

SULGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2025
IN SULGRAVE CHURCH HALL, MAGPIE ROAD AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and five villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. To celebrate VE Day everyone stood for one minutes silence.

25/55. Elections

Election of Chair and Signing of Acceptance of Office

It was proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Priestman that Cllr Fonge be Chair. He agreed to be Chair for the next 12 months and signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Priestman joined the Parish Council in 2015. He has been Vice-Chair since 2019. He decided to step aside this year. It was proposed by Cllr Priestman and seconded by Cllr Peppiatt that Cllr Powell be Vice Chair.

All Councillors present signed new Acceptance of Office forms and will complete Register of Interest forms.

25/56. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Parker (holiday)

25/57. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/58. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

25/59. To receive an update from VE Day celebrations

The event was a great success. The Chair thanked Cllr Parker for taking the lead and Jill and Anthony Barrett for helping with flags and bunting. It was a BYO picnic and Hook Norton Brass Band were in attendance. A church service will be held on 10.05.25 at 11am. The two steel soldiers will be placed on the church path. A previous war veteran will attend the church service.

25/60. To receive an update on HS2 matters

Cllr Powell is the new liaison person with HS2. Road closures will be happening soon. Part of the B4525 will be closed this coming weekend at the new T Junction near Greatworth. From 12th May Banbury Road will be closed for two years. All details are on the noticeboard and Next Door. A site visit for Parish Council members will be arranged in mid July. A viewing platform will be arranged in mid June to see the steel bridge being moved.

25/61. To receive an update from Sulgrave Manor

The Chair has recently met Carole Souter and she is taking huge interest in the Manor. The Chair bought an entry pass which cost £5 and more villagers have bought passes. There are two pages in each newsletter detailing events and schools are visiting the Manor again. Their approach to reach out to the village and be more friendly is pleasing.

25/62. To discuss the allotments and the future

The Parish Council have taken back control of the allotments and recently paid the insurance. Not all plots are being used. A monthly update will be put in the newsletter as there are newcomers who might not know about the allotments. After that they can be advertised in nearby villages.

Action: Cllr Peppiatt to draft an allotment poster. Rosie Shillito to work with Cllr Priestman to advertise the vacant plots.

25/63. To discuss funding for Pocket Park

A new double swing has just been installed by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. The old swing had rotten posts so this purchase was timely. There is other equipment that is old and could be changed.

HS2 have a Community Retention Programme and can provide funding. Money was given to the church hall in the very beginning. The Pocket Park was started in the 90's and it would be nice to retain some elements like the woodland area. Cllr Parker will lead the funding application. There will be money available for a community facility. The village shop may contribute once the Parish Council know if HS2 will contribute. The idea of an outdoor table tennis table has been suggested.

Action: The Parish Clerk to invoice Sulgrave Charities who offered to contribute £2K to the new swing.

25/64. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- 626.29 to Glasdon UK (purchase of 2 dog bins)
- £150.00 to Hook Norton Brass Band (VE Day celebrations)
- £98.02 to Texprep (newsletter copying)
- £343.35 to Northants CALC (membership)
- £99.50 to Texprep (newsletter copying)

25/65. To receive an update on Planning

- 2025/1085/LBC, Listed building consent to convert existing first floor plant room roof space into staff flat including erection of new staircase extensions all in association with existing planning class F1(c) museums at Sulgrave Manor. It was agreed to support.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond.

25/66. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Powell reported that one dog bin has been changed with a larger one. There is still a second bin to change. Councillors to consider what to do with the old bins. Lois Weedon may want the old bins.

Local Elections took place on 1st May and Cllr Eastwood was elected with two other Councillors.

A new footbridge was installed near the railway line last month.

Two Councillors met Helen Howard of Hghways to discuss the verge on Magpie Road. The cost is prohibitive. Parking has improved since.

Halse Road will be shut for two days from 20th May for work at the solar farm.

Lisa Roberts would like to retire as editor of the newsletter. A possible candidate might be taking over.

25/67. 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)
Graham Roberts thanked the Councillors for all their work.

Colin Wootton was pleased to attend the VE day celebrations and it brought back childhood memories for him.

25/68. To consider matters for the next meeting
Update on HS2 funding

25/69. To note next meeting date and time
5th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

DRAFT