

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 1st October 2015

Present: Alison Isherwood
Rachel Blake
Janet Potts
Mike May
Heather Mullins
Apologies: David Wilkins

The meeting was pleased to welcome District Councillor Ian White

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
Improving mobile signal coverage	A survey to be sent out to assess which networks are used and to gauge village opinion.	AI
Neighbourhood Planning briefing	c/fwd. Chinnor parish council to be contacted regarding possible observer status for Sydenham in respect of their neighbourhood plan.	AI
Speeding on the B4445	Jacky Madden had details of a new type of SID which has a camera and memory stick, and which could possibly be bought by a group of parishes for shared use. This type of equipment has been trialled by Garsington - further details to be sought. The usual SID equipment is very booked up. The TVP police speed van has recently been deployed on the B4445.	AI
Playing field	The new equipment is finished and will be launched on Saturday. A RoSPA inspection to be booked. Weeding is being undertaken on an ongoing basis, and the bark levels to be checked. Suitable bark for topping up to be sourced. The main gate has a new padlock with allocated key holders.	RB RB
Cricket nets	The Cricket Club's proposal to refurbish the cricket nets in the playing field was approved.	HM
Speeding sign design competition	The quotes for signs and bin stickers will be brought to the next meeting. The signs will be placed on existing posts as they are less vulnerable to damage, and so stakes will not be required. Prizes for the competition winners have been chosen. It was suggested that the prizes could be presented at the children's schools.	RB RB
Development of Sydenham Grove	At the most recent meeting with SOHA their position regarding the demolition application was discussed, as was the tenants' right to return. At present SOHA have no definite timescales for the site. The demand for social housing has been raised with the housing department at SODC, and advice sought regarding the rights of the tenants.	

Signed Date

	The potential development of the site and the concerns arising were brought to the attention of John Howell MP at his visit to Sydenham last week.	23
SSE electricity supply	No further update to report.	
Broadband	MP Ed Vaizey is at an event in Watlington tomorrow to discuss broadband, to which Sydenham is sending two representatives. They will query the drop in internet speed which has been experienced by some villagers since the new faster broadband connection in the middle of the village, and also issue of the direct exchange lines for the Plough Corner/Emmington end of the village.	
Grass cutting	Two quotes to be requested for consideration, based on a cost per cut. Frequency can then be discussed.	HM
Sustrans	c/fwd	RB
Road cleaning	Despite a reminder to Biffa the road sweeper has not visited as requested - to be chased up again.	HM
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	The grant application for a generator to enable the OSR to be used as a reception centre has been submitted, together with further supplementary information requested.	
Meeting with John Howell MP	The meeting with John Howell was very productive. Angie Paterson to be contacted as Constituency Manager to follow up on the points discussed.	AI
Parish Council meeting time	It was agreed that in future the monthly meetings will start at 7.30pm instead of 8pm.	
Clerks hours	Over the past seven months the hours worked have been recorded and show that the average is 23 hours per month, which is above the 16.6 per month currently contracted. A comparison exercise has also been carried out looking at other parish council clerk posts. Any increase in hours needs to be considered in the budget, which is an agenda item for next month.	RB
<u>Finance</u>	<p>The following items were approved for payment:</p> <p>£84.00 J M Wallington - hedge trimming £138.00 HMRC - PAYE for Aug-Oct £261.60 RoSPA 'out of sequence' playground inspection £60.00 estimate for weedkiller £45.00 prizes for the speeding signs competition £1000.00 John Heathfield - stage payment for playground equipment</p> <p>A draft budget for 2016/2017 to be circulated prior to the next meeting for comment.</p>	
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £2,708.26	<p>Payments:</p> <p>£183.92 Clerk's salary £3.06 Southern electricity, supply to defibrillator £120.00 BDO external audit fee £85.00 SODC uncontested election fees</p> <p>Receipts:</p> <p>£4000.00 SODC precept second instalment £2150.00 Sydenham Fayre, £150 churchyard grass cutting, £2000 play equipment</p>	<p>Closing balance at 30.09.15</p> <p>£8,466.28</p>

Signed Date

Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £10,743.39	£0.49 Interest received	24 £10,743.88
<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>P15/S2091/HH 2 The Cottage, Brookstones Proposed two and single storey rear extension and front entrance porch <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p> <p>P15/S2287/HH Wheatsheaf Barn, Sydenham Road Convert existing hovel to accommodate home office, play room and utility <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p> <p>P15/S2420/HH Brookside, Brookstones Window alterations to front elevation. Addition of roof lights to side facing roof slopes <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p> <p>P15/S2080/D 4 Sydenham Grove Demolition of two pairs of semi detached dwellings and one semi detached dwelling <i>Permission REFUSED</i></p>		
<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>SODC Community Infrastructure Levy - further public consultation OCC Entry to primary or infant school - September 2016</p>		
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Footpaths As Footpaths Officer, JP is due to assess the paths on the outer edges of the parish with Tony Clarke from the Ramblers Association, and made a general request that any problems noted by walkers on the parish footpath can be reported to her.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th November in the OSR at 7.30pm.</p>		

Signed Date