

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2023 at the Old School Room

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

119	Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
120	Minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
121	Planning	<p>Public Planning Inquiry PINS Ref: APP/Q3115/W/23/3323268 Original Planning Application P22/S4643/O 150 residential dwellings off of Thame Road, Chinnor</p> <p>The Public Planning Inquiry heard closing arguments on Friday 20 October. These were presented by the barristers for Sydenham & Chinnor Parish Councils (the "Rule 6" Party); SODC and the Appellant, Gleeson Land.</p> <p>Throughout the inquiry Sydenham & Chinnor Parish Councils provided a lot of detailed evidence as to the potential negative impact of the proposed development. The Rule 6 parties have been strongly supported by the local community and are very grateful for the numerous attendees at the inquiry, the petition signatories and the villagers who have answered questionnaires and written objections. The Planning Inspector will now conclude his report and a decision about the application is expected before the end of the year.</p> <p>P22/S2339/HH Wheatsheaf Barn, Sydenham Road, Sydenham Addition of first floor. Internal remodelling, change of glazing and addition of roof lights. (Bat surveys submitted 11 July 2023 and as amended by plans received 04 October 2023) <i>SODC decision – permission granted</i></p> <p>P23/S2670/HH and P23/S2674/LB The Water Lane, Brookstones Retrospective Listed Building and Householder application to regularise unauthorised alterations to works approved under P13/S3921/HH and P13/S3925/LB <i>SODC decision – permission granted</i></p>	
122	Finance	<p>The following items were approved for payment:</p> <p>£7.96 Virtual Landline £5.06 SSE electricity supply for defibrillator</p>	

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		<p>£451.25 Clerk's salary £36.00 Pet Waste Solutions £953.52 Grafham Construction Limited – works to Sewells Lane BW £200.00 Barry Powell, painting the telephone box</p>	
	<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £1,116.48</p> <p>NatWest Reserve a/c: b/f £46,964.54</p>	<p>Payments:</p> <p>£451.25 Clerk's salary for September £18.01 Amazon - printer cartridge £90.00 Playsfety RoSPA inspection £36.00 Pet Waste Solutions, dog bin emptying for September £8.75 Virtual Landline £500.00 Churchyard (c/o Nick Potts) - Fayre beneficiary £300.00 Aston Rowant School - Fayre beneficiary £500.00 St Marys fabric fund - Fayre beneficiary £42.84 DW expenses - fuel for mower £5.06 SSE Southern Electric - supply to defibrillator</p> <p>Receipts:</p> <p>£1,000.00 transfer from reserve account</p> <p>Payments:</p> <p>£1,000.00 transfer to current account</p> <p>Receipts:</p> <p>£59.43 interest received</p>	<p>Closing balance at 31/10/23</p> <p>£164.57</p> <p>£46,023.97</p>
		Draft budget for 2024/2025 circulated. To be discussed in detail at the December meeting.	
123	Matters carried forward	<p>Playing field</p> <p>The existing hedge has been done and a quote is being sought for the planting at the front. Expenditure of up to £1000 approved to enable the order to be placed for suitable plating time. The trees behind the swings to be trimmed – expenditure approved.</p> <p>New edging to be installed to the bark areas – expenditure approved.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>
124		<p>Chicane installation on B4445</p> <p>The installation is almost complete, with just the solar light to be done. The results from the VAS data show a marked reduction in speed and it is much easier to join the main road from the junction.</p>	
125		<p>20mph zone</p> <p>Update awaited from OCC for the replacement VAS signs. Speeding past the playing field and towards the pinch point discussed. Highways to be contacted with a request for a site visit to look at possible options.</p>	HM
126		<p>Village repairs and maintenance</p> <p>The hedging has been done and the ditches cleared on the straight by Slade Farm. Most other hedging complete, while The Jays and Sewells Lane clearance require a flail.</p> <p>At the site meeting from point 125, Highways to be asked about the drainage pipe under the road causing flooding by the pinch point due to lack of capacity.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>HM</p>

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		Recent main road flooding caused by debris in the ditches towards Towersey. Thame Council to be contacted regarding action on this. Road sweeper to be requested once roadside edges cleared.	HM DW/HM
127		Footpaths and bridleways Further drainage work to be done to Sewells Lane – expenditure approved.	DW
128		Fayre Committee Nothing to report.	
129		Coronation Stone The mock-up was shown to the council and approved with one amendment to the text. Church wardens to be contacted regarding taking this forward and applying for a faculty.	HM
130		Annual Parish Meeting Hall confirmed for 26 th April 2024. Discussion c/fwd.	
131		Salt bins and stocks The new bin has been ordered and should be in place before Christmas.	
132		Grant of access over Registered Village Green One final amendment was suggested for the final draft of the deed, which will now be prepared for agreement with the other party and for signatures.	VR/HS
133		Neighbourhood Plan update The plan requires an update to be considered current and to afford maximum protection. Legal advice required on whether site allocation is required. Expenditure of £2,000 approved from NP grant monies. A quote is being obtained for the consultation work, and a grant applied for. Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance membership to be applied for, £50 expenditure approved.	TG/MM TG HM
134		Boundary dispute in Kingston Blount c/fwd	
135	Matters Arising	Sydenham Village Facebook Group The closed nature of the page has been queried by a resident, in response to a recent Sydenham Mail link not being accessible to villagers who don't have Facebook. Other local groups and pages have been looked at in comparison and the technicalities of creating an open Parish Council page were discussed at the meeting and will be investigated further. The aspects of moderation and content rules were discussed. One solution might be to have a public service page where the parish council can share items from Sydenham Mail and FB posts. This could also be done via a new page on the village website.	VR/TG HM
136		Community Energy Awards The parish council has registered to be notified when the grant application process opens.	

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137		<p>Brookstones tree works</p> <p>The dead tree has been felled with permission from SODC, and the remaining stump will be ground out. As this is within the Conservation Area a replacement tree must be planted and a Sweet Chestnut was chosen.</p> <p>It was suggested that a new bench would be a nice addition along this stretch of Brookstones. Expenditure approved for order to be placed.</p>	MM HM
138		<p>Broadband supply to the OSR</p> <p>This matter to be taken to the next OSR committee meeting by DW, and should the committee be considering broadband supply, the parish council would be happy to support it.</p>	DW
139		<p>Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023</p> <p>NALC have agreed a salary award in briefing E01-23, with a pay increase to be backdated to April 2023. For the Clerk's salary this would be an hourly rate of £19.05 (SCP28) with the monthly increase being £25 and backdated pay of £200. This was approved by the parish council. Payroll to be notified.</p>	HM
140	Correspondence	<p>Suggestion for safety mirror at Stert Junction – passed on to Aston Rowant PC and approved at their recent meeting.</p> <p>Request for PC to sign Duke Of Edinburgh volunteering forms for a student undertaking litter picking. Agreed.</p> <p>SODC Community Crime Officer – online survey for how crime is affecting our rural community</p> <p>OALC - October update</p> <p>SODC – PowerPoint from recent Planning Training</p> <p>OCC – Lane Rental Scheme Proposal</p>	HM HM HM
141	AOB	<p>Future meeting dates confirmed – 11th January (subject to hall booking) ,1st February, 7th March and 4th April, all at 7pm.</p>	HM
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th December at 7.00pm in the Old School Room.</p>			

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