

# Sydenham Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 6th March 2014

Present: Paul Stancliffe  
Roy Harrison  
Alison Isherwood  
Janet Potts  
Heather Mullins  
Apologies: Rachel Blake

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Minutes of last meeting	These were approved and signed.	
Sydenham Voice	No report. It was agreed that a village clean up would be timely - SV to be asked if one is planned.	JP
Flooding and drainage	<p>PS attended the Flood Forum in Oxford on 1st March, which encouraged communities to form flooding community action groups. This initiative is being supported by Gordon Hunt from OCC and by the Environment Agency. It would rely on volunteers taking an active part in clearing ditches and also on co-operation from landowners, as permission is required for access onto private land.</p> <p>In Sydenham volunteers have already been very active and successful in clearing the brook in the Brookstones area and downstream. The suggestion was made for a flood community action group to be set up in Sydenham which could target the upper reaches of the brook affecting the road near the mill bridge. Volunteers have already come forward to clear this stretch. Gordon Hunt to be invited to the APM to speak about the action group.</p> <p>A further drainage problem has been identified in the field behind the Hardiman's house. So far rodding has been unsuccessful so a quote for clearance is to be obtained from Village Environmental Services.</p> <p>Thames Water have contacted the parish council to arrange a drop-in session in the OSR to answer any queries regarding the proposed works for the relief sewer scheme. Potential dates and times were discussed and the OSR booking number is to be given to TW.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>HM</p>
Defibrillator	The certification of the electrical work is in hand and will be issued shortly. The electricity board are being contacted by the defibrillator group to query if the supply is chargeable.	
Sydenham Grange Bridleway	Nick Carter has spoken with Andy Sylvester at OCC. OCC advise that the application from the landowners is unlikely to proceed any further as there is not a strong enough case for a diversion based on health & safety or security grounds. OCC advise that a fresh application could be made by the parish council on the grounds that the diversion is 'in the public interest'. A fresh application would need to go through the whole statutory procedure and would	

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	<p>include a consultation process, so may receive the same objections as the current application. If successful, the diverted route would have to be of suitable quality and would be subject to maintenance liabilities, and there would be agreements/legalities required.</p> <p>Nick Carter suggested a meeting with the parish council and Andy Sylvester and will be suggesting suitable diary dates.</p> <p>As a further contact at OCC Countryside Service has been obtained, JP to speak to them and seek their opinion on this case, as we understood that the diversion route itself was under debate rather than the reasons for diversion.</p> <p>The procedure for putting in a new application for a bridleway diversion to be investigated.</p>	<p>36</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
Speeding and the Community Speed Detection Scheme	<p>Jacky Madden is aiming to get the parish council volunteers trained on the use of the speed detection equipment during March, with a view to deploying the scheme in later April.</p> <p>Although the possibilities of renting or buying speed detection equipment have been investigated, it would only be a visual deterrent as any data obtained would not be viable for TVP to use unless it was their own equipment.</p> <p>The location for the speed device is to be finalised and permission obtained from the landowners as required.</p> <p>Insurance cover will be required for the equipment during the loan period, and TVP have provided a value to enable a quote to be obtained.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>HM</p>
Playing Field	The goalposts have been mended, and the hedge has been trimmed. The posts for the obstacle course are to be concreted in when the ground conditions allow.	
Tree Maintenance	The ivy has been trimmed on the identified tree. The tree expert for the church has also advised that the ivy on the tree by the churchyard wall could also be trimmed, but that the tree is in excellent condition for its age.	
Standing Orders	The revised standing orders have been circulated for comment. It was agreed that they be formally adopted.	
Draft Rights of Way Management plan	RB has examined the consultation document and summarised that the plan should be supported due to it being focused on getting people out into the countryside and making it more accessible for all to do so. RB to be asked to respond to the consultation accordingly.	RB
<u>Finance</u>	<p>Roger Symes has agreed to carry out the internal audit at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The following items have been authorised for payment:</p> <p>£133.07 OALC subscription</p> <p>£133.05 Osbornes Insurances</p> <p>£960.00 Will Munday, drainage/ditching works</p> <p>£180.00 Grafham Construction, verge repairs and tree removal</p> <p>£180.00 Old School Room, hire of hall for meetings</p> <p>£500.00 Sydenham Old School Room, annual grant</p> <p>£40.00 Depreciation payment for use of clerk's computer (£50 less tax)</p> <p>£30.00 ORCC membership renewal</p> <p>£100.00 Thame CAB, donation</p> <p>£250.00 Chinnor Village Centre, donation</p> <p>£600.00 Sydenham Newsletter, annual grant</p>	

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NatWest Current a/c: b/f £5,178.28	Payments: £172.50 Clerk's salary £25.12 SODC dog bin emptying 1.7.13-31.12.13 £61.08 Paul Stancliffe expenses - drainage works	Closing balance at 28.02.13  £4,919.58
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £7,736.43	No transactions	£7,736.43
<u>Planning</u>		
P13/S3898/FUL	Thatchings, Sydenham Road Erection of a detached two bedroom dwelling with parking, access and amenity space. <i>Application withdrawn</i>	
P14/S0308/FUL	Land North East of Stert Road and South East of Kingston Stert Farm, Kingston Stert Use of land for the provision of GRP kiosk to protect electrical pump control equipment; standby generator enclosure; upgrade to existing access and internal access with turning area; associated works including vent pipe, protective bollard and hardstanding, as part of pumping station scheme to alleviate flooding of local village properties. <i>Recommended for approval</i>	
<u>Correspondence</u>		
OALC NALC Complete Land Care	Openness of Local Government Bodies draft regulations - invitation to comment Legislative reform order regarding cheque payments WW1 Commemorative poppies	HM
<u>Any Other Business</u>		
Electricity supply	SSE are holding a meeting in Reading next week at which the Director of Distribution will outline the planned works for the supply to Sydenham. Dave Read and Paul Stancliffe to attend.	
High Sheriff Award	RH reported on ceremony at which Paul Stancliffe received his award. This was presented at Oxfordshire County Hall on 4th March, and was followed by a reception.	
Church Wall	RH gave an update on the plans to rebuild and progress so far.	
VAS sign on Thame Road	The sign nearest Thame has stopped working. Solagen to be asked for a quote to repair.	HM
There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd April in the OSR at 8pm.		

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