

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 17th MARCH 2016**

Present:
K Draper (KD - Chair)
K Allpress (KA)
C Rothero (CR)
D Masterson-Jones (DMJ)
B May (BM)
N Robertson (NR - RFO)
B McGarry (Clerk - BMc)

Also in attendance:
R Summers
D Summers
D Stephenson
C Gray
B Wright
P Bolton
D Carlisle
T Noble

Apologies
N Oakhill
Cllr Fatemian
M May

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2016 were approved & signed
Prop: CR; 2nd: BM

2. Matters arising & updates from last meeting:

- a. **External Audit – (Opt in or out of CDC option):** Rules for external audits will be changing in 2017 and after sourcing further information it would appear that our best option is to ‘opt in’ and be guided by OALC
- b. **Footpaths:** The footbridge on Footpath 18 has been replaced. The fallen tree on Footpath 23 has been removed. The clearance work on Bridleways 8 and 13 has not taken place.
- c. **The precept for 2016/17** has been submitted and acknowledged

3. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

4. Issues from the Floor: D Summers raised ongoing issues on the state of the roads, verges and blocked drains. There has been a lot of building works going on in the village during the winter months bringing a lot extra traffic into the village and this together with the roads being dug up to lay the Gigaclear broadband cables the roads and verges are in a particularly poor state. (See item 11a)

5. Updates:

- a. **Playground:** TN gave a presentation on the state of the playground, what needs attention and plans for the future. It was resolved to approve the replacement of the cradle swings and to purchase the weed control flooring for the willow dome out of this year’s budget (£304.00) but to re-look at the proposals for flat swings at the May meeting.
Prop: DMJ 2nd: CR
- b. **Nancy Bowles Wood:** 6 large hazel trees have been coppiced and another 6 will be done in the autumn. The missing apple tree has been replaced and a badly damaged branch on another tree has been cut down. Mapping will continue when the leaves grow. The wood is looking particularly lovely at the moment.

- c. **Football Club:** The team are struggling for players at the moment, due to illness and have lost the last 2 games. Consequently they are not now top of the league.
 - d. **CDC – no update**
 - e. **OCC –**Cllr Fatemian sent an update on:
 - Potholes:** Money is now available for patching the potholes but not for re-surfacing. A technician will be visiting in April to determine the extent of work that can be done the money available. BM will meet with the technician when he comes
 - Speed monitoring:** Cllr Fatemaian confirmed that a box will be available soon and he will inform us of the dates when he knows. BM to let Cllr Fatemian know where the equipment is to be placed. **BM**
- Further information in Cllr Fatemian’s report relating to Budget/Cuts and proposals for District Unitary Councils etc can be circulated on request. **BM**

6. Finance:

- a. Financial transactions since the meeting held on 21st January were approved
Prop: KD 2nd: CR

Payments:	Date	Amount	Power
Souldern Village Hall Post Office Rent	26.01.16	£125.00	LGA 1972: s. 132
Souldern Village Hall Insurance	26.01.16	£103.96	LGA 1972: s. 111
OALC Subscriptions 16-17	05.03.16	£133.07	LGA 1972: S.143
Cherwell District Council Dog Bin Emptying (winter period)	15.3.16	144.14	EPA 1990: s89
Grass cutting Church	15.3.16	£440	LGA 1972: S.215

Receipts:

Bank balance as at: 3rd Feb 2016 £9,704.20

- b. Internal Audit: David Summers will not be available to audit the accounts this year so some else will have to be found. David was thanked for all the years he has served the Parish Council in this way.

7. Planning Matters:

- a. **16/00059/TCA –** Tree works at St Joseph’s High Street. After some discussion it was resolved that there were no objections to this application
- b. **Parish Council workshop** was attended by DMJ who reported that although it was all tied in with the Local Plan, it wasn’t particularly relevant to Souldern.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow:** Again, attended by DMJ who reported that it is a very costly and intensive process which again isn’t really relevant to Souldern at the present time.
- d.

8. Administration: Nothing to report

9. Changing Rooms: 2 quotes have been received to replace the showers in the changing rooms. After some discussion it was resolved to accept the quote from Bob McGarry for £400 + VAT. NO to advise Mr McGarry
Prop: KA 2nd: BM

NO

10. **Memorial Trees:** There are various trees round the village, that were planted in memory of war veterans mainly from the 1st World War but also from the 2nd. DMJ has found some of them and would like to locate the rest. It was resolved that this work should be continued and that TPO's should be applied for.

Prop: KA 2nd CR

It was also suggested that it might be a good idea to replant some of the missing ones with new trees and plaques of commemoration as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations in June

11. **Other Business:**

- d. **Gigaclear:** BM met with a representative from Gigaclear to carry out a snagging tour of the village. Gigaclear have agreed to repair all damaged verges including outside St Joseph's, the corner of Bates Lane by the allotments and to the west side of the allotments. This has been confirmed by email.
- e. **Souldern Events 2016:** Plans are progressing well and a public meeting was held on 10th March to consult with residents about rules and regulations for entry into the soapbox races etc.
- f. **Conservation Appraisal & Souldern Vision(Community Led Plan):** A revised conservation area has been drawn up by CDC and there will be an exhibition and consultation in the village hall on Wednesday 30th March from 4pm-9pm. The findings of the village questionnaire for the Community Led Plan will also be published at this event. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon and evening.
- g. **Queen's 90th Birthday:** There will be a special service in Church in the morning at 11am. At 1pm residents are invited to bring a picnic to Souldern House where the Queen's health will be toasted. There will be singing led by the choir and children of the village.

11 **Next meetings:** Tuesday 19th April (Planning) & Thursday 19th May 2016 (Annual Meeting)

The meeting ended at 9:15

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