

MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 5th December 2024

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR

John Hoodless (JH)

Neal Ship (NS)

Heidi Dennison (HD)

Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

12.24.01 Apologies

No apologies had been received

12.24.02 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

12.24.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 31st October 2024 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

12.24.04 Public participation

There were no members of the public present

12.24.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
Oct24.01	Playground - Clerk to respond to Kompan agreeing to the maintenance contract	Clerk	Completed
Oct24.02	NO to instruct Fernwood to carry out work on the tree outside the village hall	NO	Will be instructed on 18 th December when other work is carried out

12.24.06 Correspondence

No correspondence had been received which was not dealt with elsewhere

12.24.07 Co-option of Councillor

NO has spoken to 2 members of the community who are interested in joining the PC in the New Year. NO will send relevant information to both of them

12.24.08 Reports from County/District Councillors

Report had been received from D/Cllr Rogers and has been circulated to all councillors.

12.24.09 **Playground**
Nothing to report

12.24.10 **Trees by NBW/Ownership of land**
A map had been received from David Blunt showing what he believes is the agreed boundary. The map (which is signed) is awaiting feedback/agreement from the parish council. The parish council is not in a position to agree to ownership of the land in question as it appear to be common land. The parish council agrees that the land Mr Blunt is claiming is his, is not in fact his and cannot be registered as such. The parish council may consider registering the land as common land and take responsibility for maintaining the land. The logs preventing access and 'defining' the land in question should be removed and **NO will draft a letter requesting Mr Blunt removes the logs.**

12.24.11 **Drainage/Flooding/Sewage**
Cllr McHugh had circulated his report of local villages and the flooding/sewage issues. The path to NBW had deteriorated significantly due to recent floods.

12.24.12 **Swing Bridge**
The works to the swing bridge has not been carried out as was suggested in the minutes of the last meeting. Katy Draper has emailed the Canal & River Trust who have indicated that the work will be carried out in January.

10.24.13 **Highways**
No update

10.24.14 **Village Upkeep**
Cllr McHugh is arranging for a road sweeper after which volunteers will clear the debris.
NO had been asked if there is a possibility of removing the smaller of the 2 dog bins at Bovewell. It was agreed that another dog bin would be purchased. **NS to order new dog waste bin and also a new litter bin for by the Pond.**
The wall by the village hall has still not been repaired but is in hand.

10.24.15 **Planning** – The following planning documents had been received and there were no objections/comments to any of them

24/03106/TCA	Little Slam High Street Souldern OX27 7JP	T1 x Crab Apple – Proposal to crown reduce by 0.75-1metre in height and laterally to balance, pruning to suitable growth points, where possible. Crown clean; removing crossing, rubbing and dead branches
24/03006/TCA	Hill View The Hill Souldern OX27 7JD	T1 False Acacia of MWA Arboricultural Report Works: Reduce height from 11m to 7m and reduce spread from 10m to 6m, in accordance with BRE IP7/06. TG1 Mixed species incl. Lilac, Holly of MWA Arboricultural Report Works: Remove (fell) to near ground level and treat stump to inhibit regrowth. Reason: Clay shrinkage subsidence damage at the property.
24/02989/DISC	St Josephs High Street Souldern Bicester OX27 7LA	Discharge of Condition 3 (gate & garage door details) of 24/01761/F
24/02990/DISC	St Josephs High Street Souldern Bicester OX27 7LA	Discharge of Condition 3 (gate & garage door details) of 24/01762/LE
24/02773/TCA	Barn Approximately 75 Metres South East Of Great House Close The Hill Souldern	Proposal to work on the three below trees in Souldern Village: T1 x L - Crown lift to 4 metres all round. Prune to clear building by 2 metres

profile, crown to shape. Remove deadwood. T2 x Weeping Willow - Pollard to previous points. T3 x Oak - Remove lowest limb over garden back to source. Profile crown on garden-side and roadside to shape. Remove deadwood.

10.24.16 Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment: **NO proposed JH seconded**
Paid by standing order

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	164.44	0.0	Includes pay increase back dated to 1 Apr 24
HMRC	(re above)	34.60	0.0	Includes pay increase back dated to 1 Apr 24

Invoices to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Village Hall	Share of Insurance Costs	243.64	0.00	
Village Hall	Booking cost PCC meetings	162.00	0.00	
Village Hall	Booking cost Post Office	249.80	0.00	
Bank Service Charges		11.40	0.00	

The budget and precept demand spreadsheet for 25/26 had been circulated prior to the meeting. A 2% increase over last year's precept demand was proposed (£8153.88) Proposed by NO seconded by JH.

Date of next meetings : last Thursday of the month 7.30pm:

30th January, 27th February, 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 31st July, 28th August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th November

Signed 

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date 27.02.25
Chair, Souldern Parish Council

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner
Dec24.01	NO will draft a letter requesting Mr Blunt removes the logs.	NO
Dec24.02	NS to order new dog waste bin and also a new litter bin for by the Pond.	NS