

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILAGE HALL

ON 26TH February 2026

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) [Chair]
 Heidi Dennison (HD)
 Kate Green (KG)
 John Hoodless (JH)
 Amanda Sharman (AS)
 Rob Large (RL)
 Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

David Carlisle

 C/Cllr Gareth Epps
 D/Cllr David Rogers

02.26.01 Apologies for absence
 No apologies had been received

02.26.02 Declarations of Interests
 There were no declarations of interest

02.26.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting
 The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 29th January 2026 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

02.26.04 Public participation

02.26.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
Jan26.01	Bridleway 13 - KD/KG will look into grant funding possibilities	KG/Katie Draper	KD has begun investigations and will continue to source funding
Jan26.02	Bushcraft Group - NO to invite Tom and Kev to the next PC meeting	NO	No invitation has been sent as there are no village children attending the classes and there is no financial recompense to the PC. Sessions had been stopped and NO proposed and JH seconded that the

			group be disbanded
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02.26.06 Correspondence

NO has followed up on the excessive bill from SSE and is awaiting a response.

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

Written reports had been received ahead of the meeting and circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Rogers reported:

- Cllr Rogers showed an email sent from CDC Finance to all PC Clerks. The Clerk to Souldern has not received this (nor for her other parishes) so will chase up tomorrow.
- CDC has established a strategic Development fund for 26/27 to allow councillors to carry out necessary work. This will be reduced in subsequent years.

Cllr Epps reported:

- Cllr Epps continues to monitor the state of the roads
- The budget has been approved.
- There will be surface dressings applied to some roads - evidence suggests that this prolongs the life of repairs carried out.
- The CDC budget reveals that next year there will be a shortfall of £20m
- Service provision should not be effected this year and some additional funding is in place for roads and drainage.

02.26.08 Highways/Footpaths

Spring Clean - Will be co-coordinated by HD on the weekend of 28/29 March. Equipment borrowed from CDC last year was never collected, so will be re-used and the team will arrange disposal of the rubbish.

02.26.09 NBW (Bush Craft)

The Bushcraft Group is to be disbanded and disassociated from the parish council.

02.26.10 Asset of Community Value

It has been suggested that The Fox be made an Asset of Community Value. The current landlord has 2 years to run on his lease and he may not renew the lease.

Cllr Epps will speak with the landlord and NO will contact The Plunkett Foundation for further advice.

As part of the Assertion 10 requirements for the Annual Governance Statement there is a requirement for all PCs to have either gov.uk or .org email accounts. it was agreed that **NO will set up email addresses from the existing .org system , linked to existing gmail accounts of councillors.**

Other matters

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

Dates for 2026:

26 March, 30 April, 20 May, 25 June, 30 July 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov,

Signed

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner
Feb26.01	ASSET OF Community Value - Cllr Epps will speak with the landlord and NO will contact The Plunkett Foundation for further advice.	GE/NO
Feb26.02	NO will set up email addresses from the existing .org system , linked to existing gmail accounts of councillors.	NO