

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 20th NOVEMBER 2014**

Present:

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

Also in attendance:

D Stephens
N Masterson-Jones
C Masterson Jones

Apologies:

N Oakhill
R Deeley
JJ Macnamara (CDC)

1. MINUTES & ACTION SINCE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2014 were approved & signed.
Prop: CR 2nd: DMJ

Updates:

Disabled parking – Fomral application has been made to CDC for a disabled parking space in the High Street and rod markings at the entrance of Chapel Row

Tree Roots – It was resolved to defer this until the next meeting when NO would have his response from the arboriculturist that he had consulted

Salt Bages- These have now been delivered, today, and it was resolved to distribute some bags around the village where they are needed, especially Wharf Lane

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Issues from the Floor:

Nick MJ expressed concern that if development begins on The Hill, the tree dedicated to the WW1 veteran, John Henry Payne, in front of gthe site may be damaged or even disposed of by the contractors. NMJ has already contacted CDC but not had a response proposing a preservation order.

There are a number of such trees around the village and it was resolved that these should be identified and that the Parish Council should write to CDC to obtain a preservation order on them all.

**AM
&
BM**

4. Updates:

- a. **Playground** – Paintwork to the fence has been completed and there is enough paint to do the rest of the work but this will now be left till the New Year. The group will create a plan to consider whether new equipment is required and if so, what. Grateful thanks were expressed to those who had repaired the fence posts and done the painting. Inspections need to be chased up and records updated in order to comply with the insurance.

- b. Nancy Bowles Wood** – Routine maintenance work has been carried out and the walnut tree made safe. The picnic table needs to be dismantled and treated with preservative. Dog fouling on the bridleway and in the wood is an issue – this will be dealt with under item 13. AM to circulate the rules of the wood AM
The condition of the bridle path leading to NBW is a cause of concern due to the regular use of vehicles which are widening the track. It was resolved to seek advice on what can be done to preserve it.
- c. Football Club** – There has been no further progress on the club’s ‘wish list’ of repairs as a number of members are currently incapacitated. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- d. CDC** – It was resolved that discussions need to take place with MKB about CDC’s planning policies
- e. OCC** – Cllr Fatemain to be contacted regarding the installation of the black speeding box and who would be responsible for the payment and installation of gates at the top of the village should it be decided that they would be of benefit BM

5 Finance:

- a. Nicky Robertson was welcomed as new RFO and Jan was thanked for all her hard work putting in order and maintaining the accounts over the past years. Jan has very kindly agreed to continue with the handover for the time being.
- b. Financial transactions since the meeting held on 18th September 2014 were approved Prop: AM 2nd:CR

Payments	Date	Amount	Power
M R Cross: mowing September	08/10/14	£486.00	OSA 1906: s10
R Sanders: ‘paint’ for playground	10/11/14	£60.96	LG(MP)A 1976 s. 19

Receipts

CDC: Precept 14/15 second instalment	12/09/14	£2800.00	
SUC: bank at Bowling Leys	13/10/14	£110.00	

Bank balance as at 4th November 2014: £10,128.49

- c. The Council approved and accepted the annual return and the notice of conclusion has been displayed on the notice board as required. Prop CR 2nd: KD
JM was thanked for all her hard work.
- d. The proposed budget for 2015/16 was discussed and a precept of £5,700 was approved. Prop KD 2nd: CR
Points arising from the discussions:
Damage to the wall bordering Sunrise/Sunset cottage is getting worse, JM to speak to Richard Kyte about repairs once the building work has been completed.

Discussions should be sought with CDC regarding conditions of approval so that any damage caused to walls, verges, pavements etc., as a result of any building work,s should be put right by the contractors.

*It was resolved to continue using MR Cross for mowing purposes for the next 2 yrs
Prop: CR 2nd: DMJ*

Allowances of £200 for village celebrations, i.e. Easter Egg Hunt, and £600 for repair work to the changing rooms were approved. Prop: AM 2nd: KD

6 Planning:

- a. **Land deposits at Lower Souldern Grounds:** There has been some concern regarding the land deposits lodged with CDC and it was explained that the purpose of these is to confirm existing rights of way and that no other rights of way can be established.
- b. **Swing Bridge & Public footpath closures:** Highways have closed the swing bridge because it is unsafe in its present state and remedial work needs to be carried out. This could take up to 6 months and formal notices of closure have been placed on the village notice boards.
- c. **14/01751/PAMB – Conversion of cattle building into a single dwelling house. Foxhill Barn, Somerton Road, Souldern.** An extension to the deadline for responses to this application had been granted so that it could be discussed at this meeting and It was resolved that the PC would respond objecting to the application. Prop: KD 2nd CR
- d. **14/01191/F – Construction of a new dwelling and garage to the rear of Timber Cottage – Approved**

7 Administration:

- a. **New RFO:** See item 5a above
- b. **Standing orders:** Standing Order Annex A which had been previously circulated was approved and will run in conjunction with the Terms of Reference approved at the previous meeting. The constitution for NBW is therefore deemed obsolete and will be cancelled.

8 **Community Led Plan:** Some progress has been made establishing a steering group and we are now registered with the CLP website.

9 **Speeding:** Until the problem has been formally established it will be unlikely that we will get any practical help from the Highways Department. Various types of visual barriers were discussed and it was resolved to consult the village on preference as part of the Community Led Plan.

10 **Parking:** Inconsiderate parking is an ongoing problem particularly at the corner of Fox Lane and the High Street, and at the pond. It was resolved that notices should be used to make drivers aware.

AM

Prop: AM 2nd CR

- 11 **Christmas Party:** Having been asked for a donation towards the Christmas party being organised by the choir it was resolved that public funds could be given towards non profit making events but that it was inappropriate to donate money to fundraising events
- 12 **Village Fayre:** Ian Gray has agreed to lead the organisation of a Village Fayre in 2015 and has enlisted the help of 5 or 6 others. Ian will update the Council on progress at the January meeting
- 13 **Dog Fouling:** There has been a substantial increase in dog fouling in the village recently and a letter to remind dog owners, that apart from being very antisocial, this is illegal with the possibility of an on the spot fine. A letter to this effect is to be written and circulated. **AM**
- 14 **Website:** NO has been liaising with William Bowers from Timber Cottage with a view to establishing a village website independent from CDC.
- 15 **Stone cladding to village hall & changing rooms:** It was resolved that this is not a priority
Prop: AM 2nd CR
- 16 **ROAR:** It was resolved that we should respond to the email sent by ROAR (Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally) informing them of our support and asking them to keep us informed about what they are doing. **BM**
- 17 **Other Business:**
Concern was raised about discussions that take place by email and how it excludes people who aren't computer literate. It is important that people see how the Council arrives at its decisions. This is particularly relevant to planning matters when applications arrive on disk rather than as a hard copy.
- 18 **The meeting ended at 10:30**
Date of the next meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd January 2015,** 7:30 in the Village hall

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