MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 24th September 2026

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) [Chair]

John Hoodless (JH)
Rob Large (RL)
Kate Green (KG)
Amanda Sharman (AS)
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

Cllr David Rogers

09.26.01 Apologies for absence
No Apologies had been received

09.26.02 Declarations of Interests
There were no declarations of interest

09.26.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 20th July 2026 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

09.26.04 Public participation
There were no members of the public present

09.26.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting
There were no outstanding items from the last meeting

09.26.06 Correspondence

- Letter will be sent to owner of Tollgate Cottage regarding building debris on the pavement and the shed overhanging the pavement.
- Incident on playing fields involving a dog. The PC confirmed that no dogs are allowed on the playing field**. Clerk to respond to writer saying that no dogs are allowed anywhere on the playing field.**
  Additional signs to be placed on the field.

09.26.07 Reports from County/District Councillors (David Rogers CDC) (Gareth Epps OCC)
Written reports had been received ahead of the meeting and circulated to all councilllors**.**

Cllr Rogers reported:

- **Local Government Re-organisation** - this has now been paused by Central Government
- **Parish Liaison meeting** - this has now been cancelled
- **Primary Care** - A working group has now been formed and a paper published.
- **CDC Local Plan Examination** - The 2023 housing numbers rather than the 2024 version will be examined. The examination hearings will take place in Autumn 2026.
- **Banbury Area oversight group** £300K available to parishes this financial year. There was a very tight deadline for applications, but £170K remains. Cllr Rogers suggested that applications could be submitted to a value of £20-50K for the team to consider.
- **Kidlington illegal landfill** - this has now been cleared and the site secured.
- **Flytipping** has risen from 396 to 722 incidents in the first quarter of 2026.

Cllr Epps reported:

- An announcement regarding devolution and mayors is expected soon
- The new bus service to Bicester has commenced and seems to be working well
- Oxford Traffic Filter trial - Registration for the free passes for the trial is now available
- PFAS - There is a proposal to identify village 'taps' in order that the water can be tested. Neil Whitton at CDC will be provided with locations in Souldern. The British Geological Survey shows all wells, boreholes etc.

09.26 08 Highways

Cllr Epps reported that there is no backlog of pothole repairs on the FMS system currently.
OCC's request for feedback on the 20mph scheme will be completed by HD on behalf of Souldern PC, indicating that the speed limit in Souldern is working well.
KG will request signage warning of horse riders.

09.26.09 Footpaths

Katie Draper has no feedback from OCC regarding her request for the stone stile at Park Lodge to have better signage following recent events. **KG will cut the ivy down.**

09.26.10 Gibbs Field House

A further letter has been received from Mr & Mrs Blunt and circulated to all councillors. RL has drafted a response which, once amended, will be sent to Mr & Mrs Blunt by the Clerk.

09.26.11 Planning - the following planning documents had been received and discussed:

26/02261/TCA	Rectory Cottage Church Lane Souldern OX27 7HU	A = Pine - fell B, C, D, E, F G, I, J = Leylandii - fell H - pussy willow - has already fallen, requires clearing. NO OBJECTION
26/02248/TCA	Spring House Back Lane Souldern OX27 7JF	T1 Walnut - crown reduce by removing 2 metres from the entire crown area. NO OBJECTION
26/02229/TCA	Park House Street Through Souldern Souldern Bicester OX27 7LA	T1 – Cedar: Reduce and prune back the lateral branches and secondary growth extending over the boundary into St Joseph's, to suitable

growth points. Works confined to the overhanging portions of the crown on the St Joseph's side of the boundary. No felling or overall crown reduction proposed.
NO OBJECTION

Tollgate Cottage - a letter will be drafted to the owner regarding the builders' debris on the pavement and the overhanging shed. **Action KG**

09.26.12 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed by JH seconded by RL

Date	Invoice No	To	Detail	Amount	VAT	Notes
28/07/2026		Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary August	140.24		paid by S/O
28/07/2026		HMRC	PAYE	57.12		paid by S/O
24/09/2026	2786	Nigel Prickett	grasscutting		81	incorrect payment made last month (VAT omitted)
24/09/2026	2803	Nigel Prickett	grasscutting	486		
28/09/2026		Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal Sept	140.24		paid by S/O
21/09/2026		HMRC	PAYE	25.86		paid by S/O
			Repair of stone wall	400		
TOTAL				**849.46**		

The bank reconciliation and Accounts to date were received
The NALC recommended clerk salary increase was approved.
The conclusion of Audit was noted.

Other matters

Picnic table in the playground is rotten and requires either mending or replacement.
Spring Clean in the village - will be in autumn instead of March. **HD to publicise the event and work parties will be set up.**

Date of next meetings : last Thursday of the month 7.30pm:
Dates for 2026:

29 Oct, 26 Nov,

Signed …… Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date ……..

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner	Update
Sept26.01	**Letter re dog incident** - Clerk to respond to writer saying that no dogs are allowed anywhere on the playing field**.**	**CF**	**Completed**
Sept26.02	**Highways** - KG will request 'Horse Riders' signs	**KG**	
Sept26.03	**Stile at Park Lodge -** KG will remove the ivy from the stone stile	**KG**	