

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 3rd April 2014

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

The meeting was pleased to welcome Cllr David Wilmshurst.

<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. A date is to be arranged for the village clean up.	JP
Report from David Wilmshurst	The budget that OCC receive from the government for 2010-2018 will be cut by 40%, and the County Council is responding by looking at effectiveness and by cutting the head count. The workforce has been reduced by 30% since 2010 and management reduced by 40%. The pension scheme is being reviewed and councillor numbers reduced.	
Potholes	Some repairs have already been carried out at the Stert end of the village and Highways have been contacted to see what repairs were already in hand so that unreported potholes could be logged using the online link.	HM
Sydenham Grange Bridleway	<p>OCC are not supporting the application for Bridleway 7 to be diverted away from the farmyard, and have written to the Weston family (the applicants) to confirm this. Andy Sylvester and Nick Carter from OCC have suggested that the parish council could apply for a diversion on the basis that it was 'in the public interest'. Any other reasons for diverting the path have already been proposed and refused. If an application is submitted OCC have said that the process would be shorter than the ten years taken by the recent application, but that they cannot guarantee that the same objections won't be raised. The cost is estimated at £2200 if the process is straightforward. An application would be looked on favourably if villagers wrote letters of support, but could not gain support by petition.</p> <p>Tony Clarke from the Ramblers Association has proposed an alternative solution. The suggestion is that the permissive path with good surfacing is kept to take most of the traffic, but that the longer pre 1980 route is opened as a footpath that could take further walking traffic as it is a good route and would not require surfacing and maintenance in the same way as a bridleway. However this still leaves the problem of security for the farmyard.</p> <p>It is hoped that the Westons will be able to attend the next parish council meeting so that we can hear how they would like to proceed and so that the proposal from the Ramblers could be discussed as well as the suggestion of the parish council applying for a diversion.</p> <p>David Wilmshurst suggested that any complaints about the way that this consultation has been dealt with could be sent to Ian Hudspeth as Leader of the County Council.</p>	

Signed Date

Flooding	Village Environmental Services have issued a report on the pipe blockage to the rear of the Hardiman's and the Crown. At present a large pipe appears to run along the back of the pub garden, before bending at 90° and running down the side of the Old Bakery Wall. This is very difficult to rod, and remains blocked. There is only one jetting lorry for the county, and we have repeatedly asked to meet one of the drainage engineers on site in the village to look at the road gullies. We could then share our knowledge of the drainage layout which would make best use of a visit from the jetting lorry. DW offered to speak to the County Engineer to chase this up.	
Defibrillator	The electricity board (SSE) have issued forms for completion to get the supply officially recognised. The certification of the electrical work is in hand and will be issued shortly. Once this is done the defibrillator can be added to the parish council insurance policy and to the asset register.	
Speeding and the Community Speed Detection Scheme	Jacky Madden carried out a SID training session for AI and HM, who can then train other volunteers in turn. The equipment will be deployed during the week commencing 28th April. Jacky has suggested sessions of one hour at a time. The aim is to use the equipment during the rush hour in the morning and the evening. The owner of Slade Farm has kindly given permission for the equipment to be used on their driveway. This location has been identified by the police as suitable and the traffic speed survey undertaken a few years ago showed this stretch of road to have a significant speeding problem. Sydenham Voice to be approached for volunteers. A training session for the SID equipment will be held on 24th April outside the OSR. The insurance liability form for the equipment was signed by the parish council this evening and will be signed by Jacky Madden upon delivery of the equipment. Insurance cover has been confirmed for the equipment during the loan period at no charge.	JP/RB AI AI HM
Playing Field	Lizzie Greenwood Hughes has contacted the parish council to suggest that a new piece of equipment be installed in the playing field, perhaps something more challenging to suit the older children in the village. The parish council has previously agreed that once existing equipment requires renewal a new piece should be installed. A discussion took place as to which equipment is most often used versus which piece is likely to require replacement first, and also about the space required for play equipment and to allow ballgames. The posts on the adventure trail and swings require replacement. RB to speak to Lizzie about possible ideas.	RH/PS RB
Annual Parish Meeting	This will take place on 29th April, and Gordon Hunt has been invited to speak about Flood Action Groups. Apologies from RH and HM for the first part of the meeting. RB to take minutes until HM arrives. The details of the APM have been included in the newsletter, and a Sydenham Mail to be sent.	HM
<u>Finance</u>	The annual accounts return for the year ending 31 st March 2014 was examined and approved. The Parish Council members acknowledged their responsibility for the preparation of accounts, and confirmed, to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the council's accounts for the year ending 31.3.14 that the points of the Annual Governance Statement had all been completed satisfactorily.	

Signed Date

	<p>The following items have been authorised for payment: £85.00 Village Environmental Services £20.00 additional subscription to ORCC requested due to population numbers £136.30 HM Revenue and Customs, PAYE for Feb-Apr 14</p> <p>The Ministerial Statement on Parish Council Payments issued on 18 March 2014 regarding the removal of the rule that cheques must be signed by two members of the Council was discussed. The option of electronic banking to be explored, but the practice of two cheque signatories to be maintained until other suitable financial checks can be put in place.</p> <p>The Draft new model Financial Regulations have been reviewed by the clerk. The amended document to be circulated to the council before the next meeting ready for discussion and potentially approval at the Annual Meeting in May.</p> <p>The budget for 2014/15 was discussed and an additional sum was allowed for flooding based on the expenditure this winter.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>HM</p> <p>HM</p>
<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £4,919.58</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £7,736.43</p>	<p>Payments:</p> <p>£172.50 Clerk's salary £133.07 OALC subscription £133.05 Osbornes Insurances £960.00 Will Munday, drainage/ditching works £180.00 Grafham Construction, verge repairs and tree removal £180.00 Old School Room, hire of hall for meetings £500.00 Sydenham Old School Room, annual grant £40.00 Depreciation payment for use of clerk's computer (£50 less tax) £30.00 ORCC membership renewal £100.00 Thame CAB, donation £250.00 Chinnor Village Centre, donation £600.00 Sydenham Newsletter, annual grant</p> <p>0.76 interest received</p>	<p>Closing balance at 31.03.14</p> <p>£1,640.96</p> <p>£7,737.19</p>
<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>P14/S0308/FUL</p> <p>P13/S3921/HH and P13/S3925/LB</p>	<p>Land North East of Stert Road and South East of Kingston Stert Farm, Kingston Stert</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>GRANTED</i></p> <p>The Waterlane, Brookstones</p> <p>Demolish existing store on south elevation. Retain existing chimney stack. Erection of oak framed garden sun room and single storey side extension to south elevation.</p> <p>Alterations to existing 20C rear extensions including retention of oak framed entrance lobby with glazed roof. Fit new oak french doors to north elevation. Existing brickwork to 20C rear extension to be rendered in lime c/t render.</p> <p><i>GRANTED</i></p>	

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<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>CPRE South and Vale John Howell OALC OALC</p>	<p>Proposed housing figures for South Oxfordshire Community and Governance Review Statement on parish council payments Financial briefings Facebook/Twitter accounts for parish councils</p>	<p>04</p> <p>HM HM</p> <p>HM discussed</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>VAS sign on Thame Road</p> <p>Aston Rowant School</p> <p>Phoenix Trail</p> <p>SSE electricity supply</p>	<p>Solagen have attended site and carried out repairs within an agreed budget of £850. Unfortunately the sign continued to intermittently fail and the engineer was asked to return to site. The light sensor on the main panel was found to be at fault and the main unit has been removed for investigation. Solagen hope to be able to carry out all required repairs within the agreed budget but will advise once their investigations are complete. No work will be carried out without approval. They have been asked to report on the cause of the fault, as if it is due to water damage there may be grounds for an insurance claim.</p> <p>The school are currently focussed on a three phase improvement plan, as an increase in pupil numbers has put pressure on existing resources, and consequently a facilities improvement plan has been developed. The project management team have approached Sydenham Parish Council for financial support as currently 16% of the school's pupils live in Sydenham and Chalford. This was discussed but there are insufficient funds in the budget to enable the parish council to make a donation this financial year.</p> <p>A reply has been submitted to the Consultation draft Rights of Way Management Plan, with reference to the Phoenix Trail link. RB to walk the route with Peter Hetherington in the near future.</p> <p>The electricity board have revised their plans for undergrounding the supply cables, but have not yet provided plans of these proposals. The main supply in to the village will be underground at all vulnerable points so that the supply is more dependable. Automatic switching gear is also going to be installed so that the two incoming supplies can be switched in the case of a power failure. The work will be carried out during this financial year.</p>	
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st May in the OSR at 8pm. The APM will be held on Tuesday 29th April in the OSR at 8pm.</p>		

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