

# Sydenham Parish Council

## Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

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

Apologies: Alison Isherwood  
Janet Potts

The meeting was pleased to welcome 3 members of the public.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
<u>Public Meeting</u>	<p>Prior to the PC Meeting, a meeting was held. The meeting welcomed Ricardo Rios and Rachael Riach who are Planning Policy Officers at SODC to again discuss the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan. Various members of the community had previously expressed an interest but sadly only 2 attended. The discussions included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) worth doing since...               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sydenham is not a particularly sustainable location for development anyway due to a lack of infrastructure.</li> <li>b. There are already houses being built that would meet Sydenham's growth target – not much point of allocating houses.</li> <li>c. Local plan policies appear adequate in Sydenham's case</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Do NDP's give villages control over development/can they protect villages from unwanted development?</li> <li>3. Why, in places such as Chinnor and Chalgrove, have NDP's not offered the kind of protection from development that was expected?</li> <li>4. Concern over coalescence and traffic from growth in surrounding towns and villages</li> <li>5. The lack of 5 year land supply and the issue of speculative development (so long as it is sustainable and would not cause significant harm)</li> <li>6. That a NDP isn't just about housing policies and allocations. It can be about design, character, landscaping and can include Local Green Space designations as well as provide information and evidence on what places in the village are of particular importance and whether there is a local need for a particular type of housing. Policies around these can impact future development</li> <li>7. That a robust evidence base is vital when it comes to creating a NDP that works at planning application stage.</li> <li>8. There are alternatives to a neighbourhood plan for providing a focus for improving and having an impact on the future of the village for example, Community-led plans.</li> </ol> <p>Some potential next steps were suggested including, revisiting the thought to instead do a Community Led Plan, exploring local green space designation for areas considered particularly important to the village and doing a character assessment to promote the best aspects of the village.</p>	

Signed ..... Date .....

	<p>However, as there is very little appetite or interest for involvement from the village and nothing is convincing the parish Council of the value of a plan, there are no longer plans to actively progress.</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/S1237/FUL	<p><b>1 Holliers Close, Sydenham (Schedule of materials)</b> We are awaiting confirmation of the schedule of materials promised as part of the approval of the planning application.</p>	
P16/S3360/HH	<p><b>Blagons Cottage, 5 The Green, Sydenham, OX39 4LX</b> Proposed single storey front extension Recommended for approval.</p>	
P16/S3914/FUL	<p><b>18 Holliers Close, Sydenham, OX39 4NG</b> Proposed dwelling with enabling works to existing dwelling Councillors planning to visit site to view it in more detail before making decision.</p>	
Development of Sydenham Grove	<p>A meeting with SOHA in November involved much discussion about the next stage of the development, including the imminent planning application for the site. Thus, the Parish Council have insisted that SOHA run an open clinic in the village to present the plans and to be open to discussion and questions about the development from the community. This session will also include their planning consultant and architect.</p> <p>This part of the Parish Council meeting was also joined by three previous residents of The Grove who were concerned about their right to return to Sydenham once the development has been completed (which was what they felt had been promised when they moved away). It is imperative that the site is developed, particularly as it is becoming even more of a derelict eyesore as the days go by, however as a Parish Council we are keen to see it being sympathetic to the rural environment in which it sits in, while also delivering some housing to sustain a younger community for the village and potentially addressing some of the calls for additional housing which regularly features on national and local news.</p> <p>A clinic has therefore been arranged for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. to see the plans in more detail. It will also enable the Parish Council team to gauge perceptions from the community of how they would like the site to be developed and whether to approve, refuse or offer no strong views on the planning application.</p> <p>John Howell will be contacted to advise him of the plans and the potential issues.</p> <p>The Clerk will request copies of any pre-application advise given to SOHA from SODC quoting the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>SJ</p>

Signed ..... Date .....

SSE electricity supply	Elements for the undergrounding have shifted again with some more negotiations now required with wayleave agreements, however progress is being made.	MM
Grass cutting	An allowance for grass cutting costs will be made in the budget for 2017 / 2018. This will be confirmed at the meeting in January 2017.	MM
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	The Deputy Registrar needs to consult the Chancellor for his views as to whether a Faculty is required to build the storage box for the generator on the proposed site. There may be a charge of £160 + VAT for this. Approval was given for this expenditure though a cap 2 hours was stipulated.	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. The local farmer is still to provide a quote for the work. MM is investigating the possibility of another contractor.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the Community Volunteering Charity to discuss cutting back the brambles and clearing the vegetation from some of the footpaths around the village. This would involve getting a local company who as part of their social corporate responsibility are seeking to 'give back' to the community. We are also actively pursuing sorting out some of the drainage issues for footpaths around the village too and looking to apply for the TOE 2 grant to achieve this.</p>	JP
Speeding	The results have not yet been received from the recent speeding survey through the village to determine what we are going to do next. This is expected shortly and a decision will be made with regards to next steps	JP
Playing Field Project	There is no budget for a new A Frame left for grants but this reopens in March when it will be applied for. RB will obtain a quote and bring it to the next meeting.	RB
New Website	RB is still progressing the website but the contact has been in hospital. All the information and images are ready to go. This just needs to be communicated to the contact to ensure agreement.	RB
High Sheriff's Award	Applications are invited for nominations for High Sheriff's Awards for the year 2016/2017. The purpose of these awards is to recognise people in Oxfordshire who have made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live and work. One nominee was discussed and an application will be made	RB
Community Support	A young parishioner in the village is working towards his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. As part of the award, he would like to commit to helping in the community as he must commit to one hour per week for 12 months.	RB / JP

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	<p>Potential tasks were discussed and the following were suggested:          Treating the wood of the current equipment in the park          Treating the wooden signs and benches in the village          Remove one of the benches          Remove (before March) and replace the hedge outside the OSR          Treat the bus shelter          All tasks are to be supervised</p>	
<u>Finance</u>	<p>The following items were approved for payment:          £ 3.07 to SSE for Defibrillator          £ 12.56 SODC (Dog Bin emptying)          £244.90 Clerk's Salary          The precept for 2017 / 2018 was discussed but will be formally agreed at the January meeting when all Councillors are present.          The Clerk suggested that the Payroll be managed externally at a cost of £81 per year. This was agreed and the Clerk will make the arrangements.</p>	MM/DW
<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £6,720.35</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,251.32</p>	<p><i>November</i>          Payments:          £1037.00 Will Munday – Grass Cutting          £ 124.64 Parish Clerk Salary for work before starting          £ 3.07 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply          £ 25.00 Safe Custody Hold Charge</p> <p>£ 0.23 November interest received</p>	<p>Closing balance at 30.11.16</p> <p>£5,530.64</p> <p>£14,251.55</p>
<u>Correspondence</u>	<p>Help Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice have requested a donation to help with their running costs. The Clerk is to write to them wishing them well but are unable to contribute this year.</p>	SJ
<u>Any Other Business</u>	<p>DW had a lengthy meeting with the authorities to address the potholes through-out the village and also the recurring drains issue which causes areas of the village to flood. As a consequence, some of the potholes have been filled, with other larger areas being added to the repair schedule to be fixed using larger equipment.          Where possible the drains were blasted through to make sure they were clear, however some which were perceived to be cleared by the authorities quite clearly are not as they have in fact collapsed. More discussions will be held in order to get this resolved.</p>	DW
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.          The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Old School Room at 7.30pm.</p>		

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