

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 1st May 2014

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

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Annual meeting	Due to the timing of the district/parish elections the Annual meeting has to be moved. The first ten items on the agenda are therefore to be moved to the meeting on 5th June. In the meantime PS and HM to review the Financial Regulations.	PS/HM
Minutes of last meeting	These were approved and signed.	
Sydenham Voice	SV will not be attending parish council meetings in future. SV requested update on how broadband is progressing. PS to direct John Ashfield to Dorothy Brown. SODC are providing a budget to OCC to help promote the broadband provision. We are reliant on Chinnor receiving broadband. BT are timetabled to survey the area during April and are committed to installing broadband by the end of 2015.	PS
Sydenham Grange Bridleway	As yet no feedback has been received from Sydenham Grange regarding OCC's decision not to support the diversion. The compromise solution proposed by the Ramblers Association has not been successful, as OCC felt the dedication of a further route would not be approved. The parish council has no evidence that it would be in the public interest to submit a diversion application themselves.	
Drainage and Flooding	Further to the meeting on Tuesday 29th April, PS is to meet Dave Read and Mike May to walk the village and compile a map for Gordon Hunt showing the areas of concern regarding drains, ditches and watercourses, including details of the landowners along the Thame Road. Once Gordon receives this information he will come to site and agree what needs to be done, and we can agree who can carry out the work. It was suggested that we use the closure of Sydenham Road as a chance to carry out work along that stretch of road - quotes to be obtained for the ditch clearance works that could be offered to Gordon's team as an option. In the first instance the parish council can ask landowners to clear blocked watercourses, or for permission for volunteers to go onto the land to carry out the work.	PS PS
Defibrillator	The electricity board (SSE) have issued forms for completion to get the supply officially recognised. Gilly and HM to complete in the name of the parish council.	

Signed Date

	The certification of the electrical work can now be issued, and the defibrillator will then be added to the asset register on this date. The insurance policy will include the defibrillator on renewal.	09 HM
Speeding and the Community Speed Detection Scheme	The scheme has been very successful - a summary of the results was shown to the meeting. A press release has gone out and there will be an article in the newsletter. There has been a noticeably higher volume of traffic during the Thame Road road closure. During the Speedwatch 100 cars were logged travelling in one direction in just half an hour during peak time. In view of this, Jacky Madden has been asked for a police presence in the village.	
Playing Field	PS and RH to look at the uprights on the swings.	PS/RH
<u>Finance</u>	Three insurance companies were asked for quotes and the cover was compared. The quotation from Aon was approved. Aon to be asked for an additional quote for general maintenance cover on the VAS signs. The cricket club to be asked for a copy of their insurance, and to put up the usual sign on the practice nets. The following items have been authorised for payment: £486.05 Aon insurance renewal The option of online banking has been discussed with NatWest bank and the forms obtained for future completion. The Draft new model Financial Regulations to be reviewed for circulation before the Annual Meeting in June.	HM HM PS/HM
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £1,640.96	Payments: £172.50 Clerk's salary £20.00 ORCC membership renewal £136.30 HMRC PAYE for Feb-Apr 14 Receipts: £4,000.00 SODC precept part 1 £202.00 SODC council tax support grant	Closing balance at 30.04.14 £5,514.16
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £7,737.19	No activity	£7,737.19
<u>Planning</u>		
P14/S1061/FUL and P14/S1062/LB	P14/S1061/FUL and P14/S1062/LB St Mary's Church, Sydenham Road Rebuilding the damaged church wall. Replacement of the wall capping to the curved section of the wall. <i>Both recommended for approval.</i>	
P14/S1194/FUL	Thatchings Sydenham Road Erection of a detached two-storey two bedroom dwelling with parking, access and amenity space. <i>To be recommended for refusal</i> Dorothy Brown to be consulted	PS

Signed Date

<u>Correspondence</u>		
OALC	Facebook/Twitter accounts for parish councils	
<u>Any Other Business</u>		
VAS sign on Thame Road	Solagen have now completed the works on the sign and returned it to site. The technical report has been forwarded to the insurance company, who advise that the fault would not be covered on the policy and no claim can be made. However the total repair bill is less than originally anticipated as the sign face and control board were repaired instead of replaced. The updated maintenance logs have been received.	
Clerk's annual review	RB and HM to meet next week.	RB
Community Resilience / Emergency Plan	Following the APM, it was decided that an Emergency Plan would be an excellent idea. JP and RB to move this idea forward, and will include a piece in the next newsletter. An important stage of the plan is identifying useful volunteers (eg doctor/nurse/plumber/electrician/farmer with generator etc) who would be willing to be listed with contact phone numbers, and deciding on two reception centres (ideally 500m apart). A stock of sandbags was suggested.	JP/RB
Electricity supply	SSE have now issued revised plans for the proposed electrical improvements to both high and low voltage supplies. There remains a section of overhead cable across the Mill House land. A strong case has been put to SSE to underground this stretch but the cost (approximately £100,000) cannot be justified to Ofgen. There are also proposals for a section of the line from Watlington to be undergrounded. The two current transformers near the Stert junction are being removed and replaced with a single transformer at high level. SSE are committed to carrying out this work during the current financial year. The main supply to the village will come from Watlington, and the secondary supply will come from Stoke Talmage. With the installation of more switch gear and the work being carried out in other locations Sydenham should be ensured of a more robust supply.	
Biodegradable bags for food recycling	Following the enquiry at the APM, further information is awaited about the biodegradable bags.	JP
Poppies	The commercial offer for commemorative poppy seeds was not viable, but the clerk has purchased a packet of seeds to sow below the memorial plaque in the church wall.	HM
Midsomer Murders	Bentley Productions are proposing to film in Sydenham again, further details to be confirmed.	
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th June in the OSR at 8pm.</p>		

Signed Date