

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 6th February 2014

Present: Paul Stancliffe
Roy Harrison
Alison Isherwood
Janet Potts
Rachel Blake
Heather Mullins

The meeting was pleased to welcome Cllr Nick Carter and David Read.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Minutes of last meeting	These were approved and signed.	
Defibrillator	<p>It has been suggested by the Community Heartbeat Trust that the defibrillator be gifted to the parish council and added to their asset register, as it will be more straightforward to insure. The parish council is happy for this to proceed. OALC have advised that if required, the remaining funds raised for the defibrillator can also be gifted to the parish council, to be ring fenced and spent in association with the maintenance of the defibrillator. This expenditure would be under the power of s137, and the total of the funds can be added to the s137 budget as the funds have been raised by public subscription for this specific cause.</p> <p>The parish council public liability insurance requires the electrical work to be certified and this is in hand.</p> <p>The electricity board are to be contacted by the defibrillator group to query if the supply is chargeable.</p>	
Sydenham Grange bridleway	<p>Cllr Nick Carter gave an update on his progress with this matter. As he summarised, there are effectively three routes for this bridleway - the existing route through the farmyard, the permissive path around Seapond Wood and the historic definitive route that crosses two fields. The owners, parish council and the Ramblers Association are in favour of adopting the current Seapond Wood temporary route, but objections have been received from CPRE and the Open Spaces Society who favour the historic definitive path. If there is an objection to whichever route is proposed then an Inspector has to be appointed to oversee the case.</p> <p>Cllr Carter suggested that Andy Sylvester at OCC might be able to arrange a meeting with CPRE and the Open Spaces Society to explore the issues, which the parish council would also wish to attend.</p> <p>The parish council asked Cllr Carter to ensure that this matter is dealt with as soon as possible and that an Inspector be appointed as soon as possible to decide if the objections are valid.</p> <p>Cllr Carter is keen for the parish council to be heard, and asked that the key points made at the meeting and to date be submitted to him in note form.</p> <p>Cllr Carter also summarised the latest situation regarding broadband provision in Oxfordshire, which is currently in a transition phase. The BT formal program has begun, and the onsite survey is still underway. Surveying is due to be completed by June and the Sydenham area should be surveyed in the Spring.</p>	HM

Signed Date

	Indications are that the majority of the village would receive broadband but that part may miss out - the survey will determine where the existing infrastructure is and which areas can easily be improved. BT are contracted to complete the Broadband program by the end of 2015.	32
Sydenham Voice	No report.	
Speeding	The bin stickers are now being used and are a good visual reminder to motorists. The newsletter will contain a piece about the stickers and the plans for the Community Speedwatch. PCSO Jacky Madden is liaising with AI regarding the Community Speedwatch equipment.	AI
Playing Field	The hedges have been trimmed, and several bushes behind the climbing frame will be removed to regain ground. The post and goal repairs will be carried out when the weather is suitable. The suggestion that equipment for older children could be included in the playing field was discussed. It was decided that to keep the character of the playing field and avoid overcrowding, the next time a piece of equipment needs to be replaced would be the best opportunity to do this. The climbing frame is likely to need replacing in the next couple of years.	
Tree maintenance	c/fwd	
Standing orders	The new model standing orders have been consulted and the recommended document for Sydenham has been compiled for PS to review. This can then be circulated to the parish council for comment and adopted at the next meeting.	PS HM
Drainage and flooding	Following the floodwater in the middle of the village which then froze, two accidents resulted in damage to the churchyard wall, which are being dealt with by the insurance companies. Three blocked drains have been reported to OCC Highways. When they attended site they decided that the water was too deep to carry out work. The 'Fixmystreet' interactive website shows the reported problems as fixed and when queried we were told that this is because they have been allocated to a contractor. The contractor has not fixed the problem. In the meantime Paul Stancliffe and Will Munday have investigated the drain by the Smithy and found that tree roots were causing a problem. They have cleared these roots and rodded the drain, and solved that particular flooding problem. Paul and Will have also investigated the flood problem opposite Coopers Yard, which is caused by silt being washed into the drain there. The drain does not have enough fall on it to keep clear of this much silt, especially when the destination ditch is full. Will has dug out the ditch to lower the level below the exit, which will then allow rodding to clear the drain. Dave Read asked if the parish council had any powers to get landowners to act. The South Oxford District Council and Environment Agency websites state that the 'riparian' landowners have a duty to keep watercourses clear and to maintain the drainage capacity of their own stretch of watercourse. SODC has powers to serve notices to clear. Several landowners along the length of the brook have removed obstacles/trees from the watercourse, and a team of volunteers have also cleared problems, but there are issues further along the route. The landowners details to be found so that contact can be made with a request to clear where required. The landowners who have failed to clear the drainage ditches along the Thame Road B4445 to be reported to SODC.	JP/RH AI

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<u>Finance</u>	<p>It was agreed that Roger Symes be asked to carry out the internal audit at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The following items have been authorised for payment: £61.08 repayment to Paul Stancliffe for expenses incurred with drainage works There will be a payment due to Will Munday at the next meeting as a result of the drainage works. The annual rent to the OSR is due - an invoice to be submitted. A summary of the annual payments to be brought to the next meeting to be approved and processed before the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>RH</p> <p>HM</p>
<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £5,618.18</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £7,736.43</p>	<p>Payments: £172.50 Clerk's salary £135.00 Repay Rachel Blake for bin stickers £132.40 PAYE for Nov-Jan</p> <p>No transactions</p>	<p>Closing balance at 31.01.13</p> <p>£5,178.28</p> <p>£7,736.43</p>
<u>Planning</u>		
<p>P13/S3730/HH and P13/S3732/LB</p> <p>P13/S3898/FUL</p> <p>P13/S3921/HH and P13/S3925/LB</p>	<p>Vicarage End, Sydenham Road Single storey flat roof rear extension with flat roof link to adjacent garage/outbuilding <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p> <p>Thatchings, Sydenham Road Erection of a detached two bedroom dwelling with parking, access and amenity space. <i>Recommended for refusal</i></p> <p>The Waterlane, Brookstones Demolish existing store on south elevation. Retain existing chimney stack. Erection of oak framed garden sun room and single storey side extension to south elevation. Alterations to existing 20C rear extensions including retention of oak framed entrance lobby with glazed roof. Fit new oak french doors to north elevation. Existing brickwork to 20C rear extension to be rendered in lime c/t render. <i>No strong views</i></p>	
<u>Correspondence</u>		
<p>OCC</p> <p>OCC</p>	<p>Flooding debrief</p> <p>Consultation draft Rights of Way Management Plan</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>RB</p>
<u>Any Other Business</u>		
<p>Phoenix Trail</p> <p>Roadsweeper</p>	<p>RB to walk the route with Peter Hetherington in April.</p> <p>The road cleaning team to be asked to visit the village as soon as possible around the bad weather, with a request to clear the weeds at the side of the roads.</p>	<p>HM</p>

Signed Date

<p>Mill House</p> <p>High Sherriff Award</p>	<p>The Whaler family have asked if there are any contacts who could advise on the flooding problems that they are experiencing at the end of their drive.</p> <p>On behalf of the parish council AI nominated Paul Stancliffe for an award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the village and the parish council. AI was delighted to announce that he will be presented with this award at a ceremony in Oxford on 4th March.</p>	<p>34</p> <p>JP</p>
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.45pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th March in the OSR at 8pm.</p>		

Signed Date