**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE VILAGE HALL**

**ON 29th October 2026**

**Present:**

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

**Members of the Public:**

**Katy Draper**
**Cllr Gareth Epps**

**10.26.01 Apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Heidi Dennison

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

**10.26.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting**
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 24th September 2026 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**10.26.04 Public participation**
There were no members of the public present

**10.26.05 Resignation of Councillor and co-option of replacement**
John Hoodless had tendered his resignation which was accepted by the PC and John was thanked for his work with the PC. He has also resigned from the SUC. One person has messaged NO with a view to joining the PC. A meeting will be held to further discuss.

**10.26.06 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting**

| 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 | Expected to arrive next week. KG will install |
| **Sept26.03** | **Stile at Park Lodge -** KG will remove the ivy from the stone stile | KG | Completed<br>A waymark sign will be put on the stile. |

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**10.26.07 Correspondence**

- Car parking on High Street - **NO will speak to PCSO Louise Beaumont for guidance.**
- A youngster in the village has an E-scooter and is using it in the village at excessive speed. **NO to speak to his parents**.

**10.26.08 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**.**

- Horton Hospital - application has been made for funding for major upgrade.
- Local Government reorganisation
- Parish Liaison meeting - new date is 11th November
- Banbury Area Oversight Group -
- Consultation on revised speed limits - results will be available soon
- PFAS - testing is on-going. The figure for testing next to the firepit is extremely high.
- CDC small repairs service - minor repairs service is now available.
- Warm Homes Discount Scheme - letters will be sent to eligible households by January.

**10.26 09 Highways/Footpaths**

There was nothing to report

**10.26.10 Bushcraft**

An email had been received from a resident suggesting that the Bushcraft group be re-started. **Clerk to respond saying that there is lack of interest by local children so the PC is not prepared to sponsor such a group.**

**10.26.11 SUC**

Following the resignation of John Hoodless as trustee, the PC needs to nominate another trustee. Various names were put forward as possible candidates who NO will approach. **NO will report back to Katy Draper and the matter will be formally finalised at the next PC meeting.**

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26/02479/TCA | Souldern House Street Through Souldern Souldern OX27 7LA | T1 Apple – Crown reduce by approximately 0.5/0.75 metres in height, and laterally to balance. G1 Yew – Crown reduce in height by approximately 1.5/2 metres, ensuring growth is below the power line by 0.5 metres. Trim all round, tightly to shape. Clear all Elders to ground level, poison to deter re-growth. T2 Prunus – Selectively reduce growth on garden side by approximately 2 metres laterally, and reduce upper crown by approximately 1/1.5 metres. T3 Crab Apple – reduction of 0.5/0.75 metre in height and laterally to balance T4 Bay |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | – Clear all growth on wall to prevent future damage. Reduction of 1/1.5 metres in height and laterally to balance, ensuring clearance of the power line. G2 Cherry/Robinia – Reduce dead Cherry to leave a low structure at a height of 2.5 metres. Prune Wisteria and other vegetation away from Robinia and Cherry trees. G3 Magnolia/Holly – Section fell both trees to ground level. Grind stumps where accessible, poison Holly stump near wall. T5 Mulberry – Re-brace stems as necessary, installing two new braces. Reduce/thin branches, where required, to reduce loading on failed stem, profile upper crown to shape. G4 Lilac – Fell group of Lilac to ground level. Grind all accessible stumps, back-fill void with arisings.<br>**NO OBJECTION** |
| **26/02506/F** | Fox Hill Foxhill Lane Souldern Oxfordshire OX27 7JZ | Retrospective installation of two new windows to north elevation, bi-fold doors to south elevation, replacement side door, reduce width of window opening/new window to south elevation, re-roof conservatory using composite plastic 'slates' and internal alterations to provide new kitchen and utility<br>**NO OBJECTION TO THE WORK CARRIED OUT. THE PC WOULD LIKE IT NOTED THAT IT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE BEING SEEN IN THE VILLAGE WHICH PROVIDES LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PC TO COMMENT.** |

**Decisions**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26/02248/TCA | Spring House, Back Lane | Notice of Intent of Treework |

**09.26.13 Finance**

The following accounts were approved for payment.

| Date | Invoice No | To | Detail | Amount | VAT | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28/10/2026 | | Cathy Fleet | Clerk salary Oct | 144.02 | | S/O |
| 28/10/2026 | | HMRC | PAYE | 29.5 | | S/O |
| 17/10/2026 | | Defib Shop | defib pads | 82.74 | 13.79 | paid 19/10/26 |
| 24/09/2026 | 2834 | Nigel Prickett | grasscutting | 486 | 81 | |
| 01/10/2026 | 20038655 | CDC | Dog bin emptying | 377.52 | 62.92 | |
| | | Cathy Fleet | Backpay & shortfall | 26.44 | | |
| **TOTAL** | | | | **1119.78** | | |

The bank reconciliation was received

**Other matters**

CCTV signs will be installed outside the village hall - **AS to purchase.**

KG will become a Superuser for Fix my street **- Clerk to forward contact details**

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

**Dates for 2026:**

**26 Nov**

**Proposed dates for 2027:**

**28 Jan, 25 Feb, 25 March, 29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 30 Sept, 28 Oct, 25 Nov**

**Signed …… Chair, Souldern Parish Council**

**Date ……..**

**ACTION LIST SUMMARY**

| No | Action | Owner | Update |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Oct26.01** | **Bushcraft** - Clerk to respond saying that there is lack of interest by local children so the PC is not prepared to sponsor such a group. | **CF** | **Completed** |
| **Oct26.02** | **SUC Trustee** - NO will approach possible trustees and report back to Katy Draper and the matter will be formally finalised at the next PC meeting. | **NO** | |
| **Oct26.03** | **Planning** - Clerk to respond to planning application 26/02506/F | **CF** | **Completed** |
| **Oct26.04** | AS to order CCTV signs | **AS** | |
| **Oct26.04** | Clerk to provide contact details for Superuser at OCC to KG | **CF** | **completed** |

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