Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 5th January 2017

Present:	Rachel Blake (RB)
	David Wilkins (DW)
	Mike May (MM)
	Alison Isherwood (AI)
	Janet Potts (JP)
	Stephanie Johns (SJ - Clerk)
Apologies:	None

The meeting was pleased to welcome 4 members of the public.

Matters Arising		
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/S3360/HH	Blagons Cottage, 5 The Green, Sydenham, OX39 4LX Proposed single storey front extension. This has now been granted by SODC	
P16/S4269/HH	The Hedgerow, Brookstones, Sydenham, OX39 4LY Single storey rear extension Parish Council Recommendation: No objections	
P16/S3914/FUL	 18 Holliers Close, Sydenham, OX39 4NG - Proposed dwelling with enabling works to existing dwelling. Parish Council Recommended Refusal on 13th December 2016 due to overdevelopment. 	
Sydenham Grove Lynch from SOF discuss the agre return to Syden Michael May wi residents. The c	A meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 th January 2017 between Steve Lynch from SOHA and 2 residents of Bakers Piece House, Kingston Blount to discuss the agreement in a letter from SOHA in January 2015 that they could return to Sydenham Grove once the proposed redevelopment was complete. Michael May will attend on behalf of the Parish Council to support the residents. The other residents who moved from Sydenham to Bakers Piece House will be contacted and offered support if they also wish to return to Sydenham.	MM
	The strength of feeling from the Sydenham community as a whole is that the ex-residents from Sydenham Grove should be allowed to come back and 2 of the Councillors will investigate whether legal advice might be available. The covenant on Sydenham Grove is currently still in place until SOHA can demonstrate to SODC that there is no need for Social Housing in the village.	MM/DW
	SODC will be contacted to request that the Parish Council are informed if there is a plan to lift the covenant.	AI

Signed Date

		16/17/10
SSE electricity supply	More discussions have taken place and this is still progressing.	MM
Grass cutting	An allowance has been made for grass cutting costs in the budget for 2017 / 2018.	MM
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	A decision was made not to go through the whole faculty planning application as the costs are high and it is considered unlikely that the application would be approved due to the storage box for the generator being attached to a listed building and very close to a grave-stone. Instead, further discussions will be held with the OSR Committee. If this is unsuccessful, the proposal will be for the generator to be stored at the Crown Pub. Should this happen, it was noted that the Emergency Plan would need to be amended.	JP
Footpaths, TOE2	TOE2 grant to be applied for the stiles etc. when the next grant application window opens. In order to apply for a TOE2 grant, 2 quotes are needed to improve the bridleway (which needs draining) past the Jays. 2 Quotes are now expected imminently and both are aware that the work is subject to grant approval. A working party is still planned by the end of March to clear the undergrowth.	JP
Speeding	Keith Stenning from OCC Highways is still to review the results from the recent speed survey and a date is to be arranged to meet up in order to interpret the results and identify the points that are considered to be the worst. A new fluorescent jacket has been ordered as the other one was taken some time in December. In the meantime, an 'Ice' sign is to be put out in the road in an attempt to slow down motorists. Keith Stenning will also be reminded about the 'Dangerous Bend' signs that he promised. Enquiries will also be made about Road Narrowing and the possibilities of another survey.	AI
	The 'VAS' on the road from Chinnor into Sydenham is not currently working. DW will investigate this and SJ will investigate possible contacts for obtaining quotes to replace both VAS displays with something considered to be more effective.	DW / SJ g
Playing Field Project	A quote is still being sought for a replacement A Frame and new ropes for the climbing frame. The community grant previously applied for by SODC will reopen in March when it will be applied for again.	RB
New Website	RB is still progressing the website and it is hoped that it will be ready by the February meeting.	RB
Road Drainage & Potholes	Due to budget restraints, no more potholes will be filled for the immediate future. One of the drains is still needing attention and more discussions will be held in order to get this resolved.	
Parish Welcome Pack	RB has updated the welcome pack for newcomers to the Community. This will be emailed to SJ to file and print out 2 packs for new residents.	RB
Signad	Data	

Signed Date

Community Support		16/17/10
– D of E volunteer	The young D of E volunteer now has a list of jobs needing to be done in the village. He can only do one hour per week but as he didn't start in December, he has agreed to do a one-off cutting of the hedge which will take approx. 4 hours. All work in the future will be limited to one hour per week.	RB / JP
<u>Finance</u>	The following items were approved for payment: £ 3.07 to SSE for Defibrillator £100.00 donation to Oxon South & Vale Citizens Advice £143.53 RB Rachel Blake expenses (URL registration and the website builder tool for 3 years) £600.00 OCC (Speed Survey x 6) £ 20.00 Michael May expenses (Posters for SOHA meeting) The precept for 2017 / 2018 was discussed and agreed at £10,000 representing an 11% increase from 2016 / 2017. Due to a slight increase in the tax base, this means that it will be just under 10% increase per band D household, rising from £56.74 to £62.38. This is mainly due to the predicted costs of legal advice concerning Sydenham Grove as well as an allowance of £2000 towards the costs of speed reduction initiatives.	MM/DW
	A donation to Chinnor Village Centre was discussed as one was made at the same time last year. It was agreed to wait for the time being as usually a letter of request is received.	
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £5,530.67	December Payments: £ 244.90 Clerk's Salary £ 3.07 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply	Closing balance at 30.12.16
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,251.22	 £ 12.56 Dog Hygiene Bin emptying Receipts: £ 0.12 December Interest received Payments: £150.00 John Heathfield 	£5,270.14 £14,101.67
<u>Correspondence</u>	Correspondence protocol was discussed and it was agreed that if any documents are to be sent on behalf of the Council, these will be channelled to and sent formally from the Parish Clerk. General emails and communication will continue as before.	SJ
<u>Any Other Business</u>	High Sheriff's Award: RB has completed the nomination form for the award for the nominee. This will be emailed to SJ to submit on behalf of the Parish Council.Online Banking: SJ is to collect the forms from the Bank and check whether it is best to arrange this before officially removing the previous Clerk's authority on	RB SJ

Signed Date