

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 22nd JANUARY 2015**

Present:

N Oakhill (Chair)
K Draper
A Martin
C Rothero (CR)
D Masterson Jones (DMJ)
J Martin (RFO JM)
B McGarry (Clerk- BM)

Also in attendance:

D Stephens
N Masterson-Jones
M May
B May
John Hoodless
Ian Gray
Helen Blunt

Apologies:

R Deeley
JJ Macnamara (CDC)
Mike Kerford Byrne (CDC)
D Carlisle
J Carlisle

1 MINUTES & ACTION SINCE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2014 were approved & signed.
Prop: AM 2nd: KD

Updates:

Disabled parking – Highways will formally consult early in the new year

Speeding – Despite several attempts to contact Cllr Fatemain there is no indication as to when we can expect the speeding box to be installed

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3 Issues from the Floor:

There were no issues from the floor

4 Updates:

- a. **Playground** – Playground inspections are being done but we need to make sure that they are being done on a weekly basis by the spring. The reports are being filed on the Parish Council laptop should they be needed.
- b. **Nancy Bowles Wood** – All is quiet and the wood is looking good
- c. **Football Club** – Still no communication from the club although they are still playing matches. NO to contact by phone
- d. **CDC** – No update
- e. **OCC**- No update

NO

5 Finance:

- a. Financial transactions since the meeting held on 20th November 2014 were approved Prop: AM 2nd:CR

Payments	Date	Amount	Power
SVH: PO rent for 2014	22/12/14	£250.00	LGA 1972: s. 132

Receipts

None

Bank balance as at 7th January 2015: £9707.53

- b. Precept update: 2 things have cropped up since the agreed figure for the precept for 2015/16 was decided.
- Expenses for the election in May, which could be as much as £800, if there are more than 6 candidates that are nominated – There is enough flexibility within the budget to accommodate this
 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme. An error, in calculations by CDC has resulted in a reduction from £714 to £98.40
It was resolved to apply for the agreed £5,700 precept less the £98.40 CTRS grant Prop: CR 2nd KD

6 Planning:

- a. **14/01751/PAMB** – Conversion of cattle building into a single dwelling house. Foxhill Barn, Somerton Road, Souldern This has been refused although it appears that an amended application has been submitted
- b. 14/01959/F – Tennis court at Hollies Farm, The Hill – Granted
- c. It was moved to comment on a new application for a rear extension and alterations at The Old Forge in the High Street (Application no. 14/02119/F). The Council has no objections to the application but makes the following strong observations: The drainage arrangements are of concern as the property next door, Anvil Cottage, has rights of access through the store room of The Old Forge. The new window overlooks the garden of Anvil Cottage and the increased height of the extension will cause loss of light. The timber cladding to the exterior of the extension is out of character in a conservation area. The building works will cause major disruption to car parking in the High Street
- d. Planning applications received on disc are not user friendly for people who aren't computer literate. It also makes it more difficult to study the plans in detail.
The last application received on disc was unopenable – this may have been a faulty batch.
MKB will be attending the planning meeting on 11th Feb to discuss the present position with the Local Plan
- e. Walls and verges that are damaged by contractors while work is being

carried out are a private matter and not a matter for Council. The damaged wall to the south of the building works being carried out at Sunrise/Sunset cottages belongs to the PC. NO to write to Richard Kyte.

NO

7 **Administration:**

- a. Richard Deeley and Alan Martin will both be tendering their resignations before the elections in May.

- 8 **Village Fayre** will be held on Saturday 20th June for the friends and family of residents in Souldern. Ian Gray has formed a team of people to organise the event but will also require a large group of helpers. The proposed format for the day will be games in the playing field from mid-day, a treasure hunt in the heart of the village with open gardens (which will be ticketed), a tea party in the High Street with games and stalls in the afternoon and live music at the Fox in the evening. This will not be a Parish Council event and will be budget neutral but the council will organise the road closures and insurance. BM will liaise with the organisers. The next meeting of the group will be on Feb 3rd and Ian will discuss with them ways of raising finance.

- 9 **Community Led Plan.** It has been agreed that the Community Plan, 'Vision for Souldern' will be launched on 20th June 2015, in the village hall, the same day as the Village Fayre, starting in the morning when there will be the opportunity for residents to voice their opinions, concerns and ideas on the village we live in. It is important that all residents engage with this initiative in order to get a clear picture of the way forward when making decisions that affect everyone. Refreshments will be provided for both the launch and the Village Fayre events in the playing field.

BM

- 10 **NEWSLETTER**– there has been a good, positive response to the newsletter

Dog Litter Bins: It was resolved that 2 dog litter bins will be purchased and placed at the top of Mill Lane in Wharf Lane and at the bottom of Bates Lane at the junction of Ezra's Ditch and Abernethy's lane. The bins will be emptied weekly by CDC.

Prop: NO 2nd DMJ

A box with free litter bags will be placed at the top of the High Street and beginning of Wharf Lane in the vicinity of the grit bin. Residents are asked to only take one pack at a time. There are also free bags available in the blue box at the side of Spring Cottage near the pond.

BM

Parking: AM has produced some small parking notices which are to be laminated and circulated and will be placed on the windscreens of vehicles that are parked inconsiderately or dangerously.

AM

Website: A meeting is to be arranged with Nick Adams, David Carlisle, NO, AM and CR to discuss the way forward with the website.

The Horticultural Society, Village Hall Committee, Souldern United Charities and the church have all expressed an interest in either having a page and/or a link to their own website on the village website

NO

Ann Prescott and AM will be meeting in March work on the history of the village.

Broadband: It appears that apart from Gigaclear there is no-one else who can offer an alternative to BT's faster broadband and they will only do the work, at a price, and if there

is enough interest. NO is still communicating with OCC, 'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire', but installation by BT is still some time off.

Database: There has been a slow response to the addition of names to the village database which will be ongoing.

- 11 **Bridleway BR 351/13** – The constant use of vehicles up and down the bridlepath means that the track is now more like a road than a lane with its widening and squared off edges. This has now caused water to run down the lane, eroding it further, rather the ditches which have now become redundant. AM has consulted Sarah Aldous and the landowners on either side of the lane are responsible for the maintenance of the lane. People other than the landowners do not have vehicular right of access. NO to write to the landowners NO

- 12 **Other Business:** There was no other business

- 13 **Next meeting:**
 There will be a planning meeting on 11th February, 7:30 in the village hall
 The next ordinary meeting will be on Thursday 19th March 7:30 in the village hall

Signed..... Date.....
 Chairman Souldern Parish Council