

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2024 at Slade Farm

Present: Michael May (MM) - Chair
 Vicki Roe (VR) - Vice Chair
 David Wilkins (DW)
 Tara Glen (TG)
 Heather Mullins (HM) - Clerk

The meeting was pleased to welcome James Knight, and Cllrs Ali Gordon-Creed and Ed Sadler

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| 129 | Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda) | None. | |
| 130 | Minutes of previous meeting | The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed. | |
| 131 | Parish Council vacancy | James Knight was proposed for co-option to the parish council and received a unanimous vote in favour. The Acceptance of Office form was signed. | |
| 132 | Planning | P24/S3028/FUL 18 Holliers Close, Sydenham OX39 4NG Retrospective application for proposed front, rear and loft extensions to existing dwelling, and subdivision of extended dwelling into two separate dwellings. <i>Parish Council response – objection</i> Our District Councillors are seeking a meeting with SODC Head of Enforcement to discuss lack of disincentive and understand the process. It is important that the character of the village is protected and no precedent is set. Possibility of contacting MP discussed. | |
| 133 | Finance | The following items were approved for payment: £8.75 Virtual Landline £5.42 SSE electricity supply for defibrillator £476.25 Clerk's salary £54.00 Pet Waste Solutions £83.91 HS planting expenses – Fayre £234.00 Community Heartbeat defibrillator equipment exchange £1,458.32 ET Sheppard – balance of commemorative plaque £1,620.00 BGG – complete removal of willow tree £50.00tbc ONPA membership renewal £33.88 DW expenses – fuel for mower £50.00 S. Williams – maintenance £18,801.94 Drayton Construction – culvert works £2,862.00 Community Heartbeat Trust – new defibrillator | |
| | NatWest Current a/c: b/f £243.32 | Payments: £54.00 Pet Waste Solutions, dog bin emptying £47.00 DW expenses - fuel and oil £50.00 S. Williams - strimming | Closing balance at 31/10/24 |

Signed Date

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| | NatWest Reserve a/c: b/f £41,124.85 | <p>£966.00 Grafham Construction Ltd - footpath maintenance £83.91 Hayley Smith - village planting - from ringfenced funds £19.99 Amazon - multi USB charger £8.75 Virtual Landline £234.00 Community Heartbeat - defibrillator removal/installation £1,458.32 ET Sheppard, balance of payment for coronation stone £5.24 SSE - electricity supply for defibrillator £2,900.00 transfer to reserve account</p> <p>Receipts: £1,850.00 total of transfers from reserve account £4,820.00 Aviva insurance payment for VAS claim</p> <p>Payments: £1,850.00 total of transfers to current account</p> <p>Receipts: £2,900.00 transfer from current account £47.36 interest received October</p> | <p>£609.86</p> <p>£42,222.21</p> |
| 134 | | Draft budget 2025/26 discussed, amended version to be circulated for December meeting. | HM |
| 135 | Matters carried forward | <p>Playing field The Cricket Club have a working party on 23rd November to maintain the nets. The possibility of applying for a Councillor Community Grant was discussed. DW to look at options. Village opinion to be sought.</p> | DW/SM |
| 136 | | <p>VAS signs, existing and 20mph replacements The insurance claim for the large VAS on the B4445 has been paid and the replacement sign is on order. The two 20mph signs have been installed. OCC have been asked to clarify ownership and responsibility for insurance and maintenance.</p> | |
| 137 | | <p>Speeding The Community Speedwatch signage was agreed. All sites have been approved for use, and the speed gun authorised for use. Another appeal to be made for volunteers. A further stock of bin stickers to be purchased and expenditure of £120 approved.</p> | <p>SM/NL</p> <p>HM</p> |
| 138 | | <p>Village repairs and maintenance The order for replacement village gates has been placed. An installation date to be sought now that the Sydenham Road works have been completed. Two quotations for the maintenance schedule have been received and a further two awaited. Changes to the draft budget made accordingly. A potential sink hole in the road outside the church has been reported on FixMyStreet. A sewage leak on the footpath near The Jays has been highlighted – to be reported to Thames Water. Village working party for brook clearance and other tasks arranged for 23rd November.</p> | <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>MM</p> <p>HM</p> |

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| 139 | | Drainage and flooding The Sydenham Road culvert works have been successfully completed. The second phase of flood works to include the culvert by the Inn at Emmington and Brookstones is scheduled for w/c 9 th December. Blocked drains near the Mill House have been reported on FixMyStreet and raised with OCC. | MM MM |
| 140 | | Footpaths and bridleways Two areas of Sewells Lane bridleway have been identified for improvement with the addition of hardcore with agricultural fabric underneath. Work suggested for the spring, with estimated expenditure of £1000 for materials and £1000 for labour approved. Ditching alongside Sewells Lane bridleway to be assessed. | MM |
| 141 | | Fayre Committee A newsletter item to be written giving details of how the funds raised this year have been distributed. | |
| 142 | | Emergency Plan Review The final contact details are being added to the document and the core group are to meet and agree how they will activate the Plan if required. Multiway charger purchased, and property marking labels to be sourced. | DW HM |
| 143 | | Assets of Community Value The number of nominations approved by South Oxfordshire is vastly lower than the national average. A meeting with the leader of SODC has been requested to discuss the application process. | MM |
| 144 | | Coronation Stone The stone has been installed and a blessing is to be arranged by the Churchwardens. | |
| 145 | | Defibrillator supply Community Heartbeat have arranged removal of the old unit and installation of the new for 7 th November. Signs will be in place on the kiosk until the new unit has been registered with the ambulance service. No update from SSE regarding the ongoing electricity supply. Disconnection to be requested once the new unit is in place. Solar/battery (motion sensor) lighting options to be investigated. | HM JK |
| 146 | | Neighbourhood Plan Review The village meeting will be held on 22 nd January with details to be publicised on Sydenham Mail and in the newsletter. Due to the size of the review it will require a full referendum. The review will keep the plan in line with government and local policies and will ensure that the village has the strongest possible influence over development in our parish. | TG/MM |
| 147 | Matters Arising | Joint Local Plan consultation The parish council has nothing to add to the comments already submitted. | |
| 148 | | Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25 NALC have agreed a salary award, with a pay increase to be backdated to 1 st April 2024. For the Clerk's salary this would be an hourly rate of £19.66 (SCP28) with the monthly increase being £15.25 and | |

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| | | backdated pay of £122. This was approved by the parish council. Payroll to be notified. | HM |
| 149 | Correspondence | OCC – School applications for Reception (September 2025) OALC – Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25 SODC – Councillor Community Grant Scheme closing date SODC – Electoral Register request to clerks OALC – October member’s update | N. boards HM |
| 150 | AOB | Daffodils - expenditure approved for order of 1000 bulbs and a working party for planting arranged for 16 th November. | HM/TG |
| <p style="text-align: center;">There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15pm The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th December 7.00pm in the Old School Room</p> | | | |

Signed Date