

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 27th SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present:

Mr A Martin (Chairman)
Mrs S Barrett
Mrs J Coleman
Ms K Draper
Mr C Rothero
Mrs B McGarry (Clerk)
Mrs J Martin (RFO)

Also in attendance

Mr L. Barrett
Mr & Mrs D Summers
Mr R Deeley

Apologies:

Clr JJ Macnamara (CDC)
Clr Ray Jelf (OCC)
Clr Mike Kerford Byrne (CDC)

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| 1 | Minutes of previous meeting | | Action |
| | The minutes of the Souldern Parish Council meeting held on 28 th June 2012 were approved and signed. Proposed CR; seconded KD. | | |
| 2 | Mr Richard Deeley was welcomed on to the Parish Council and given the DPI form and Code of Conduct. | | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | | |
| | The chairman asked if there were any declarations of interest related to any agenda item. There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to declare in this meeting. | | |
| 4 | Issues from the floor | | |
| | There were no issues from the floor. | | |
| 5 | Updates: | | |
| | a) Playground | | |
| | There had been some offers of help with work parties at the playground but not to organise etc. David Blunt has very kindly agreed to carry on with the inspections for the time being but ideally we need to find someone to take the lead. Claire Minnett has indirectly offered to help and it was resolved to write to her to clarify the situation. | | BM |
| | It was brought to the attention of the Council that various metal items were being left on the playing field that were causing damage to the contractor's grass cutting equipment. These items were being left by the football club, who will be asked to make sure that the field is cleared of any such items. | | BM |
| | b) Nancy Bowles Wood | | |
| | The lane leading to the wood is draining well and the adjacent field is being well kept. There is concern about the pathway that has been cleared to cap off the well which draws attention to the grid. It was resolved that no more work should be carried out around this area unless it has been discussed with | | |

the PC. It was suggested that the area should be covered with branches to camouflage it so as to not attract people to it.

As a result of recent camping activities in the wood, the possibility of putting a gate at the bottom of the lane to discourage vehicles and campers was suggested. The Highways Dept and the British Horse Association will be contacted for advice.

AM

It was resolved to discuss the wood in more detail at the next meeting.

e) Jubilee Group

Donations left over from the Jubilee celebrations will be used to fund the light refreshments at the event planned for 20th October in the Village where there will be a display of photographs taken during the weekend. These pictures will be available to buy on CD at the event. There is a group meeting planned to discuss arrangements on Sunday 23rd September and a meeting has also been arranged with Mrs A Prescott.

AM

6 Finance

The following transactions were approved by the Council:

Payments

• 28 th June 2012	Running Imp: Jubilee mugs final	£6.41
• 5 th July 2012	M R Cross: mowing June	£348.00
• 1 st August 2012	R Summers: NBW	£11.59
• 1 st August 2012	M R Cross: mowing July	£438.00
• 1 st August 2012	J A Martin: internal audit voucher	£30.00
• 1 st August 2012	SVH: hire for June + 1 hour owed	£21.00
• 6 th September 2012	R Summers: NBW – D Rees	£25.00
• 6 th September 2012	MR Cross: mowing August	£438.00

Receipts

• 12 th September 2012	CDC: precept 2 nd instalment	£2850.00
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a) Annual Return and Audit for 2011/12

A detailed report was circulated regarding the audit from which there were issues arising. The Council resolved to prepare and execute an action plan to resolve these issues.

ALL

It was resolved that the relevant documents should be looked at by all councillors between this and the next meeting and any thoughts should be emailed to the RFO ready for discussion at the next meeting.

The annual review was formally approved and accepted by the council. Proposed by CR, seconded by SB

JM was thanked for all her hard work collating the information needed and Mr D Summers was thanked for doing the Internal Audit.

Planning Matters

7

- a) 12/00990/F Mr & Mrs Croot
There were no objections to this application from the PC and permission was granted by CDC
- b) 12/00907/F – Mr R Deeley
There were no objections to this application from the PC; however it was refused by CDC
- c) 12/00779/F – Mr & Mrs P Griffiths

There were no objections to this application from the PC and permission was granted by CDC

- d) 12/01033/F Mr W Wright

There were no objections to this application from the PC and permission was granted by CDC

- e) 12/01182/F Mr & Mrs Clifford

This application is still active

- f) **Community-led planning project**

Government Legislation on the freedom of planning needs to be looked at and villagers need to be consulted on what they consider is needed, or not needed within the village. A lot of information is available from Aimee Evans from Oxon RCC and AM is to put an initiative together asking how the village feels about itself and what its objective's are.

AM

It was resolved to book the village hall for the 1st or the 3rd Saturday in November to get the village together to discuss this.

BM

8 Administration

- a) Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct has been accepted in line with CDC recommendations

- b) Councillor's Handbook

It was resolved that the PC should put together a handbook that would contain a set of rules that are relevant to us as a parish council, relevant codes of practices and other useful information that can be easily referred to and passed on to new members

All

9 Future Agenda Items

- a) Review Contracts – Jan 2013

- b) Confirm Priorities – Jan 2013

The chairman raised the issue of the condition of the road surface on The Hill. It was agreed that the continued patching work carried by the OCC was not really the right solution and that a complete re-surfacing was needed now. It was further recognised that OCC would most likely say that there was no funding available for this level of road repair. However, it was resolved to start writing letters to OCC now and maintain pressure on the County Council to ensure the road surface was to an acceptable standard.

**AM &
BM**

10 Any other Business

- a) **Village Website**

It was resolved that those interested would meet at KD's on Tues 23rd October at 2:30pm with ideas and to discuss the way forward.

All

- b) **Horticultural Society Cup**

As a result of the success of the Jubilee celebrations it was resolved that the PC would sponsor a 'SPC Jubilee Cup' category to the annual Horticultural Society Show in order to encourage more interest and that a cup would be purchased.

AM

Proposed AM, seconded RD

c) Bulk Oil

There was some discussion about the advantages/disadvantages of belonging to a bulk oil buying scheme. It was resolved that it would need someone to manage it but that this could or should be someone from the community and that it could be included in the Community Plan initiative.

AM**d) Skate Ramps**

AM has been approached by some village youngsters about the possibility of a skate ramp.

It was resolved that the youngsters should get together to discuss how to go about it, where it would go and how it would be paid for.

AM

As the result of some discussion it came to light that the sports wall is not used because the grass area in front of the wall becomes too muddy and wet. This problem needs to be resolved, possibly by the installation of a suitable permeable surface

e) PC Notice Boards

The existing PC notice board is not big enough and it was resolved to change sides with the general notice board. It was resolved to change the lock to the other side.

AM**f) Meeting times**

It was resolved to change the meeting times back to 7:30.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

Trimming of embankment on the Hill – who is responsible (Post meeting note: this bank is the responsibility of Souldern United Charity, with whom the matter is to be raised)

AM

Bus shelter at the top of village to accommodate school children. Bus companies to be contacted to see if they will come down to the shelter already in situ.

BM

Green wheelie bin – Geoff Jones no longer able to put bin out for collection by waste disposal lorry. VH caretakers to be asked if they would do this when they put out the VH bins. A letter to be written to GJ to thank him.

BM**11**

Winter Grit Bags – Free 1 tonne grit bag to be ordered from OCC, delivery to be negotiated

AM

Quotes to be sought for extra grit if needed

RD

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

The next meeting will be held on 29th November at 7:30pm

Signed..... Date.....