

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 19th MAY 2016**

Present:
N Oakhill (NO)
K Draper (KD)
C Rothero (CR)
B May (BM)
N Robertson (NR - RFO)
B McGarry (Clerk - BMC)

Also in attendance:
A Prescott
M May
D Carlisle
Cllr M Kerford-Byrne

Apologies
D Masterson Jones
K Allpress
T Noble

1. Election of Officers:

It was unanimously agreed that Nick Oakhill should continue as Chair and Katy Draper as Vice Chair
Prop: CR 2nd KA

2. Minutes:

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

3. Matters arising & updates from last meeting:

- a. **Potholes:** Are an ongoing problem. BM to write to Cllr Ian Hudspeth on behalf of the PC complaining about the situation and the lack of co-operation in this matter. **BM**
- b. **Gigaclear:** In spite of 2 snagging 'walkabouts' with representatives of Gigaclear and the promise, although not in writing, that all verges would be repaired no satisfactory conclusion has been forthcoming.
- c. **Conservation Appraisal:** Following Rose Todd's presentation of the proposed new conservation area boundary the Parish Council's response was submitted on 10th May. As yet there has been no feedback.

4. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

- 5. Issues from the Floor:** The Council's attention was brought to the fact that a stone wall has been taken down and replaced with wooden fencing at The Old Stables and that a glass wall has been erected at premises now known as Phoenix House, which was not included on their planning application.

6. Updates:

- a. **Playground:** The Willow dome has now been planted and new shoots are appearing. The junior swing seats have been purchased and will be fitted shortly. The digger will be painted now that the weather has improved. Approval was given for the expenditure of £648.00 out of the 2016/17 budget to replace the large swings. Prop: NO 2nd: KD
It was suggested by a parishioner that the 'No Dogs Ever' sign at the entrance to

the playing field should be replaced with different wording. After some discussion it was resolved that the existing sign should remain.

- b. Nancy Bowles Wood:** A short report was given with details of work carried out in the wood during the past year. £200 is budgeted each year for any work needed in the wood. NO to look through the records to see if any money was historically earmarked for the wood.
KD has emailed OCC for advice on the maintenance and drainage of the bridleway leading to the wood.
- c. Football Club:** The showers have now been replaced. The players would like to paint the changing rooms and have been asked to inform the Council of the cost of the paint before they proceed
- d. CDC – Cllr MKB** was congratulated on being re-elected for 2 years as Souldern’s district council representative in our new ward of Deddington. He then went on to explain the implications of a unitary council which was very helpful. There will be a Parish Liaison meeting on 8th June (which NO and DMJ will be attending), at which there will be an introduction to Cherwell’s ‘Local Enforcement Plan’ and how it will ensure the efficient, effective and pro-active management of planning enforcement within the District.
- e. OCC –No update**

NO

7. Finance:

- a. Financial transactions since the meeting held on 17th March were approved
Prop: CR 2nd: KD

Payments:	Date	Amount	Power
Gift token for internal audit	17.03.16	£30.00	Audit Commission Act 1998
B McGarry salary Oct 2015-March 2016	23.0316	£330.10	LGA 1972: s 112
HMRC: tax on clerk’s salary	23.03.16	£82.40	LGA 1972: s 112
Mr Cross – grass cutting March	31.03.16	£288.00	OSA 1906: s 10
Mr Cross – grass cutting April	9.05 16	£528.00	OSA 1906: s 10
Playground purchases	9.05.16	£528.49	LG(MP)A 1976 s19

Receipts:

Cherwell Precept 22.04.16 £2,948.00

Bank balance as at: 3rd May 2016 £12,795.93

- b. 2015/16 Accounts – were approved Prop: CR 2nd KD
and signed off by NO
- c. Internal Audit Report: No issues were raised from the internal audit which has been signed off by Charles Noble. Charles was thanked for his thorough work.

- d. The Annual Governance Statement was agreed and approved by the Council. It was then signed by the chair and the clerk and returned to the RFO for action.
Prop: CR 2nd KD
- e. Review of 2016/17 budget: Insurance is due for renewal on 1st June and Came & Co. have advised that we change insurers to Ecclesiastical who are offering a better deal. BMG to circulate the documents to Councillors who are asked to respond as soon as possible so that action can be taken.

8. Planning Matters:

- a. Conservation Appraisal was dealt with in Item 3c
- b. 16/00788/Q56 –Foxhill Barn, Somerton Road. After some discussion it was resolved that the Council’s objection to this application had not altered since the previous 2 applications. NO to respond.
- c. An application for alterations to Park Lodge has been submitted but no official notification has been received as yet. This application was not discussed as the plans have not been seen by the whole council,
- d.

NO

9. Administration:

Local elections were dealt with in item 5d
 Clerk- The clerk will stand down at the 2017 Annual Meeting and the vacancy will be advertised in the 3 Parishes and the next Newsletter

10. Other Business:

It was resolved that the 2 missing memorial trees should be replaced and that one should be added in memory of Audrey Westbury who died recently in her 90th year, after serving 74 years as Sunday School teacher. The siting of the trees to be agreed at a later date. 6 commemorative plaques are also to be purchased.

NO

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