

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

## HELD IN THE VILAGE HALL

ON 30th October 2025

### Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR  
Kate Green (KG)  
Rob Large (RL)  
John Hoodless (JH)  
Amanda Sharman (AS)

### Members of the Public:

Cllr Gareth Epps

**10.25.01 Apologies for absence**  
Apologies had been received from Cllr David Rogers and the Clerk, Cathy Fleet

**10.25.02 Declarations of Interests**  
There were no declarations of interest

**10.25.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting**  
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 25th September 2025 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and will be signed by the chair at the next meeting.

**10.25.04 Public participation**  
There were no members of the public present .

### **10.25.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting**

No	Action	Owner	Update
	<b>Plot at Bovewell - Action</b> - NO will move fencing back across (it has been propped to the side) and re-fix to pre-existing post, covering the gate that has been inserted on field side. It was noted that Land Registry will not be interested as things currently stand. John has done some work on applying for title where you can prove you have had responsibility for a piece of land for 12 years (eg register of trees; grass cutting receipts, etc). Residents can put in an objection to Land Registry. If possession is not challenged for another 12 years, registry is granted. <b>Action</b> - NO / JH will collate documentation and evidence for various pieces of land around the village.		
Sept25.01	<b>Overhanging shrubs on Fox Lane</b> - NO to discuss with resident	NO	Resident has been away. NO to action
Sept25.02	<b>Memorial bench outside village hall</b> - NO to ask what type of bench and where they would like to site it.	NO	- Donators would like guidance. It was suggested that the pond may be a

			suitable location as the current bench in this location is older and could be updated, and there are several benches on the playing field.
Sept25.03	<b>Bridleway to NBW</b> - KG to contact OCC Bridleways	KG	KG has collected feedback from the riders and will collate this. She has also consulted Katy Draper, who suggests that the ruts are unlikely to be rectified by Highways.
Sept25.04	<b>Clerk to chase Sanctuary re 4 Bovewell</b>	CF	Email sent 29/09. Response received, awaiting outcome of visit.

#### 10.25.06 Correspondence

SSEN - the standing charge has altered from £2.80 per day to £1.23. Was 37p per Kwhr, is now 22p per KWhr.

There will be a Parish Liaison meeting on the 12th November (online) RL will aim to join NO.

#### 10.25.07 Reports from County/District Councillors (David Rogers –CDC) (Gareth Epps – OCC)

Both Councillors had submitted written reports which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Epps reported:

Report summarises county plans. Has walked the village with JH covering:

Planning issues - Tollgate Cottage - Highways did a site visit and did not see issues with access / visibility. There have recently been several serious incidents on the Croughton junction along the B4100.

81 Bus - Numbers could do with promotion. Fliers will be sent and promotion will go via The Fox, Wrightons in Fritwell, etc. It was noted that walkers use the service. There was some discussion about whether the name of the service may mean that some people do not know they can use it.

Gullies - A crew is working their way around the area. JH is concerned that Souldern is not listed on the Highways plan. He will share the list with Gareth. Gareth will ensure the village is not forgotten.

There was some discussion surrounding the maps and reports that Gareth has created and shared on the large-scale proposed developments in the local **areaAction - NO/HD to prepare information for the village with the elements of Gareth's presentation / reports / maps.**

Much is going through council currently, including the reorganisation of the council. Information is due on Friday, which Gareth will share.

#### 10.25.08 Highways

Walkaround took place. There has not been much progress since in terms of success in identifying which trees are under Highways and which are not. The

gaps on the edges of the roads were noted and email will be sent, but it is unlikely that these will be addressed. The gullies should be cleared annually, but it is not clear where Souldern is listed.

## 10.25.09 Planning

25/02607/F - Change of use of holiday cottage/annexe to separate dwelling with associated internal works (self build) - No reason to object.

JH has concerns over Tollgate Cottage decision re access being seemed acceptable. He has raised these in his own right as a resident.

## 10.25.10 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment

### Paid by standing order

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	136.66	0.0	
HMRC	(re above)	27.66	0.0	

### Invoices to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Kompan	Inv 264418	111.36	18.56	
Nigel Prickett	Inv 2605	493.20	82.20	
Cathy Fleet	Salary shortfall (backpay)	25.08		

The bank reconciliation and quarterly report were received

### **Other matters**

Churchyard - trees have been removed by SSE and there has been a working party to remove ivy. A fir tree will be taken down by church (currently awaiting approval).

St Joseph's - The contractors are parking on the front, but now also on verges further along and opposite. A request will be made that it is made good on conclusion of the building work. **Action - HD to draft letter re St Josephs.**

Query re grass cutting on the front of VH. Should be cut. Will be flagged for next year.

Path outside VH - timeframes for work? Will be completed by spring.

SUC are planning a consultation. A flier will come to the PC prior to circulation and Katy will attend next meeting.

Query on payments for VH  
£162 for hall bookings  
£250 (-20p) for Post Office

**Date of next meetings** : last Thursday of the month 7.30pm:  
27<sup>th</sup> November

**Proposed dates for 2026:**  
**29 Jan, 26 Feb, 26 March,, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov,**

**Signed** ..... **Chair, Souldern Parish Council**

**Date** .....

### **Actions Summary**

NO will move fencing back across (it has been propped to the side) and re-fix to pre-existing post, covering the gate that has been inserted on field side.

NO / JH will collate documentation and evidence for various pieces of land around the village.

NO/HD to prepare information for the village with the elements of Gareth's presentation / reports / maps.

HD to draft letter re St Josephs.