

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 7th January 2016

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

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	The Vodafone Sure Signal scheme opens again in March. Queries to be made regarding the separate supplies to the units, the size of the units themselves and the range, which will determine how many are required. Vodafone to be asked if the units can be fixed to private buildings.	AI
Neighbourhood Planning briefing	The meeting is confirmed for 28th January, starting at 7.30pm The style of the meeting was discussed, together with the best way to publicise it. A series of emails to be sent on Sydenham Mail, together with posters on the notice boards and in the pubs. The Planning Officer Charlotte Colver has circulated a toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans which will be very helpful. Charlotte to be contacted regarding the format of the evening.	RB HM
Speeding	The Highways traffic technician has been to site to look at possible traffic calming options for the road between the playing field and the junction by the Inn at Emmington. He has advised that a pinch point would require lighting. The reduction in speeding would need to be balanced against the re-introduction of street lighting at that location. A pinch point would provide problems for wide vehicles. His suggestion is that a more residential look be created, as the speeding problem is caused by a straight line of sight on an open stretch of road. He advises the use of white gates at either end of the open stretch, with alligator tooth road markings on the approaches, and that the roundels be reinstated in the road. A quotation for this work is being sent. Parking in the road encourages the traffic to slow down. Alternative VAS panels for the existing signs have been investigated. The cost would be in the region of £2,500 per panel and they would need to be a design approved by Oxfordshire County Council. The VAS sign facing Chinnor has got an intermittent fault - possibly due to water ingress. The 'Slow Down' on the sign facing Thame has also stopped working, again possibly due to water. Both signs to be monitored, and progress to be discussed at the next meeting.	

Signed Date

	The police speed van has visited the B4445 layby on several occasions at different times of the day.	32
Speeding signs	The correx speeding signs will be going up shortly, mostly using existing posts, with some on stakes. Two designs on stickers to be purchased for the wheelie bins.	RB/HM HM
Playing field	The inspection has been carried out. A few action points have been highlighted. The bark area along one edge of the new equipment needs to be extended - this is already in hand. Bark areas to be raked over. The round seating area is decaying - it was decided that this should be removed There is decay to the gate - a replacement for this to be addressed next year, and grant funding might be available. The A-frame for the slide is due for replacement soon - it was decided that this should be kept identical. The top beam on the baby swing needs replacing, and a quote has been requested. This payment was authorised at the meeting so that the work can be put in hand immediately. An update to be requested from John Heathfield who was speaking to the SODC tree officer about works to the cherry tree.	RB
Development of Sydenham Grove	SOHA have postponed the next schedule meeting - another date to be agreed.	RB
SSE electricity supply	Alternative cable routes continue to be considered, including a combination of overhead and underground cabling. A meeting with SSE to discuss options has been arranged.	MM
Broadband	There are still problems with variable and intermittent speeds. Ian White suggested a website that enables the user to log the broadband speed received, which could provide useful evidence for any complaints. An update to be requested from Ed Vaizey's office.	AI
Grass cutting	A quote has been received from Chinnor Parish Council, and two others sought. Details of the grant to be requested. The grass cutting arrangements for the village greens have been discussed with Will Munday and the budget has been increased to allow for a revised rate and longer growing/cutting season. At present there are typically 39 cuts between the start of April and end of September, based on a weekly cut of the main green and the lower greens being cut once a fortnight. A grant application can be submitted for a mower in February - this could be used for the playing field and general areas. Suitable mower specification to be looked at.	HM DW/RB
Sustrans	The section of footpath previously under discussion has been changed by recent development to a wider access track with chippings for a surface. Andy Sylvester to be asked if there has been an application to change the footpath status. Ideally permissive access for bikes and horses would be required for a link to the Phoenix Trail.	AI
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	The grant cheque has been received. A project report form and pictures to be submitted to the grant body. A quote and options for the switch are being looked at, together with different models of generator and a suitable trolley for storage. The equipment for the emergency kit can now be ordered - glow sticks, high vis jackets, LED lights and head torches, foil blankets, first aid kit, road signs and a storage box.	RB DW RB

Signed Date

Mundays Charity	Jonathan Beale from Countryside Services has confirmed that if Mundays Charity pay for replacement gates, that OCC would be pleased to supply the labour. Countryside Services will liaise with the landowner regarding replacement stiles.	33
Drainage gullies	Gulley cleaning has been carried out in the village today, although the collapsed drain outside Ryders Farm has yet to be repaired. Repairs to the manhole cover at the Stert junction are complete.	
<u>Finance</u>	The following items were approved for payment: £261.60 Playsafety Limited - annual playground inspection £105.60 Resource Digital Graphics - correx speeding signs £166.00 Smartwheelie Ltd - bin stickers £ 14.38 Samba goalpost pegs £438.40 Equipment for emergency survival kit £330.00 HMRC PAYE Nov-Jan £ tbc repairs to swing in playing field	
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £6,778.26	Payments: £183.92 Clerk's salary £ 3.07 Southern Electricity £600.00 Sydenham Newsletter grant £698.33 back payment of hours increase for clerk £100.00 Donation to Thame CAB £250.00 Donation to Chinnor Village Centre £600.00 Will Munday - grass cutting to village greens and churchyard (o/s) £150.00 Extra cut of churchyard (o/s)	Closing balance at 31.12.15 £4,942.94
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £10,744.78	£0.46 Interest received	£10,745.24
<u>Planning</u> P15/S3653/HH and P15/S3654/LB P15/S3313/FUL	2 and 3 Box Cottages, Sydenham Road Internal alterations to 2 & 3 Box Cottages to enable them to be occupied as one dwelling. Demolish modern single storey extension to rear of no. 3 and replace with two storey extension. To replace modern windows on front and rear elevation with traditional timber windows. <i>Permission GRANTED</i> The Folly, Chalford Demolition of existing cottage and construction of replacement dwelling <i>Permission GRANTED</i>	
<u>Correspondence</u> OCC SODC	Meetings between Parishes and commercial bus operators to scope out route options CIL charging schedule	HM
<u>Any Other Business</u> Date for Annual Parish Meeting	Set as 12th May - hall availability to be checked.	HM

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No Cold Calling Zones	Following an enquiry advice was sought from the PCSO - response to be circulated as a Sydenham Mail.	34
Queen's 90th birthday celebrations	To be discussed at the next meeting.	HM

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th February in the OSR at 7.30pm.

Signed Date