

**MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING****HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL****ON 23rd MAY 2024****Present:**

**Nick Oakhill (NO)**      **[Acting Chair]**  
**John Hoodless (JH)**  
**Neal Ship (NS)**  
**Heidi Dennison (HD)**  
**Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK**

**Members of the Public:**

**Katy Draper**  
**David Carlisle**  
**Joanna Carlisle**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

No apologies had been received

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 26th May 2023**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were checked for content and accuracy and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

**4. Chairman's Report**

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and Cathy Fleet, our Parish clerk, for their continued efforts over the past year. I think it would be fair to say that as a council we have had a turbulent year ( for sleepy Souldern). With the regrettable resignation of Alan Smith we are now two councillors short and despite continued efforts volunteers are not knocking the doors down to join us. We must make it a priority in the early part of our coming term to get the Council back up to full strength, as it makes it very difficult to achieve any progress when the workload falls on a relatively few shoulders.

The council has, as in previous year's met its legal obligation to represent the residents of Souldern without favour or otherwise and is keen to hear from any residents who would like to suggest any improvements that could be made to ensure its obligations to the community continue to be met.

The village website continues to be maintained by David Carlisle and I would like to thank him for his continued efforts in keeping the village updated with useful information. Many thanks to Tim Vincent and his team for their work in NBW, where the Bushcraft group continue to operate with relatively little fuss (parking problems in wet conditions excepted!). Nigel Prickett and his team continued to make sure that the village's grassy areas were kept tidy. We should also acknowledge the efforts of benevolent parishioners who maintain many areas of community

spaces, such as the Pond and Village green. These little things can go unnoticed, but make a positive difference to the general appearance of the community.

We have had little contact with either OCC or CDC, apart from apologies and a long winded email, where again no representative has attended a meeting over the last year.

A five year agreement was concluded with Brackley Town football club in August, who continue to use the playing fields for their junior and ladies matches.

General village maintenance has been undertaken by various work parties, with a spring clean carried out in April which was well attended. We have planned for some dry stone walling to be carried out along the playing fields roadside wall. Also a barrier is being fabricated for the entrance to the Village Hall car park, which will be height restricted.

The major focus for the last year has been in getting the new playground operational. Alan Smith personally drove this project over the finish line, with assistance from a large team of helpers (physically and financially). Kompan installed the equipment in the worst of conditions, and it was eventually officially opened on the 31st March. It certainly seems to be getting a lot of use so far, and no doubt that with the better weather through the summer we'll often see the car park full. Funds are in place to make headway on the next phase of the playing fields upgrade, once it has been decided where our priorities lie.

After what feels like an eternity our application to OCC to have a 20mph zone throughout the village has finally reached the consultation stage. Our expectation is that if approved, this will become operational in July this year. We want to continue to maintain the living environment for our parishioners through focus on highways/footpaths/grass cutting/community spaces and planning.

Our primary regulatory function continues to be related to planning applications and our input on them to CDC (although often we feel as if the input is ignored). This last year has seen 21 applications in the village, of which 6 have been related to tree works. Thankfully, for the most part, the character and heritage of our small community continues to be respected.

Nick Oakhill 22/05/24

## 5. Financial Report

MAIN ACCOUNT		PLAYGROUND ACCOUNT	
	£s		£s
<b>BALANCE B/F 01.04.23</b>	8,645.50	<b>BALANCE B/F 01.04.23</b>	5,290.33
INCOME	9,633.40	INCOME	138,547.61
EXPENDITURE	10,763.03	EXPENDITURE	134,719.50
<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>7,515.87</b>	<b>BALANCE C/F</b>	<b>9,118.44</b>

31.03.24		31.03.24	
<b>Combined Funds total: £16,634.31</b>			

INCOME BREAKDOWN - MAIN		INCOME BREAKDOWN - PLAYGROUND	
PRECEPT	£6,395.00	DONATIONS& EVENTS	£57,113.44
OCC (RE GRASS)	£440.85	GRANTS	£58,600.00
HMRC (VAT 22/23)	£951.59	HMRC (VAT KOMPAN)	£21,379.08
PITCH HIRE	£500.00	HMRC VAT (Turf)	£389.17
OCC (Coronation)	£300.00	OTHER	£1065.92
HMRC (VAT Apr23 to Dec 23)	£1045.96		£1065.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9633.40</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£138,547.61</b>
EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN - MAIN		EXP. BREAKDOWN - PLAYGROUND	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£130.00	GROUNDWORKS	£1,574.76
INSURANCE	£1,044.53	VALENCIA MATCH GRANT	£4,870.20
CLERK SALARY	£1,922.72	KOMPAN	£128,274.54
BANK CHARGES	£80.52		
ELECTION EXPENSES	£100.00		
VILLAGE HALL	£557.60		
CHANGING ROOMS	£1,120.00		
GRASS CUTTING	£2,415.00		
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	£420.00		
DOG BINS	£683.03		
TREE MAINTENANCE	£500.00		
CELEBRATIONS	£215.64		
*OTHER	£528.05		
VAT	£1,045.96		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,763.03</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£134,719.50</b>

\* Internal Audit H White £100 Transfer of 3 Parishes Money to Playground account £428.05

Neal Ship 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### 6. Matters arising from Report

There were no matters arising

#### 7. Questions from Residents

There were no questions from residents

Signed .....  
Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date .....