

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 25th September 2025

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR
Kate Green (KG)
Rob Large (RL)
John Hoodless (JH)
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

Cllr David Rogers
Cllr Gareth Epps
Abby Jeffs - RAF Croughton
Amanda Sharman

- 09.25.01 Apologies for absence**
No apologies had been received
- 09.25.02 Declarations of Interests**
There were no declarations of interest
- 09.25.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting**
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26th June 2025 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.
- 09.25.04 Public participation**
There were no members of the public present.
- 09.25.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting**
NO to write to the owner of the plot above Bovewell - still outstanding as address of purchaser unknown
NO to write to Land Registry regarding the boundary dispute of Gibbs Farm House - outstanding as Land Registry will want either mediation or attendance at a Tribunal.
- 09.25.06 Co-option of Amanda Sharman**
It was resolved to co-opt Amanda Sharman and she was welcomed and given the RoI and Acceptance of Office papers to sign.
- 09.25.07 Introduction from Abby Jeffs, Community Relations Advisor, RAF Croughton**
Abby is new to post and eager to form a relationship with SPC. She outlined her role and duties within RAF Croughton. She engages with Town and Parish councils and has an advisory role within the leadership of RAF Croughton. She also works with the airmen and their families and encourages them to carry out volunteering work within the community. She is currently in the process of engaging with communities with regard to Remembrance events.
- 09.25.08 Swing Bridge**
The problem has now been resolved.

09.25.08 Dog poo bin

The post supporting the bin has now been replaced.

09.25.10 Correspondence

- Fox Lane - overhanging shrubs. **NO to discuss with resident**
- Request from resident to provide a memorial bench outside the village hall. **NO to ask what type of bench and where they would like to site it.**
- Ash trees in the church yard close to SSE cables - SSE are waiting for CDC Tree officer to approve before carrying out work.
- St Georges and Union flag were raised on the King's birthday. Comment was received by resident and NO responded by saying that it was not politically motivated.

09.25.11 Reports from County/District Councillors (David Rogers –CDC) (Gareth Epps – OCC)

Both Councillors had submitted written reports which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Epps reported:

- A meeting (notes of which have been circulated) had taken place with parish councils, District and County Councillors and Callum Millar MP to discuss the current major planning proposals and the need for a holistic view of the scale and impact on villages and a transport strategy. None of the major plans are in the Local Plan and they are currently going through Parliament.
- The Councillor Priority Fund has been opened with £10K available over 2 years for small projects.
- JH raised the issue of Highways issues, particularly drains and gullies - Cllr Epps said that the gully clearance schedule will commence in this area in October. County Councillors have the ability to escalate Fix My Street reports and Cllr Epps encouraged problems to be reported to him.

Cllr Rogers reported:

- Cllr Rogers congratulated Cllr Epps on his initiative in setting up the meeting (referred to above).
 - He spoke of S106 funds available and explained how it works. He and Cllr Epps suggested that planning application responses could contain S106 demands, particularly with regard to road safety.
- Local Government Reform includes the business rates reset which is currently £274m per year for this area of which CDC keeps £12m. The government has announced a full business rates reset. The impact of these changes is expected to reduce the council's funding significantly.

09.25.12 Highways

- The pothole at the bottom of Foxhill Lane has been filled

09.25.13 Planning –The following planning documents had been received:

25/02347/DISC

The Old Rectory Street From
Souldern To Aynho Souldern
Bicester OX27 7HU

Discharge of Condition 7 (Written Scheme
of Investigation) of 22/02971/F

NO OBJECTION

<u>25/02267/F</u>	Home Farm House Bates Lane Souldern Oxfordshire OX27 7JU NO OBJECTION	Single storey extension to rear
<u>25/02020/F</u>	Toll Gate Souldern OX27 7HT Comment submitted re Position of gates	Erection of first floor rear extension and conversion of garage with raised roof along with formation of new vehicular access onto the B4100 and associated new gates and boundary treatment
<u>25/02099/TCA</u>	The Brambles Bates Lane Souldern OX27 7JU WORK COMPLETED	T1 : Prunus Cerasifera - Fell. T2: Conifer - Fell T3: Conifer - Fell T4: Ceanothus - Fell

09.25.12 Finance

The following accounts were approved for payment

Paid by standing order

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

Invoices to be approved

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Walker Services	Inv 252624	112.50	18.75	
Nigel Prickett	Inv 2561	463.20	77.20	

The bank reconciliation and quarterly report were received

The Clerk salary increase in line with NALC guidelines was approved.

Other matters

Bridleway to NBW needs maintenance - **KG to contact OCC Bridleways**
Clerk to chase Sanctuary re 4 Bovewell

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

30th October, 27th November

Signed

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

Date

No	Action	Owner	Update
May25.02	NO to write to the owner of the plot above Bovewell	NO	still outstanding as address of purchaser unknown
May25.03	NO to write to Land Registry regarding the boundary dispute of Gibbs Farm House	NO	outstanding as Land Registry will want either mediation or attendance at a Tribunal.
Sept25.01	Overhanging shrubs on Fox Lane - NO to discuss with resident	NO	
Sept25.02	Memorial bench outside village hall - NO to ask what type of bench and where they would like to site it.	NO	
Sept25.03	Bridleway to NBW - KG to contact OCC Bridleways	KG	
Sept25.04	Clerk to chase Sanctuary re 4 Bovewell	CF	Email sent 29/09