

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILAGE HALL

ON 26TH March 2026

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

Katy Draper

03.26.01 Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Cllr Gareth Epps, Cllr David Rogers and Cllr Heidi Dennison

03.26.02 Declarations of Interests
There were no declarations of interest

03.26.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26th February 2026 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

03.26.04 Public participation
Katy Draper mentioned that the draft minutes of the last meeting were not on the website or noticeboards. **NO to look into this.**

03.26.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
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	Agenda item
Feb26.02	NO will set up email addresses from the existing .org system , linked to existing gmail accounts of councillors.	NO	On-going

03.26.06 Correspondence
A letter had been received from Mr & Mrs Blunt requesting that his letter is posted on the noticeboard. This was responded to by the Clerk informing him that it would be put on the noticeboard once the PC has written it's formal response. It has since been put on the village noticeboard (not the PC one). It should be noted that the PC has not spent any money on the issue despite Mr & Mrs Blunt's assertion that it has. Informal qualified legal advice has been offered,

and Council is currently awaiting the results/recommendations of this. In an effort to draw this matter to a long overdue conclusion.

An email has been received from the owners of Tollgate Cottage following work being taken place near the storage unit behind the cottage. NO had spoken to the owners, who are aware of the boundary position and confirmed that the gateway will not be used for vehicular access. During the course of the conversation the Owners indicated that if it should be available for sale they would be interested in making an offer for the unit. It was agreed that the PC would be in agreement to looking at the possibility of selling it in principle, after receiving a valuation. Parishioners would need to be notified and consulted of the Councils intended sale, to ensure that there was support for the sale and that any proceeds received would need to be used as Capital for expenditure on Parish projects. To be further discussed

03.26.07 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.

03.26.08 Highways/Footpaths

Katy Draper said that she had received email regarding organisations which may assist with match funding for resurfacing the bridleway. She had spoken to the allotment holder who has cleared ditches and he has confirmed that he is willing to clear ditches by the bridleway in due course.

03.26.09 NBW (Bush Craft)

NO has confirmed with Tom and Kev that the parish council will no longer have any involvement with the Bushcraft Group and the contract has been terminated as agreed at the last meeting.

03.26.10 Asset of Community Value

Cllr Rogers had emailed Kevin Lerner at CDC (assesses ACV applications) who indicated that unless a business plan is in place there is little point in applying for an ACV.

03.26.11 Planning - the following planning documents had been received and discussed:
26/00740/CA Souldern Court, High Street Treework NO OBJECTION

Work being carried out at the front of St Josephs has been reported to CDC Enforcement, and acknowledged by the enforcement team. Several parishioners had commented on the changes being made, and them not corresponding with the plans submitted. Out of courtesy the Contractors were informed that the works had been reported, and it was informally acknowledged that the occupants were aware that the works needed planning permission,

03.26.12 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment

Paid by Standing Order			
Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	140.24	0.0
HMRC	(re above)	28.56	0.0

Invoice to be approved			
Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
OALC	Subscription 26/27 Inv 6285	228.00	38.00

The bank reconciliation and bank balances were received

03.26.13 Website

NO had written to Alamay regarding the claim that the PC needs to purchase a licence for using an image on the website, indicating that the PC is not in a position to purchase a licence. No response has been received.

Other matters

The timber on the tower in the playground has still not been repaired. Actions from the Inspection will be carried out in autumn. Quotes have been received for topsoil and seed. To be further discussed.

Churchyard wall - Part of the wall has fallen down and 2 quotes have been received.

Malcolm Sweetman £800-£1000

David Strivens £1600

Ownership of the wall is not clear as the parish maps are indeterminate.

NO to discuss the possibility of sharing costs with neighbours

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

Dates for 2026:

30 April, 20 May (APM & AMPC 7pm), 25 June, 30 July 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov,

Signed

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner	Update
Feb26.02	NO will set up email addresses from the existing .org system , linked to existing gmail accounts of councillors.	NO	On-going
March26.01	NO to discuss the possibility of sharing costs for repairing the churchyard stone wall with neighbours	NO	

DRAFT