

MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 25th July 2024

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR
John Hoodless (JH)
Heidi Dennison (HD)
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

Cllr Andrew McHugh

07.24.01 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Neal Ship and Cllr Arash Fatemian

07.24.02 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

07.24.03 **To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting**

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 27th June 2024 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meetings and signed by the chair.

07.24.04 **Public participation**

Members of the public were invited to participate.

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

No	Action	Owner	Update
June24.01	Drainage/sewage - John Hoodless to make contact with Cllr McHugh to discuss NO will speak to Joanna, manager of McDonalds	JH NO	completed
June24.02	Swing Bridge - HD to draft a letter to CRT and liaise with Katy Draper	HD	AGENDA ITEM
June24.03	Playground - NO to order bark and spread under the Witches Hat	NO	Agenda Item
June24.04	Trees by NBW – NO to draft response to letter received from Mr & Mrs Blunt	NO	completed

07.24.06 **Correspondence**

A member of the public Whatsapped NO requesting his sons U8 team to use the football pitch - NO checked with BTFC who are happy for it to be used.

Correspondence was received by NO from another resident asking if an U15 used the football field on Sunday mornings when the ladies team is not using it. This was discussed and it was agreed to agree to the request on a trial period providing behavior and language is acceptable (due to previous experience of complaints)

The same resident had sent correspondence regarding the electricity bill for the changing rooms. The meter needs changing and it was agreed that **NO will make an appointment with SSE.**

An email had been received from a previous resident of Hackertys Way asking about the state of the building and whether it is lived in. NO has responded.

The village hall will need to request a donation from the BTFC toward the water bill which has almost doubled and is not metered.

07.24.07 Co-option of Councillor

No progress

07.24.08 Reports from County/District Councillors

Cllr Fatemian had submitted a written report ahead of the meeting,

Cllr McHugh reported that Somerton PC had asked for a road sweeper to clean the village, which was provided, and suggested that Souldern may also benefit from this. It was thought this is a good idea and a suitable date will be identified when vehicles can be kept clear from the road.

Traffic from Soho farmhouse is affecting many villages and speeding is a problem. Cllr McHugh is drafting door to door flyers and also a survey monkey to record views of the residents and wondered if Souldern would be interested in such a campaign. NO explained that this had been tried in the past and that the greatest culprits for speeding are delivery drivers,

He also mentioned that Tooleys boatyard in Banbury are running a series of fun days on Saturday throughout the summer which can be booked via the website and proceeds will go to charities.

07.24.09 Playground

HD had spoken to Alan Smith regarding putting bark around the tree climber and slabs around the bench. Alan has agreed to these suggestions and is prepared to undertake the work on both items. It was agreed to ask Alan to lay the slabs but hold off on the bark.

07.24.10 Trees by NBW/Ownership of land

A letter had been sent to Mr & Mrs Blunt offering a meeting next week. Mr Blunt has agreed to the meeting, but wants responses to his queries in his last letter before the meeting. **HD will provide him with the responses ahead of the meeting**

07.24.11 Maintenance of the Secret Garden

The Pound (secret garden) until the early 1990s was Allotments but due to lack of use was turned over to the village. CDC paid for it to be turned into the Secret Garden, The PC no longer maintain it – the trustees of the charity have custody of the land. It was proposed that the PC take over the maintenance of the land. **It was agreed that the PC will register ownership of the land when permitted to by CDC and will undertake the maintenance,**

NO has asked CDC Common Land Department about registering common land and was told that there is no common land in Souldern, and that legislation does not permit registration of land and asked Cllr McHugh to clarify.

07.24.12 Drainage/Flooding/Sewage

Cllr McHugh had provided a document identifying the issues within Souldern. Some amendments were made and the document will be re-drafted. Cllr McHugh had spoken to Environmental Services at CDC but had no response yet. NO had spoken to the manager of McDonalds and was told that there had been a spike in issues due to a maintenance issue and no further incidents are predicted.

07.24.13 Swing Bridge

HD is discussing with Katy Draper who has had a letter from Countryside Officer at CDC who has advised that CDC have sent a statement indicating that they are no longer to assist with the matter.

'The public right of way over the towing path, bridges and other property of the British Waterways Board is subject to, and conditional upon, the exercise of the Board's powers and duties, including the right to obstruct and close the said right of way whenever required for the purposes of navigation, engineering and maintenance operations and in connection with authorised uses of the canal'

HD will respond to CDC pointing out that this problem is affecting the livelihood of a local farmer and that the problem needs to be resolved.

07.24.14 Village upkeep

NO has contacted Nicholsons to arrange appointment to look at the tree on The Hill, Lime @ Magpie Cottage, Oak in Back Lane

07.24.15 Planning – The following planning documents had been received**24/01754/F**

Nutcracker Cottage High Street Souldern Bicester
OX27 7JP

Change current sash windows to front facade with new sash windows in same material - only visual difference we would like a single vertical bar through window to create 4 panes instead of the current 16 small panes **NO TO DRAFT OBJECTION**

24/01761/F

St Josephs High Street Souldern Bicester
OX27 7LA

New Air Source Heat Pump; re-instatement of the original opening to the external wall to the west and replacement of the front garage door **NO OBJECTION**

24/01762/LB

St Josephs High Street Souldern Bicester
OX27 7LA

New Air Source Heat Pump; re-instatement of the original opening to the external wall to the west and replacement of the front garage door - **NO OBJECTION**

24/01975/TCA-5

Nol removal of Whitebeam, Foxhill Lane

Baynards house NO to draft response

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

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	132.69	0.0
HMRC	(re above)	26.67	0.0

Invoices approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Kompan	Playground inspection	107.06	17.84
Nigel Prickett	June Grass Cut	441.60	73.60
Nigel Prickett	July Grass Cut	441.60	73.60

Receipts

	Detail	Total £s	VAT
Interest	Playground Account	62.86	

Date of next meetings :

29th August (may be cancelled if no planning applications) ,26th September, 31st October, 28th November

Signed

Date

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Chair, Souldern Parish Council

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

NO	ACTION	OWNER
July24.01	Changing Room electricity meter - NO will make an appointment with SSE.	NO

Parish Clerk : Cathy Fleet
Glendale, Duns Tew, Bicester, Oxfordshire
Mobile : 07989 398 838

July24.02	Trees by NBW/ownership of land - HD will provide David Blunt with the responses ahead of the meeting,	HD
July24.03	Planning – NO to draft responses to CDC for Nutcracker Cottage and development at Baynards Green	NO
July24.04	Swing Bridge - HD will respond to CDC pointing out that this problem is affecting the livelihood of a local farmer and that the problem needs to be resolved.	HD