

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 3rd September 2015

Present: Alison Isherwood
Rachel Blake
Janet Potts
Mike May
David Wilkins
Heather Mullins

The meeting was pleased to welcome District Councillors Lynn Lloyd and Ian White, speakers Peter Canavan and Christian Saxford, and two members of the public.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
Improving mobile signal coverage	Christian Saxford from EE gave a presentation covering the possible options for improving mobile signals in the village and the technicalities involved. Several booster boxes would be required in the village, and location criteria would need to be met. There may be planning issues for the conservation area, and there would be an annual cost of £150-200 per box for the power required. If the village wished to proceed we would need to appoint a Champion to liaise with EE and then identify suitable locations for the boosters. Following discussion it was agreed that other equivalent options should be researched, for example Vodafone and O2, and a Sydenham Mail to be sent to seek opinion from the village.	AI
Update on Folly planning application	The owners reported that further to the rejected appeal on their original planning application they have gone through a pre-planning process with SODC and are intending to submit a new application involving demolition and rebuilding. Simple visualisations were shown to the meeting for information. Thanks were expressed to SODC for their help in the pre-planning process.	
Neighbourhood Planning briefing	Peter Canavan, the Senior Planning Officer from SODC gave a very informative briefing, covering the background to Neighbourhood Plans, what they can achieve, and what is involved in the process, and sources of grant funding. He also spoke about the Core Strategy and sustainable areas for development. It is important that a plan has community support - opinions to be sought via questionnaire.	
Speeding on the B4445	Chinnor Parish Council have confirmed that the developers in Chinnor will not be going forward with a pinch point by the old garden centre site. The estimated cost for Sydenham to fund a pinch point on the B4445 near the Emmington junction is now £10,000. The lack of OCC support to be discussed with John Howell at his September visit to the parish.	All
Playing field	Works have been delayed but there should be an update in a few days. The SODC Tree Officer has advised that the cherry trees should be topped and thinned and the ivy removed as opposed to the requested felling of the middle tree. This will require an ongoing programme of maintenance. John Heathfield	

Signed Date

	<p>to speak to the tree officer to discuss the preferred option of felling, which he feels is more suitable, and which will enable the hedge underneath the trees to grow.</p> <p>The cricket club would like to make a hardstanding base for the practice nets and will put forward a proposal at the next PC meeting - item to be included on the agenda.</p> <p>It was decided that a chain and combination padlock should be put on the playing field gate while other security options are investigated.</p>	20 HM DW
Speeding sign design competition	Four winning entries were selected, and prizes will be awarded accordingly. It was suggested that the various designs are used for both roadside signs and bin stickers. Prices to be investigated for both these options.	RB RB
Development of Sydenham Grove	Discussions are ongoing with both SOHA and SODC Planning Department. An application has been submitted for the demolition of the empty properties in the Grove but it is felt that this is premature until further details are provided for both the demolition scheme and potential development scheme. There are also concerns regarding the limited access, and the noise and nuisance for residents in the vicinity. The planning application was discussed and recommended for refusal.	
SSE electricity supply	The pumping station at Kingston Stert is due for connection this evening. The alternative option for the final stretch of the village supply undergrounding scheme is being considered.	MM
Broadband	The cabinet on the green is due to be connected on 15th September. The estimated connection date for the Emmington end of the village is March 2017 if the copper rearrange can be done. This issue to be brought to John Howell's attention. It was suggested that we go straight to BT for action on the copper rearrange.	All AI
Grass cutting	Larger scale plans have now been received - alternative quotations to be obtained.	HM
Sustrans	c/fwd	RB
Road cleaning	The road sweeper has not visited as requested - Biffa to be contacted.	HM
Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant	It was decided to apply for the grant, and there was discussion regarding the equipment to be included and costs involved. The application will be for a generator of suitable size to power the OSR for an emergency centre.	RB
Meeting with John Howell MP	A meeting has been scheduled for 28th September. The OSR to be booked. The suggested agenda for discussion is the redevelopment of Sydenham Grove, the broadband supply for the Emmington end of the village and the pinch point for the B4445.	HM All
<u>Finance</u>	<p>The following items were approved for payment by BACS: £85.00 SODC uncontested election fees £120.00 BDO external audit fees</p> <p>The annual audit has been received from BDO with one minor issue where an empty box should have contained a zero. The annual return is approved and accepted by the Parish Council, and the required notice is on display.</p> <p>The bank reconciliation was approved and signed.</p> <p>The SSE contract for the electricity supply to the defibrillator has been renewed at the current rate.</p>	

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NatWest Current a/c: b/f £4,030.24	Payments: £183.92 Clerk's salary £135.00 RJS (IA) Ltd, internal audit £1000.00 Heathfield Tree Services - playing field equipment £3.06 Southern electricity, supply to defibrillator	Closing balance at 31.08.15 £2,708.26
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £10,742.98	£0.41 Interest received	£10,743.39
<u>Planning</u>		
P15/S2189/HH	Harmony Cottage, Brookstones Proposed outbuilding - ancillary use to existing property <i>Permission GRANTED</i>	
P15/S2662/HH	18 Holliers Close Erection of a single storey front, side and rear extensions and external alterations <i>No strong views</i>	
P15/S2080/D	4 Sydenham Grove Demolition of two pairs of semi detached dwellings and one semi detached dwelling <i>Recommended for refusal</i>	
<u>Correspondence</u>		
SODC	Council tax reduction scheme grant South Oxfordshire audit of village and community halls Sunday trading hours	HM
OCC	Household waste recycling centres strategy for Oxford Publication of Oxfordshire minerals and waste Local Plan Part 1 Supported transport (subsidised buses and Dial-a-Ride) consultation	n/l n/l / s/m
<u>Any Other Business</u>		
Footpath map on the green	Peter Quanton has very kindly repaired and sealed the frame for the footpath map. The map itself has been printed on acrylic to avoid problems with cracking. Thanks to be expressed in the newsletter.	RB
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.55pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st October in the OSR at 8pm.</p>		

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