

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 2nd April 2015

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

The meeting was pleased to welcome four members of the public.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None.	
Approval of minutes	These were approved and signed.	
Playing Field	<p>The grant for £3000 has been successful, and together with other funds pledged from the Fayre the plan to replace the obstacle trail can proceed. The preferred quote is that from John Heathfield (total £5000), who will provide an invoice for the grant body. Stage payments will be required, which the parish council will make until grant monies are received. The aim is for the structure to be in place for the summer holidays.</p> <p>Details of the new equipment to be provided for obtaining insurance quotes. The cricket club are proposing a cleanup session for the training net area, and it was suggested that other volunteers undertake a cleanup for the rest of the playing field at the same time to tackle the weeds etc.</p> <p>The fallen goal post has been repaired, (RB to ask RH about spare parts for the goals) and the first cut taken off the grass.</p> <p>Shaun Hunter kindly volunteered to quote for some replacement play bark.</p>	<p>RB/HM</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB</p>
Speeding on the B4445	The meeting with the Area Steward has been postponed until after the election. AI to attend.	
Website	A new 'Policies' page has been created on the parish council website.	
Development of Sydenham Grove	<p>Unfortunately Soha were unable to send a representative to the meeting but Mr Jude McCaffrey sent a report which was read out (copy attached). There followed a discussion in which concern was expressed for the owner occupiers of the Grove, and the style of the houses at Kingston Blount being inappropriate for use in Sydenham.</p> <p>It was decided that a reply should be sent to Soha requesting information about development timescales, the proposed style of development, and implications for owner occupiers. Soha to be asked to provide sketch schemes prior to planning applications as part of a consultative approach.</p> <p>It was suggested that examples of recent local sympathetic housing styles be photographed, such as the cottage style developments in Lewknor and Towersey.</p> <p>Mr McCaffrey to be invited to an open meeting to take questions from the village. Concern was expressed regarding the maintenance of the site in the interim period.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PS</p>

Signed Date

<u>Finance</u>	<p>The following items were authorised for payment: £133.07 OALC membership £140.00 HMRC - PAYE for Feb-Apr 2015 £139.18 Osbornes Insurance Ltd, combined liability</p> <p>Insurance quotes to be obtained for comparison prior to renewal on 1st June. The new piece of equipment in the playing field to be included.</p>	<p>02</p> <p>RB</p>
<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £4,059.11</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £10,740.71</p>	<p>Payments:</p> <p>£182.21 Clerk's salary £600.00 Sydenham Newsletter annual grant £100.00 Thame CAB donation £3.06 Southern Electric - supply to defibrillator £128.00 SLCC membership £250.00 Chinnor Village Centre donation</p> <p>£0.47 interest received</p>	<p>Closing balance at 31.03.15</p> <p>£2,795.84</p> <p>£10,741.18</p>
<u>Planning</u>	<p>P15/S0250/HH and P15/S0251/LB Vicarage End, Sydenham Road Widen the existing single storey rear extension at the rear of the property and minor trimming to the recently replaced thatched roof covering. <i>No strong views</i></p> <p>P15/S0129/HH 1 The Cottage, Brookstones Two storey rear extension and porch <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p> <p>P15/S0107/HH and P15/S0108/LB 2 The Thatched Cottages, 2 Sydenham Road a) single storey conservatory to the rear of the property, b) the placing of a new external light fitting to the front external wall at the front of the property <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p>	
<u>Correspondence</u>	<p>SODC South and Vale CPRE</p> <p>Parish council elections Purdah guidance and count information Guidance on nomination forms Refined options consultation</p>	
<u>Any Other Business</u>	<p>Road defects Several potholes have been reported and subsequently identified by Highways for repair. Blocked road gullies and a sunken road gully to be reported - locations detailed. Cllr Wilmshurst requested that he be copied in on reported items so that he can raise any queries with the Area Steward at their monthly meetings.</p> <p>Training course Places to be booked on 'Roles and Responsibilities' course on 29th July in due course if required.</p> <p>Audit regulations The information specified under new guidelines will be published on the parish council website.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>HM</p> <p>HM</p>

Signed Date

Cyclists	As raised last year, RB proposed that she contact local cycling clubs to request that groups of cyclists using the Oxfordshire Cycleway respect that residents should not be disturbed by noise and that other road users be considered.	03
The Folly planning appeal	The owners of the Folly wished to record their thanks to the parish council for their support with planning matters. The planning appeal was rejected but the intention is still to develop the property into a family home, and other options are now being considered.	RB

There being no other business the meeting finished at 8.00 pm and the Annual Parish Meeting commenced.

Attached report from Mr J McCaffrey, Head of Housing, Soha Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to update the parish council on the proposed redevelopment of Soha properties at Sydenham Grove.

Soha owns five houses at Sydenham Grove: numbers 2 - 6 consecutively. These houses were built in the immediate after war period and are constructed in the Airey house style. Airey houses were built as temporary housing intended to last no more than 20 years maximum. These houses are now about 70 years old. The houses are prefabricated and built from concrete panels constructed off site. Although the houses are a good size and provide spacious homes, the construction type fails the Decent Homes Standard as they are difficult to heat, draughty and not built as permanent homes. We instructed a Structural Engineer to recommend the best option for the houses and their recommendation was demolition and build modern homes.

Soha has now completed the redevelopment of houses at Baker's Piece, Kingston Blount. We have offered an opportunity to all tenants at Sydenham Grove to move to these new houses which are gas centrally heated, well insulated, have larger windows and provide great family accommodation. All tenants will have the option to return to the new Sydenham Grove houses should they so wish in the future.

Once we have all the Soha houses at Sydenham Grove empty, we will be talking to the parish and district councils about our proposed plans for the redevelopment of family housing at the site. Rest assured that any redevelopment will be in keeping with the village and built to the great standard at Baker's Piece.

I hope this information supports the parish council in responding to local interest and I am happy to respond to any further questions.

Kind Regards,

Jude McCaffrey
Head of Housing

Signed Date