

# MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR  
John Hoodless (JH)  
Neal Ship (NS)  
Heidi Dennnison (HD)  
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

### Members of the Public:

Members of the public : Cllr Andrew McHugh, Cllr David Rogers, Adam Nell, Kate Green + Rich & Lauren owners of the Mullions

#### 02.25.01 Apologies

No apologies had been received

#### 02.25.01 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

#### 02.25.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

#### 02.25.04 Public participation

#### 02.25.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

No	Action	Owner	Update
Dec24.01	NO will draft a letter requesting Mr Blunt removes the logs.	NO	Covered in item 10
Dec24.02	NS to order new dog waste bin and also a new litter bin for by the Pond.	NS	Outstanding

#### 02.25.06 Correspondence

- Electricity bill from SSE for changing rooms - £12404.00 for 3 months. NO has phoned them and said that the quarterly bill is usually £210, so the bill is obviously wrong. Credit note will be raised and new bill issued with 3-4 days. Nothing has been heard since. A smart meter was installed 18<sup>th</sup> December.
- NO has been asked by landlord of the pub if the PC is happy for them to use the carpark on 18<sup>th</sup> March as a Wake will be held in the pub.

- There will be a wake in the village hall on 8<sup>th</sup> March and a request has been made to use the car park and playing fields. NO has informed Football Club that the field will be in use.
- Invoice for Fernwood has been received for tree work,
- Emails have been received from the leader of the Bushcraft classes regarding parking around the Allotments which has caused problems. There is a Bushcraft Day on 18th March which NO will attend to speak to parents and organisers. Nobody from the village attends the group any more, and the PC receives no remuneration for allowing the classes to take place, which creates an issue for the Council in that there is limited benefit in allowing the classes to continue.
- Consultation plans for Baynards Green have been submitted - The PC objected 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time round and the Consultation will be considered by the PC asap.
- WhatsApp messages have been received from David Blunt which will be transferred to email for the record.

#### 02.25.07 **Co-option of Councillor**

Kate Green was attending with a view to be co-opted as a councillor. Rob Large is also willing to be co-opted. JH proposed HD seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt both Kate and Rob. Clerk to provide both Kate and Rob with paperwork to be signed at the next meeting,

#### 02.25.08 **Reports from County/District Councillors**

**D/Cllr Andrew McHugh** summarised:

- Increase on brown bins on hold
- Allowance for winter fuel allowance to be
- Homelessness in CDC to be tackled
- Flooding officer (Tony Brummell) is to work with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Flooding Officer

**D/Cllr David Rogers** had submitted a written report prior to the meeting and assured that services will continue during the devolution project and that all 6 councils in Oxon are talking to each other and will submit to central government ideas as to how a unitary council will work. He said that rural areas are not receiving as much attention as the City.

**Cllr Arash Fatemian** had submitted his report which Clerk will circulate to all councillors.

He is not involved with the Unitary proposals but said that he is encouraged by the proposals as the unitary council will be devoted to strategic items whilst the day to day services will be devolved to area committees. Cllr Fatemian asked that any problems are escalated to him and he will respond.

#### 02.25.09 **Playground**

Alan Smith has requested that PC take over the responsibility of doing the Playground Checks. The PC expressed thanks to Alan and will form a group to take over the task. **Clerk to respond to Alan and ask if he would be prepared to do a hand-over.**

**02.25.10 Trees by NBW/Ownership of land**

A WhatsApp had been received from David Blunt HD will download as a document and circulate.

**02.25.11 Drainage/Flooding/Sewage**

JH had requested that CDC sweep the road to clear gravel whilst cleaning drains but was ignored. JH emphasizes how dangerous the roads in the village are because of the erosion to the road and potholes and his frustration about CDC and OCC not responding or taking any action. Some potholes have been filled 4-5 times over a few years. JH suggested that OCC Highways is 'broken' Arash responded that Highways is 'broken' and commented that the road between Hempton and Deddington was repaired 6 months ago and is already deteriorating. JH reported that Highways sent 5 vehicles to repair the road and a drain in Souldern has been tarmaced over during repairs being made.

**02.25.12 Highways**

Covered under Agenda Item 11

**02.25.13 Changing Rooms**

Covered under Agenda Item 6

**02.25.14 Village Upkeep**

**Spring Clean – 29<sup>th</sup> March date to be confirmed- NO to respond to CDC**

**02.25.15 Planning –The following planning documents had been received:****25/00338/TPO 5**

Stone Croft Foxhill Lane  
Souldern Bicester OX27  
7JZ

FIVE DAY NOTICE T1-2 (Poplar) 10/02/2025  
- trees to be removed  
**NO OBJECTION**

**25/00197/F**

The Mullions High Street  
Souldern Bicester OX27  
7JN

Variation of Condition 2 (plans)  
of 21/02613/F - Change in the  
roof pitch and additional  
stonework to support  
structural steel

The owners of The Mullions were present at this meeting. The original drawings had errors and the applicants had been trying to work with neighbours to avoid putting in a new application. Building has stopped for the last 4 months. Cllr McHugh had submitted a letter which has come across as being over assertive (for which he apologized)

The planning permission was originally granted for a building which cannot be built which is why an alternative need to be found. The planning application has changed from a hipped roof to a gable end.. NO has made a site visit and understood why the neighbour has objected.

The PC will not object to the application, but will submit a comment – **NO to draft comment**

Stonecroft, Foxhill Lane - works is ongoing and lorries have made a mess of verges and roads – **HD will draft a letter to the owners of the property.**

**02.25.16 Finance** -The following accounts were approved for payment: **NO proposed JH seconded**  
Paidby standing order

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	136.66	0.0	Dec 24
HMRC	(re above)	27.66	0.0	Dec 24
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	136.66	0.0	Jan 25
HMRC	(re above)	27.66	0.0	Jan 25

Invoices to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Kompan	Playground Maintenance	277.6	46.26	Approved and paid 14/1/25
Nick Oakhill	Defib Pads	99.54	16.54	
Bank Service Charges		6.00	0.00	
Bank Service Charges		6.00	0.00	

Receipts

	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Interest – Playground Account		63.87		

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

27<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 27<sup>th</sup> November

**Signed** .....

**Chair, Souldern Parish Council**

**Date** .....

**Chair, Souldern Parish Council**

**Other matters**

Grasscutting – It was agreed to accept the price increase for 25/26 .**NO to speak to Nigel Prickett regarding also cutting The Pound.**

Wall outside VH – Tree roots outside the VH require attention. The marking for disabled spaces in the car park have almost disappeared. JH to ask at the Deddington Depot if they could reinstate the markings.

A 'container' has appeared at 3 Bovewell which appears to be plumbed in and in use. Photos to be sent to Clerk who will contact Nicola Riley – Deputy Director of Housing at CDC to see if this requires planning permission.

#### ACTION LIST SUMMARY

No	Action	Owner	Update
Feb25.01	<b>Co-option of councillors</b> – Clerk to write to Kate and Rob and send required documents	CF	Completed
Feb25.02	<b>Playground-</b> . Clerk to respond to Alan and ask if he would be prepared do a hand-over.	CF	
Feb25.03	<b>Spring Clean</b> – NO to respond to CDC	NO	
Feb25.04	<b>Planning</b> <a href="#"><u>25/00197/F</u></a> – No to draft response	NO	
Feb25.05	<b>Planning</b> , Stonecroft – HD to write to home owner	HD	
Feb25.06	Clerk to circulate C/Cllr's report	CG	Completed
Feb25.07	JH to ask Deddington Depot if they will reinstate the disabled parking markings in the car park	JH	
Feb25.08	NO to ask Nigel Prickett if he will also cut The Pound	NO	