

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Meeting of the Parish Council 8th March 2018

Present: Alison Isherwood (AI) - Chair
 Rachel Blake (RB)
 David Wilkins (DW)
 Janet Potts (JP)
 Mike May (MM)
 D/Cllr. Ian White (IW)
 Stephanie Johns (SJ - Clerk)

Apologies: None

1 member of the public was welcomed to the meeting.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	No interests declared	
Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
County Councillor Report	Prior to the planning session, D/Cllr Ian White (IW) spoke to the meeting about the Sydenham Grove application which was recently rejected at the Planning Committee meeting. He recommended the Council request SODC facilitate a meeting with SOHA to discuss alternatives to the current plan. SJ will write to the planning officer requesting this. (More information is below under Planning).	
Planning P17/S2649/FUL	Demolition of eight dwelling and erection of two 2 bedroom dwellings, three 3 bedroom dwellings & two 5 bedroom dwellings at 1-9 Sydenham Grove, Sydenham, OX39 4LP While we are not aware of the application going to appeal (there is a period of 6 months in which this must be done), it is right to be prepared and to have done a lot of the ground work ready for any discussions. The Council have therefore been looking at ways of strengthening the case to have a different format and variety of homes on the site. This has included coming up with an alternative scheme which has smaller (and therefore potentially more affordable) homes on the site, in more of a horseshoe style. Based on this we have been seeking advice on the valuations of these revised formats to see how they stack up against the current application.	All
P18/S0423/O	Outline application for erection of three detached two-storey/chalet style dwellings incorporating matters of access and layout with all other matters reserved at Land adjoining Park Villa, Sydenham Road, Sydenham, OX49 4LH. (Response date extended to 13/03/18) Parish Council Recommendation: Application should be refused (RB & MM to write the submission) SODC Decision: Target decision date 3rd April 2018	

Signed Date

Finance	<p>The following items were approved for payment:</p> <p>£ 3.09 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply £ 621.62 Clerk’s Salary (March) – including tax rebate £ 304.80 Solagen – Parts for vehicle activated sign (VAS) £ 260.00 Mick Cornfield – Repair of solar powered VAS £ 42.00 OPFA (Oxon Playing Fields Association) annual subs Apr 18 – Mar 19 £ 54.04 S. Johns expenses (Print cartridges)</p> <p>Budget 2018 / 2019</p> <p>The Council studied the proposed budget for the upcoming financial year and agreed the proposed expenditure against income. There was no increase in the precept this year as there is some money in the reserve fund that will be used. The Council have now had the insurance pay-out for the damaged VAS which will be used to pay for the new one in the new financial year. The budget will be on the website shortly.</p>	
<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £ 946.86</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,104.54</p>	<p>February Payments:</p> <p>£ 250.00 Will Munday general maintenance £ 3.09 to SSE for Defibrillator £ 317.12 Clerk Salary £ 29.80 PAYE £ 12.56 Dog Bin Emptying 01/10/17 – 31/12/17 £ 540.00 Paul Grafham (Cutting back overhanging branches) £ 53.22 S Johns Expenses (Email address for Clerk for one year) £ 86.11 Rachel Blake Expenses (Email address for Neighbourhood Plan for 2 years)</p> <p>Receipts:</p> <p>£2000.00 Transfer from Reserve Account £3695.00 Insurance pay out for VAS damaged in car accident</p> <p>Payments:</p> <p>£2000.00 Transfer to Parish Current Account</p> <p>Receipts:</p> <p>£0.49 February Interest received</p>	<p>Closing balance at 28/02/18</p> <p>£5349.96</p> <p>£12,105.03</p>
SSE electricity supply	<p>Further work is still to be completed and this is still estimated for the end of March / April. We are in constant communication with SSE to gauge if this is likely to be the case.</p>	<p>MM</p>
Speeding	<p>Potential drawings have finally been received for the new pinch point which have taken significant chasing and follow-up to get. Sadly, the budgets indicated are far exceeding any that we have been previously informed about. Jeannette Matelot (our D/Cllr) is now involved and has suggested that we work with an alternative contact at Highways who is likely to be able to react quicker and provide us with the information needed. In addition, Jeannette has promised a proportion of her grant allocation towards the project which will help with consultations etc. We know that Kingston Blount are also working on having another pinch point and SJ has contacted Cllr. M. Day to discuss budgets / process etc.</p> <p>We have now been able to claim on insurance and have quotes for a replacement of the VAS that was destroyed in the recent car accident. We are currently looking at having one which shows the actual speed of the vehicles, as</p>	<p>DW</p>

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	it is felt that this will be a more effective way of demonstrating to those travelling through that area the realities of the speeds they are travelling at.	
Playing Field Project	The basic structure of the A-Frame has been completed, but there is still work to be done to re-create the picnic table / den space underneath plus finish the surfacing space, replace the surfacing under the child swings and add a rope to the climbing structure to make it more interactive for younger children. RB will draft a formal letter (The clerk will send the letter) to the contractor asking for a site meeting for this to be discussed. Until then, the invoice will not be paid.	RB
Road Drainage & Potholes	DW has a new drainage contact and will follow up as soon as possible. There is no update on the situation currently.	DW
Neighbourhood Plan	There was a good turnout at the recent meeting. The area has been designated and work has started on the housing needs assessment. The application for a grant cannot be made until April (new financial year). They have been advised to speak to ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) as they may also be able to help. A new page will be added to the Parish Council website shortly. RB is assisting with this. Unfortunately, one member has had to leave the group so new volunteers are very welcome!	MM
Matters Arising	<p>Insurance for Sydenham Fayre</p> <p>The Parish Council are providing the insurance for the Fayre this year, but the current policy expires the day before the Fayre and our insurer has to change as they are no longer insuring councils. The earliest the Council can sign the policy is 3-4 weeks before the event, but the Road Closure Application needs to be made at least 4 weeks before the event. The application will be made using the old policy and the new one will be signed as soon as it is possible.</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>The Emergency Planning Officer from SODC had offered to come along to the Annual Parish Meeting to provide the community with information on staying safe in an emergency, and schemes on staying safe at home. This was discussed but was not considered something the community would attend in any worthwhile numbers. SJ will decline the offer.</p> <p>GDPR / Data Protection</p> <p>Revised data protection rules come into force on 25th May 2018 and a few changes may need to be made to the way we handle our data. RB & SJ will meet in the coming weeks to discuss what needs to happen.</p> <p>London Oxford Airport Consultation</p> <p>A public consultation is being held by London Oxford Airport. It was discussed but not felt that it would have any impact on the Parish. SJ will mention it on the next Sydenham Mail.</p> <p>Oxford-Cambridge Expressway & Growth Corridor</p> <p>Parish Councils are being asked to write to their MP demanding a public consultation & public inquiry with regards to the decision that is to be made about a new Expressway through Oxfordshire. It was felt that being that the road would be north of Oxford it would have little or no effect on the Parish.</p>	AI
Correspondence	Letter from OCC – Proposed update to the Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning & related applications – For information only (consultation finished 02/03/18) - Noted	SJ

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<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>Succession Planning In May 2019 the term for the current Parish Councillors comes to an end and they will need to reapply for their positions. Anyone within the Parish is also free to do this. This will be communicated in more detail nearer the time so that everyone is aware of the situation.</p> <p>Fireworks DW reported that the costs involved in having a community firework event are too high. Instead, a 'Halloween Village Day' was proposed and will be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>Village Clean-Up This is to be organised for Sunday 22nd April. JP will order the necessary equipment and SJ will communicate the event via Sydenham Mail.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room</p>		

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