

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 8th December at 6.30pm in the Old School Room

Present: Michael May (MM) - Chair
 Alison Isherwood (AI) - Vice Chair
 David Wilkins (DW)
 Cheryl Belson (CB)
 Hayley Smith (HS)
 Heather Mullins (HM) – Clerk

135	Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None.	
136	Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
137	Planning	None.	
138	Finance	The following items were approved for payment £4.55 SSE telephone box £7.96 Buzz Networks virtual landline £418.75 Clerk's salary £38.18 DW expenses, fuel for machines £31.20 Pet Waste Solutions, dog bin emptying for October £113.00 MM expenses – daffodil bulbs – Fayre expenditure £51.60 Community Heartbeat – 2 nd set of defibrillator electrodes	
	NatWest Current a/c: b/f £956.97	Payments: £418.75 Clerk's salary – October £157.09 MM expenses – hire of dumper for footpath repairs £7.96 Buzz Networks virtual landline, reimburse clerk £25.56 DW expenses – fuel for mower £25.00 Safe custody fee £4.55 SSE Telephone box supply £31.20 Pet Waste Solutions – dog bin emptying October Receipts: £200.00 transfer from reserve account	Closing balance at 30/11/21 £486.86
	NatWest Reserve a/c: b/f £30,571.94	Receipts: £0.27 interest in November Payments: £200.00 transfer to current account	£30,372.21
		The draft budget for 2022/2023 was reviewed. An increase to the precept was discussed and will be finalised in January. Comparisons with similar-sized parishes to be made.	HM

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		The CIL report for 2020/2021 was signed for submission.	HM
139	Matters carried forward	<p>Wildflower meadow and Queens Canopy trees from Woodland Trust</p> <p>The trees have been delivered and will be temporarily planted in a holding patch before planting in January.</p> <p>The planting area (26m x 39m) has been agreed with Munday's Gift and the different tree varieties will be planted to provide a graded canopy height which is better for wildlife. The hedging varieties will be planted at the edge for easier maintenance.</p> <p>Preparation of the area was discussed to minimise weeds – weed mats and bark being the best options. The cost of weed mats to be met by the parish council – expenditure agreed.</p> <p>The woodland area should be named, and a competition for the children in the village was suggested.</p>	
140		<p>Playing field</p> <p>Ditching works are being completed next week as part of the Highways works. It is likely that the bank will need some repairs after the heavy machinery work.</p> <p>Wooden edging to bark areas to be discussed in January.</p>	DW
141		<p>Speeding on B4445 and through the village</p> <p>Chinnor Parish Council have agreed that the proposed chicane at the Emmington junction could be included in their traffic calming works. This is subject to a successful safety audit, which is in hand and will be paid for from the allocated CIL monies secured by Councillor Matelot.</p> <p>An application for Sydenham to be a 20mph zone has been submitted to Oxfordshire County Council with support from our new County Councillors. Funding for this had been agreed by Councillor Matelot and an update has been requested on the application progress.</p> <p>A grant application has been made for the speed gun and bin stickers.</p>	MM/AI
142		<p>Village repairs and maintenance</p> <p>The agreed ditching works are now underway, and OCC have kindly offered to help while they are carrying out the works by the playing field.</p> <p>The village entrance gate on the Stert side of the village to be rubbed down and repainted. The two signs on these gates to be replaced.</p> <p>Planted half barrels were suggested by each of the four village gates. Daffodil bulbs have been ordered by Sydenham Fayre, and a team of volunteers has planted them along the Stert banks, Brookstones, Sydenham Road and by the playing field.</p>	DW HM
143		<p>Footpaths and bridleways</p> <p>The Jays surfacing is working well. A top up of hardcore might be required in the Spring.</p> <p>An application for TOE funding has been made for improving the gate access leading towards the allotment field.</p>	

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		The Heavy Vegetation Clearance for the Sewells Lane bridleway is scheduled for January to late February by the Countryside Team's contractor.	
144		Faster broadband Funding has been allocated and the project has been put into delivery. Openreach will be carrying out surveys in the next few weeks. A meeting has been requested with the engineers to share information about existing underground arrangements.	MM
145		NatWest bank security box c/fwd	HM/HS
146		The sign for the Old Sun Works to be discussed with the owner.	MM
147		Sydenham Neighbourhood Plan The final amendment documents have been approved and the document is now formally in place.	
148	Matters arising	SODC Community Governance Review The Neighbourhood Plan would be affected by any changes. None required at present. To be considered at the review in five years' time.	
149		VAS sign on B4445 The sign has stopped working and Swarco are sending an engineer next week to investigate.	
150		Emergency Planning Two more snow shovels are being delivered by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. The location of the equipment (icy road signs etc) listed in the plan to be checked before winter. Floodsax costs to be investigated with a view to adding some to the Emergency Kit held at the OSR.	HM
151	Correspondence	SODC – Community Governance Review Thame and Wheatley Ramblers – unresolved path problems quarterly list Oxfordshire survey of Rural Isolation OCC - Community Emergency Planning SODC – new arrangements for considering allegations of breaches of the code OCC – budget consultation 2022/23	HS Syd Mail HM
152	Any Other Business	Presentation arrangements for the new bench were discussed.	
There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30pm. The next meeting date will be Thursday 6 th January at 7pm in the Old School Room			

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