

**MINUTES OF SOULDERN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014**

**Present:**

Mr A Martin (Chairman)  
Mr C Rothero  
Mr N Oakhill  
Mr R Deeley  
Mrs B McGarry (Clerk)  
Mrs J Martin (RFO)

**Also in attendance:**

Mrs A Prescott  
Mr P Prescott  
Mr J Hoodless  
Mr D Summers  
Mrs R Summers  
Mr D Couzens  
Mrs C Couzens  
Mrs R Sanders  
Mrs D Masterson-Jones  
Mr N Masterson Jones  
Mrs J Clifford  
Sgt Chris Kidd  
Mr R Lovell  
Mr N Moggridge  
Mr C Lester  
Maj A Gray  
Mrs D Gray

**Apologies:**

Clr JJ Macnamara  
Clr M Kerford Byrne  
K Draper

**Minutes of previous meeting**

2. 1. The minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting were circulated and approved

Prop: C Rothero, 2<sup>nd</sup>: J Martin

3. **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising

4. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman thanked all serving Parish Council members, Cllr Mike Kerford Byrne, our District Councillor and Cllr Arash Fatemian our County Councillor for their support and contribution to the work of the council during the past year.

The council, as in previous years met it's legal obligation to represent residents of Souldern without favour or otherwise and is keen to hear from any residents of Souldern who would like to suggest any improvements that could be made to ensure it's obligation to the community continue to be met.

**Activities during the year:**

The main village event being the visit by the German Orchestra during which the Council together with other Souldern organisations helped to make this a very special time and a great success. Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time, energy, food and hospitality over the three days.

**The Future:**

Emphasis was made on the importance of a village plan that identifies how the community feels about its future with particular concern about the changes to the planning policies of Central Government, the County Council and the District Council. As a community the village should be very sure about what type of development, services and facilities they want.

**Thanks:**

Thanks also to members of the Nancy Bowles Wood management Group, to Dr Rosie Sanders and her team of volunteers for their role in maintaining the playground, Philip Mander who was the driving force in getting the stone planter installed at the junction between the High Street and Fox Lane. To Marc Ballman for looking after the garden at the entrance to Bovewell, Ann Prescott & Barbara McGarry for organising the welcome packs to new residents and finally to all residents who serve the village in so many ways.

**Finally:**

The chairman declared his intention to stand down as chairman at the next ordinary meeting following this Annual Meeting and to retire from the Parish Council once a new chairman had settled into the role.

**5. Financial Officer's Report:**

The Parish Council had continued its careful financial management throughout 2013/14 and as a result managed to maintain the village precept at £5,700 for another year which actually meant a small drop in household charges because of changes in the tax base. Income net of VAT exceeded expenditure by £1,125 due to the receipt of a New Homes Grant from CDC for 2013/14 of £1,211.

Expenditure followed the usual pattern, the most significant cost being the grass cutting. A large tree in the closed churchyard was removed, incurring a one-off cost.

David Summers was thanked for his thorough and constructive internal auditing and the outgoing chairman was also thanked for his support ensuring that audit trails were in place to satisfy the external auditors.

**6. Matters arising from Reports:**

David Summers, as internal auditor, thanked JM, the RFO for her excellent job keeping records easy to follow and audit.

Roger Lovell endorsed the idea of a village plan with particular reference to current difficulties with planning applications.

Sgt Chris Kidd reported on crime occurrences in local area but commented that Souldern is one of the safest areas in the Thames Valley district.

The meeting ended at 7:30pm

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