

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**Present:**  
K Draper (KD - Chair)  
K Allpress (KA)  
C Rothero (CR)  
N Robertson (RFO)  
B McGarry (Clerk- BMC)

**Also in attendance:**  
C Lester - SFC  
N Moggridge - SFC  
P Moggridge – SFC  
R Hamilton - SFC  
R Large  
D Carlisle  
B Wright  
C Gray  
R Summers  
D Summers  
T Noble – Playground Group  
R Barstow  
M Kerford Byrne - CDC

**Apologies**  
Dara Masterson-Jones  
B May  
M May  
A Prescott

- 1. Minutes:**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved & signed  
Prop: KA; 2<sup>nd</sup>: KD
- 2. Matters arising & updates from last meeting:**  
**The litter bin** has now been replaced following concerns from members of the playground group regarding litter accumulating and there being no means of accessing the VH bins.  
**Playing field stone wall** has now been repaired  
The contract for **grass cutting** has been located and it is confirmed that the fees will be unchanged for another year.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:**  
NR (RFO) expressed an interest in planning application 15/00380/TCA
- 4. Issues from the Floor:** None
- 5. Updates:**
  - a. Playground:** TN gave an update on progress so far. A fund raising event has already taken place to help finance future projects. Approval was given for the expenditure of £441.86 for materials needed to carry out necessary maintenance work.  
Prop: KA 2<sup>nd</sup>:CR
  - b. Nancy Bowles Wood:** Coppicing of the hazel trees and mapping is ongoing. A recently planted apple tree has disappeared.
  - c. Football Club:** CL gave a comprehensive update on behalf of the football club. An estimate had been submitted to the Council for work that needed to be done to the changing rooms. As this was rather high it was agreed that security, i.e.. the doors were the priority and locks needed changing, the showers also need attention as only one of the four is working. Some of the work can be done by club

members. There is still £522.00 in the pot which can be used before the end of April.

The FC are happy to be involved with car boots in 2016 but it needs to be established what plans the VH committee have for resuming their commitment for next year.

Car parking issues still need to be resolved now that the inclement weather means that parking on the field causes damage to the grass. It was agreed that if the VH wasn't being used the FC could use the tarmac car park instead of the grass but for this to work effectively the VH should notify the FC of any functions as well as the FC notifying the VH of their fixtures.

RH will be representing the FC at future meetings.

d. **CDC** – The Local Plan is now fully adopted and binding giving a proven 5 year planning supply. Council Tax is to remain unchanged for 2016 mainly due to the New Homes Bonus Scheme. Following changes to employment law, the Parish Council will be required to provide the Clerk with a Work Place Pension scheme. Discussions will have to take place and be minuted when notified nearer the time. We should be eligible for the New Homes Bonus again next year but this is dependent on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement

e. **OCC** – All bus subsidies are to be withdrawn in 2016 and therefore both Souldern's 81 and the 81A Tuesday and Saturday services will cease in October next year. There has been no progress with the supply of a black speeding box from OCC. Upper Heyford parish council are buying their own so it may be possible to arrange to hire it from them. **BMG**

## 7. Finance:

a. Financial transactions since the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved Prop: CR 2<sup>nd</sup>: KA

<b>Payments:</b>	Date	Amount	Power
Cherwell district council - Dog Bin emptying	23.9.15	£288.29	EPA 1990: s89
Mr Cross – mowing August 2015	24.9.15	£528.00	OSA 1906:s10
Mr Cross – mowing Sept 2015	1.10.15	£96.00	OSA 1906:s10
B McGarry salary April – September 2015	4.10.15	£330.10	LGA.1972: s.112
HMRC: tax on clerk's salary	4.10.15	£82.40	LGA.1972: s.112
Cherwell District Council Elections	4.10.15	£39.00	LGA 1972, S33A
Cambray & Son Wall repair	20.10.15	£815.60	Highways Act 1980, ss30,43,50

### **Receipts:**

Bank balance as at: 3rd Nov 2015 £10,045.19

- b. **Expenditure against 2015/16 Budget:** Expenditure figures for this year had been circulated prior to this evenings meeting and to date we are well within budget. Payments for grass cutting are now shown as a single expenditure and not split between the playing field and the rest of the village. Dog bin emptying needs to be kept an eye on as they are often overflowing and it is possible that collections are not being made on the weekly basis that is being paid for.
- c. **Proposed Budget for 2016/17:** The precept for next year will remain at £5,700 if the NHG is available. After some discussion it was resolved that the non austerity budget, should be agreed in principle but that further discussion should take place when all Councillors are present. Prop: CR 2<sup>nd</sup> KA

#### 8. Planning Matters:

- a. 15/01753/F – Bowcombe House, Bates Lane; Erection of detached garage; single with part two storey extension; garage conversion with associated interior and external works- Decision pending
- b. 15/01789/F & 1501790/LB – The Manor; Erect a replacement greenhouse – No objections were raised.
- c. 15/01795/F – 1 The Old Stores, High Street; After some discussion it was felt that this application constituted an overdevelopment of a small one bedroom property.
- d. 15/00380/TCA – The Hermitage, High Street; T1 x lime, Carry out recommended tree work no objections were raised
- e.

#### 9. Administration:

- a. Meeting dates for 2016 – 21 Jan, 17 Mar, 19 May, 21 July, 15 Sept, 17 Nov
- b. Updates to the Councillor's Handbook were circulated.

#### 10. Other Business:

- a. **The website** was launched 1<sup>st</sup> November and a huge vote of thanks was expressed to David Carlisle for all his hard work getting it off the ground. It now needs to be kept up to date and it is hoped that group representatives will do this. There will also be a page for the Soap Box Derby.
- b. **Broadband:** An open meeting was held at the Great Barn in October. Gigaclear and BT both gave presentations and answered questions from the audience. A summary of the meeting has been sent to all on the database and those that attended. Gigaclear have resumed their marketing with the village. Government funding for the BT option is not possible until at least 2017 while there is the Gigaaclear option. There was no uptake for the option to fund privately.
- c. **Souldern Vision:** Approximately 70% of the questionnaires have now been returned reminders have been circulated to remind those that may have forgotten or mislaid them.
- d. **Souldern Event 2016:** The Soap Box Derby will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June next year and plans are well underway. The event will include evening entertainment which will take place in the grounds of Souldern Manor by kind permission of Rosie Sanders. It was resolved that £250 should be donated from PC funds to support the event, £125.00 from the current budget and £125.00 from next year's. Prop: CR 2<sup>nd</sup> KD
- e. **Parish Path Warden:** KD has now taken on this role and any problems with access, broken stiles, bridges etc should be reported to her.
- f. **Roles & Responsibilities:** A list of various roles within the Parish Council was

circulated prior to the meeting and Councillors have volunteered as follows:

- Planning – DMJ
- Playground & Football Club – NO
- Village Hall & Dog Bins – KA
- NBW & SUC – CR
- Highways including maintenance of verges and grass cutting –BM
- Footpaths & Bridleways – KD
- Website updates – NO, KD & BMG
- Village Pond – BMG to co-ordinate with Malcolm Sweetman & Norma Jones
- 3 Parishes – BMG
- Newsletter – All, BMG to collate
- Village Events – All

11     **Next meeting:** 2<sup>1st</sup> January 2016

The meeting ended at 9:00

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