invitation has been drafted for a picnic on 5th May 2025 12-4pm in Pocket Park. It was agreed to invite the Brackley Brass Band. A commemorative service at the church will be held on 10th May at 11am.

25/42. To receive an update from the coffee morning held to welcome the new villagers

The coffee morning was a great success and well attended. The Chair thanked all those who took part. More younger families are living in the village. Cllr Parker thanked the Chair for suggesting the idea.

25/43. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

Sulgrave Manor are using the village newsletter to update the village on news.

25/44. To receive an update on the emptying of dog bins

The dog bins are being emptied every two weeks. Two large dog bins have been ordered. Cllr Powell has contacted the contractor and is waiting for an answer.

25/45. To note responses to the invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting in April

Invitations have been sent out and replies received.

25/46. Highway matters

- Parking on grass verges. A note was put in the last newsletter to discourage parking on the verge on Magpie Road. West Northants Council will not fund a layby and the cost is approximately £30K. A meeting will be arranged with Helen Howard to discuss other cheaper options.

25/47. To receive an update on HS2 matters

Cllr Powell is now registered to attend HS2 online meetings. The A43 has been closed for the last two weekends whilst HS2 work was being carried out. Welsh Lane is very busy when the A43 is closed and there was a very bad accident on the Helmdon crossroads recently.

25/48. Pocket Park matters

To discuss a quote to replace the swing set (circulated). A quote has been received from Wicksteed Leisure. A wooden swing set is £7049.00 & VAT and a metal swing set is £6642.00 & VAT. Sulgrave Charities are meeting on 19th March to discuss a donation. It was agreed to order a green metal swing set which will last longer. The painting of play equipment is still going ahead with a working party meeting on 12th April. The HS2 funding was briefly discussed as work started before Christmas.

Action: The Parish Clerk to order the new swing set. The Chair and Parish Clerk to ask for an update on the HS2 funding application.

25/49. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £13.92 to N Higginson (Pin badges for welcoming event)
- £25.05 to R Fonge (petrol for mower)
- £102.10 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £77.10 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £648.12 To Parish Clerk (hours)
- £162.20 To HMRC
- £32.40 to Parish Clerk (mileage)
- £111.00 to Chris Knott Insurance (allotments)

25/50. To receive an update on Planning

No planning applications had been received.

25/51. To receive Councillors Reports

The wall at Castle Green has been repaired.

The Chair thanked Paul Crowley and Tony Keatley for sorting out a kissing gate and cutting back vegetation.

Nomination papers for the next Parish Council election on 1st May 2025 have to be completed and handed in by 4pm on 2nd April 2025. The West Northants Council Unitary election is on 1st May 2025. The Chair spoke highly of Cllr Alison Eastwood who has represented the village well. She attends lots of Parish Council meetings and acts on queries. She is an asset to the village.

A junior member of the parish is collecting litter. Cllr Peppiatt to make a badge for him.

25/52. 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.

25/53. To consider matters for the next meeting

Poor state of the Allotment area

25/54. To note next meeting date and time
Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd April 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

DRAFT