

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 3rd November 2016

Present: Alison Isherwood
 David Wilkins
 Mike May
 Rachel Blake
 Stephanie Johns (Clerk)

Apologies: Janet Potts

The meeting was pleased to welcome 10 members of the public.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
<u>Public Meeting</u>	<p>Prior to the PC Meeting, a village meeting was held to discuss superfast broadband at the Emmington end of the village. This was attended by Craig Bower from Better Broadband for Oxfordshire to answer questions.</p> <p>The meeting welcomed Craig Bower and was also pleased to welcome 9 members of the public.</p> <p>Craig explained that there is a 4 year programme for which to roll out faster broadband to 75,000 premises. Currently, the programme is scheduled for December 2017 for this area.</p> <p>Questions were asked about why the green cabinet can't be used. It was explained that the green cabinet in the centre of the village has been connected to fibre so all properties connected to this cabinet have access to superfast broadband, and have done so since September 2015. The properties at the Emmington end of the village, including Emmington itself, are direct exchange lines. The green cabinet previously linking them to the exchange was destroyed by a car many years ago hence the different method of connection. These lines are more expensive to connect and hence were left out of the first round but additional funding has now been secured and as a number of businesses / home workers are included, connection is now scheduled. These properties will be connected to fibre directly rather than via a cabinet which is considered better as everyone gets the same quality broadband.</p> <p>All postcodes mentioned at the meeting were confirmed by Craig as having planned fibre to premises by the end of December 2017. He also confirmed that all Service Providers will be available so users will not be confined to just BT.</p> <p>A survey will be undertaken in March 2017 after which a better idea of connection date will be known. The Parish Council will communicate this via Sydenham Mail when this information is available.</p>	
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	There were no declarations of interests.	
Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
Planning P16/S3243/HH	<p>6 Plough Corner, Sydenham, OX39 4LF</p> <p>Proposed rear extension, new roof with associated dormer windows and new roof to garage.</p> <p>Recommended for refusal as there are over-development issues with the proposed garage roof as it is considered oversized and intrusive. The Council would find it more acceptable if the garage roof is flat in structure.</p> <p>The first-floor windows of the extension present overlooking issues and should</p>	

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P16/S3360/HH	<p>be obscure glass and of a 'non-opening' nature.</p> <p>Blagons Cottage, 5 The Green, Sydenham, OX39 4LX Proposed single storey front extension Recommended for refusal as the design is considered out of keeping with the rural character of the surrounding area. If the floor to ceiling windows were changed to match those of the adjoining property, this would be considered more acceptable to the Parish Council.</p>	
Neighbourhood Planning	<p>With all the surrounding villages actively looking at a Neighbourhood Plan, the concern is that the need for one for Sydenham is becoming even more of a priority.</p> <p>Various people have shown an interest in helping if a Neighbourhood Plan is agreed. One of the interested parties is to be contacted to see whether they would be interested in Chairing the group if it is formed. An email has also been sent around asking for people's opinions.</p> <p>All interested parties will be emailed and invited to a Public meeting prior to the next PC meeting for a discussion.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>AI</p>
Development of Sydenham Grove	<p>A meeting with SOHA took place on 14th September to discuss progress.</p> <p>There are ongoing negotiations with SOHA regarding the site.</p>	MM
SSE electricity supply	<p>Agreements with landowners are progressing and meetings are ongoing.</p>	MM
Grass cutting	<p>This was deferred to December's meeting as there was no update to consider.</p>	MM
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	<p>The best storage location for the generator is being discussed with the OSR Committee.</p> <p>Approval is needed from the Church. JP is progressing this with the Rector.</p>	JP
Footpaths, TOE2	<p>TOE2 grant to be applied for the stiles etc. when the next grant application window opens.</p> <p>In order to apply for a TOE2 grant, 2 quotes are needed to improve the bridleway (which needs draining) past the Jays. This is ongoing but is proving to be difficult as it is a relatively small job.</p> <p>JP has spoken to a local farmer who is preparing a quote.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
Speeding	<p>AI attended a meeting in Chinnor with regards to replacing the SID with an alternative device. This was considered unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Following last month's meeting, a speed survey is arranged in the village and further action will be agreed once the results are available.</p>	AI
Playing Field Project	<p>Funding is to be applied for from SODC in conjunction with the Cricket Club.</p> <p>The A Frame in the playing field needs weeding which will be taken care of.</p> <p>The Clerk will check the Insurance documentation with regards to the annual Risk Assessments by RosPa.</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB/DW</p> <p>SJ</p>

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New Website	RB showed the Councillors her plans for the basis of the site and suggestions were made. This will now progress & regular updates will be made. An expense of £12.99 was approved which be presented for payment at the next meeting.	RB
<u>Finance</u>	A proposed budget for 2017/2018 is to be proposed and agreed so that it can be formally agreed at the next PC Meeting. The following items were approved for payment: £500 plus VAT to Oxfordshire County Council for speed survey data £3.07 to SSE for Defibrillator £150 to John Heathfield for tree removal at the Playing Field £1037 to Will Monday for grass cutting and general maintenance £ 124.61 to S. Johns for parish Clerk work prior to 1 st November	MM/DW
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £7,242.02	<i>October</i> Payments: £ 98.60 HMRC August – October PAYE £120.00 BDO External Audit Fee £ 3.07 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply £300.00 J.M. Wallington – hedge & verge cutting	Closing balance at 31.10.16 £6,720.35
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,250.71	£0.61 October interest received	£14,251.32
<u>Correspondence</u>	Oxon South & Vale CAB requesting a grant contribution – The Clerk is to check whether this is the same as Thame CAB	SJ
<u>Any Other Business</u>	A cheque was raised for the Parish Clerk (see above: Finances) for Parish work & training carried out prior to her start date. This was proposed by RH & seconded by DW. DW reported that a parishioner had requested reimbursement of £270 for materials used for work on a drain to create a soak-away for excess water on private land. Enquiries will be made to OCC Highways about responsibilities (Ongoing).	DW
There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 st December in the Old School Room at 7.30pm.		

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