

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILAGE HALL

ON 29th January 2026

Present:

Heidi Dennison (HD)[Acting Chair]
 Kate Green (KG)
 John Hoodless (JH)
 Amanda Sharman (AS)
 Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

David Carlisle
 Katy Draper
 Tim Vincent
 C/Cllr Gareth Epps
 D/Cllr David Rogers

- 01.26.01 Apologies for absence**
 Apologies had been received from Nick Oakhill (NO) and Rob Large(RL)
- 01.26.02 Declarations of Interests**
 KG declared an interest in one of the planning items and refrained from joining the discussion
- 01.26..03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting**
 The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 27th November 2025 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Acting Chair.
- 01.26.04 Public participation**
- 01.26.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting**
 There were no outstanding actions from the last meeting
- 01.26.06 Correspondence**
 There was no correspondence which had not been dealt with elsewhere.
- 01.26.07 Reports from County/District Councillors (David Rogers CDC) (Gareth Epps – OCC)**
 Written reports had been submitted ahead of the meeting and circulated to all councillors.
Cllr Rogers reported:
 The Heyford Park application for 9000 houses has been with CDC for some months and it is likely that Dorchester will press for responses and be dealt with at the Planning Committee in the near future. The warehousing application at Baynards Green had been refused.
 Cllr Rogers reported that whilst attending Somerton PC's meeting last night he was impressed by the amount of work and progress which has been made and urged SPC not to under-estimate the power the PC has.

Cllr Epps reported that the traffic implications of the major developments are being considered at national level.

The revised Movement & Place plan will be going to consultation in due course. Once adopted by the county it will allow officers to consider such protection for villages as ANPR cameras etc.

It is not known what Dorchester's intentions regarding Heyford Park are as the debates in Parliament for the New Towns proposal are on-going. Potholes are still a major concern by the M40 junctions and in surrounding villages. Mis-use of the B4100 is also a concern and suggestions have been put forward for measures to mitigate the problems in both Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.

The Fire Service consultation ends tomorrow.

The restructure of OCC consultation is expected in February. Whatever the outcome, financial implications are inevitable.

01.26.08 Highways/Footpaths

Bridleway 13 - The state of the bridleway had been discussed with OCC and Katy had a meeting with a Tracy Sutton, Bridleway Officer of OCC who suggested that OCC have no funding for repairs/maintenance but that independent funding could be found which would be matched by OCC. OCC have cut down overhanging and encroaching vegetation. It was suggested that the users and/or owners of the stables should be responsible for the maintenance of the bridleway. KG uses the stables (renting them) and is happy to help with filling potholes but feels that the owner of the stables would not be prepared to contribute financially. The ditch is overgrown and not functioning. The bridleway is currently unusable for such vehicles as horse trailers, but it is necessary for users of the stables to transport hay, water etc to the stables in winter. KD suggested that grants could be looked at, focusing on the fact that it is access to NBW and is a village amenity. **KD/KG will look into grant funding possibilities, eg. TOE**

01.26.09 Land adjacent to Gibbs Field House

KG had met with David Blunt in an attempt to get his side of the story. He showed KG all the measurements and the amount of clearance he has done. He has not shared the documentation (including the original Deeds) with the PC as requested and is adamant that the land in question is his. KG will study all the paperwork in the possession of the PC and speak again with Mr Blunt before registration of the land by the PC is considered.

01.26.10 NBW (Bush Craft)

Correspondence had been received regarding the Bushcraft Group, which operates in NBW. Kev had started the group some years ago, with agreement of the parish council, but fell ill and it was then taken over by Tom. There are now disagreements between Kev and Tom about the way it is being run and safeguarding, etc. There is a lady who is also running a group which does not include any children from the village. They have been told to cease all activities until the situation is resolved.

It was suggested that both Tom and Kev are invited to the next parish council meeting with the proof of insurance for the group to reach agreement. **NO to Action**

01.26.11 Planning - the following planning documents had been received and discussed:25/03333/F

Applegarth Bates Lane Souldern Repair of part-fallen stone wall
 Bicester OX27 7JU
NO OBJECTION - work is underway

25/03341/DISC

Stonehaven High Street Souldern Discharge of Conditions 4 (doors and windows)
 Oxfordshire OX27 7JL and 6 (slate sample) of 24/03325/F
NO OBJECTION

Decisions

25/02660/F 1 Chapel Row, High Street APPROVED BY CDC
 25/03005/TCA The Orchard, Bates Lane Notice of Intent of treeworks in Conservation Area
 25/02267/F Home Farm House, Bates Lane APPROVED BY CDC

01.26.12 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment

Paid by standing order

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	140.24	0.0	
HMRC	(re above)	28.56	0.0	

Accounts to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £	VAT	Comments
Souldern Village Hall	Hall bookings 2025	394.00		
Kompan	Inv 26685	295.52	49.25	Annual inspection
Souldern Village Hall	Insurance 2025	253.18		= 20% of total

The bank reconciliation and quarterly report were received

The budget/precept figure of £8358 has been submitted to CDC.

The request for funding from NORA was discussed

01.26.13 Website

In January 2019 the Clerk circulated an email from WalltoWall asking if a Flyer requesting locations for a BBC series could be circulated via the website. On 25th February Nick Oakhill asked David Carlisle to put it on the website. On 21st January 2026 an email was received from Alamay Ltd informing the PC that a licence was required to display the images in the flyer and that a fee of £460 is payable. Nick as responded to Alamay informing them that SPC accepts no responsibility for the 'licence breach' and that they should contact the production company WalltoWall who sent the flyer containing the image. The images have now been removed from

the website. A response is awaited. A further email has been received from Alamay informing the PC that the discount for early payment of the 'licence fee' has now expired.

Other matters

Playground - a message had been received from RL The playground repairs are due to take place 30/01/26 subject to weather conditions and items requiring attention following the annual inspection will be scheduled for spring. Ground leveling is required and RL will consider the best approach.

Date of next meetings : last Thursday of the month 7.30pm:
29th January 2026

Proposed dates for 2026:

26 Feb, 26 March, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov,

Signed

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner
Jan26.01	Bridleway 13 - KD/KG will look into grant funding possibilities	KG/Katie Draper
Jan26.02	Bushcraft Group - NO to invite Tom and Kev to the next PC meeting	NO