

MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 31st August 2023

Present:

Alan Smith (AS) CHAIR
John Hoodless (JH)
Nick Oakhill (NO)
Neal Ship (NS)
Heidi Dennison (HD)
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

There were no members of the public present

08.23.01 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Eddie Reeves

08.23.02 Declarations of interest

NO declared an interest in the planning application for the Old Barn (his property)

08.23.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 27th July 2023 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meetings and signed by the chair.

08.23.04 Public participation

Members of the public were invited to participate

08.23.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
Feb23.03	AS to action 20mph limit	AS	ON GOING – AS to action July update: ongoing AUGUST UPDATE – HD offered to send an email to OCC (Jeff Barrell – project manager)
Feb 23.05	AS to order replacement signs	AS	In hand August update – AS questioned the need for replacement sign, but after discussion it was agreed it is needed. S to progress
June23.01	Dog bins - The new bin should be replaced with the old bin and the new bin returned to the supplier asking for a better replacement. Another bin to be purchased to be sited at the bottom of Nancy Bowles Wood.	AS	Completed. Dog fouling has increased in the village, but it was considered there are adequate numbers of bins. It was suggested that something is posted on the WhatsApp group asking people to keep dogs on lead and be aware of what they are doing. AS to post on WhatsApp
June23.02	Village upkeep –Workparty to clean Church Lane ditch	NO	NO to organise once foliage dies down.

June23.04	Changing Room electrics – NO to obtain 1 further quote	NO	AS to chase
July 23.06	Co-option of Councillor- AS to post on noticeboards and Whatsapp group	AS	No responses received. NO had spoken to someone who may be interested and will report back at the next meeting,
July 23.09	BTFC agreement- AS to amend and send to A Thompson	AS	Amended agreement has been signed and payment made. Action closed

08.23.06 Playground Update – AS had circulated up to date playground costs (addendum to these minutes) which includes fund raising and grants. Further fundraising events are planned,

The village hall has pledged £5K but in order to make payment require a constitution change (see below Agenda item 8)

2 quotes have been received for phase 1, one for £98,825 (ex VAT) one for £84,000 and in order to meet deadlines the order needs to be made tomorrow. The PC agreed proposed by NO seconded by JH that the order should be placed to Kompan for £98,825 – **AS to place the order**

08.23.07 Village Upkeep update - Flowerbed by the end of Bovewell used to be the responsibility of the PC but is now neglected. HD to find out if the people who sponsored it last year still do so. An individual had been paid by the Souldern United Charity to maintain the flowerbed. From the survey, some people would like the ongoing use of working parties (as historically) If this is the way forward it is the same people carrying out the work, but everything will not be done,. Ongoing maintenance jobs could be done by other individuals. Payment could not be supported for ongoing maintenance work but funds could be allocated for larger projects. **HD to prioritise on the spreadsheet 10 tasks which should be completed before Christmas and circulate to all councillor and liaise with the Charity,**

Survey on the trees in NBW has been done but the report has not yet been written. It is likely that there will be nothing significant to report.

08.23.08 Village Hall Trust Deed -

The VH has agreed in principle to make a grant of £5K to the PC for the playground. The VH operates under a deed granted by the PC in 1974 which prevents it making grants. To enable the grant to be made the PCs permission is required and will require the PC to take legal advice if the PC is required to initiate the changes to the deed. Attempts are being made to find out if the VH

can present to the PC instead, the timescale and costs involved. The PC agrees in principle to allow the amendment to the Trust Deed subject to legal advice and costs

08.23.09 EV charging points – CF had completed the Register of Interest to OCC. **NO will attend the Webinar on 20th September.**

08.23.10 Planning – The following planning applications were discussed:

[23/02247/TCA](#)

Barn House High Treework
Street Souldern
Oxfordshire OX27 7JP
NOOBJECTION

[23/02357/DISC](#)

St St Josephs High Street Souldern OX27 7LA

Discharge of Condition 4 (boundary wall) of 23/012

NO OBJECTION

[23/01766/F](#)

The Tower House Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 16/02423/
Souldern Bicester NO OBJECTION
OX27 7HY

08.23.11 Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment:

Paid by standing order

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	126.29	0.0
HMRC	(re above)	25.07	0.0

Invoices to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Alan Smith	New Dog Bins	153.82	25.64
Alan Smith	New Dog Bins - Clips	5.20	0.87
Nigel Prickett	Aug grass cut	414.00	69.00

Receipts

	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Playground	Donations & Fundraising	16872.28	
BTFC	2023/24 Hire	500.00	

Date of next meetings :

28th September, 26th October, 23rd November, 28th December

Other matters

AS has changed the No Through Road sign at the top of the village – swapped with the one in Wharf Lane

Signed
Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

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Aug23.01	Playground – AS to place order with Kompan	AS	
Aug23.02	Village Upkeep - . HD to prioritise on the	HD	

Parish Clerk : Cathy Fleet

Westfield Farm Cottage, Fenway, Steeple Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX25 4SS

Tel: 01869 347000

Mobile : 07989 398 838

	spreadsheet 10 tasks which should be completed before Christmas and circulate to all councillor and liaise with the Charity		
Aug23.03	EV charging points - . NO will attend the Webinar on 20 th September.	NO	

Playground Costs August 2023

Phase 1 £98,825	(includes Witches Tower, Tractor, Rockers, Balance Water Lilies, Carousel, Toddler & Junior Swings, Tree Climber)
Phase 2 £14,400	(includes Balance Beam, Overhead and Somersault Bars)
Phase 3 £18,000	(includes replacing the Multi-goal and laying hard surface)
Phase 4 £16,650	(includes Zip Wire)
Phase 5 £20,000	(includes Adult Fitness Equipment and a Hard surface track around the Playing Field – note: this phase has not been fully costed so this is an estimate)

Overall total figure £167,875

Fundraising so far:

Monies received

Fundraising/donation	£19,404	
Grant (Valencia)	<u>£48,702</u>	must draw down funds by end Dec 2023
	£68,106	

Require for Phase 1 **£98,825**

Shortfall **£30,719**

Pipeline (secured)

Pledged donation	£19,000	not yet received
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Shortfall **£11,719**

Pipeline (unsecured)

Fundraising	£ 3,000	6 events in planning
Grant (National Lottery)	£ 9,898	decision on 22 nd Oct 2023
Grant (Village Hall)	<u>£ 5,000</u>	require constitution change
	£17,898	

Underwrite shortfall

SUC	£ 3,500
SPC	<u>£ 3,500</u>

£ 7,000

Village Hall

£ 3,500

require constitution change