

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 12th September 2013

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

The meeting was pleased to welcome Councillor Nick Carter, Councillor David Wilmshurst, Siobhan McKee, John Ashfield, Mrs Weston and Mr Browning.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	None	
Minutes of last meeting	These were approved and signed.	
Sydenham Voice, represented by Siobhan McKee	<p>A recent update was circulated on Sydenham Mail. The planting survey has identified areas with no bulbs, and new types with longer flowering periods are being sourced. There will be large quantities to plant so volunteers will be sought.</p> <p>Sydenham Fayre has granted money for owl boxes and suggested locations are welcomed.</p> <p>In the next few weeks another survey will be put out to see if there are other projects that people would like undertaken and what the priorities are.</p>	
B4445 footpath	This was mowed in the summer but there was no funding for the siding out to be done. Councillor David Wilmshurst has contacted the farmers to ask for the hedges to be cut back.	
Broadband	<p>In summary - on 5th August it was announced that BT had been awarded the contract, and they have issued a first stage indicative map showing the 'black and white' areas. Black areas are the commercial areas that BT has already supplied with infrastructure and which will definitely receive improved broadband by the end of 2015. This is up to 60% of the county. The white areas are areas like the middle of Sydenham, and are the second phase of the contract that will take coverage up to 92%. The remaining 8% of properties will only become part of the programme if more funding becomes available. This further funding would be from either Defra or from the District Council.</p> <p>At present, the eastern end of the village and Emmington are not included in the BT contract phase 1 or 2. This may be a mapping issue as the map is low resolution, and is only indicative at this stage. Before the program starts next year there will be checks carried out to determine any issues/problems. Nick Carter to query with BT why only part of the village is included in the BT program.</p> <p>The contract with BT is only for infrastructure and will only reach as far as the cabinets (e.g. on the green). From the cabinet to individual properties will be down to service providers. It is important that routers and connections in the home are of good quality to aid the speed of the broadband.</p> <p>The program of rollout will run from Jan '14 to Dec '15. Timetabling, together with more precise mapping will emerge over the next few months. It is hoped that the Chinnor exchange will be early in the program due to the number of</p>	

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	properties affected and the number of businesses. Councillor Nick Carter will keep us informed of developments as they occur, and the situation regarding Plough Corner/Emmington will be investigated. John Ashfield to circulate an email link for checking which cabinet serves a particular property.	17
Playing Field	This is generally in good condition although some of the base areas of the obstacle course and the A-Frame need to be replaced over the next two years. The slide structure is the priority. RB is looking at potential grants to help with any refurbishment. The bench needs to be bolted down.	RB PS
Power cuts	Engineers will be carrying out a site visit regarding the request for switchgear to be replaced, and the Supply Restoration team will report back to us with the results.	
Footpath map	Quotations are being obtained for printing the map onto acrylic, and for restoring the frame around the new print. The insurance excess would be £125 if a claim was to be made.	
Sydenham Grange Bridleway	Mr Sylvester from OCC has carried out a site visit and has marked out the old 1968 path route, and is suggesting that this route is re-established for public interest. All the parties consulted on the diversion and walkers asked about the route are happy to accept the short detour of the current permissive path around the wood, so long as the surface is hard enough for cycling. The Weston family have offered to put a hard surface on this permissive path if the diversion can be granted. The current bridleway route goes through the farmyard, and causes problems for security and also poses health and safety risks. The 1968 route crosses fields, and it would be very difficult to have a hard surface on practical grounds. As the village walkers, the Weston family, consulted groups and the parish council are all happy with the permissive path as the diversion route, it is suggested that Mr Sylvester is invited to another site meeting to look at the permissive path versus the 1968 route.	NC/DW
Brookstones flood bund	The county council are building a protective bank on behalf of Thames Water, to ensure that the flood banks are not damaged any more. A date for the work is awaited, and there may be an update on this at the next Thames Water meeting.	PS
Community defibrillator	A group within the village have started fundraising to buy a community defibrillator. The Community Heartbeat Trust and a contact in Postcombe have been consulted. To buy and install the equipment, and to run a couple of familiarisation sessions would require approximately £2000, but the aim is to raise more to cover ongoing costs such as replacing batteries and pads. There are several fundraising events taking place, and the Fayre has pledged £500. The preferred location for the equipment would be the phonebox on the green. if the electricity supply can be reconnected. This avenue is being investigated by the Community Heartbeat foundation. An alternative location would be in the porch of the OSR. In the next couple of months there will be an open meeting in the OSR to present how the equipment works and how it can be accessed if required. The parish council would like to make a grant towards this project, and have been advised that the only power of expenditure would be s137. The October parish council meeting will be after several of the main fundraising events, so a fundraising update has been requested at that meeting to aid discussion of the grant, and a sum can then be approved at the November meeting.	
County Council report from David Wilmshurst	The economic climate is the main challenge. There will be a restructure across the county between now and 2015, with a reduction in budget. This is coupled with a council tax increase - although there is a limit to the increase and a referendum would be required if it goes above 2%. If the council tax remains at this figure the county would still be vastly underfunded. The elected members	

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	will be challenged over the next three months to decide where cuts should be made, and in December the county will be told what their final settlement is from the government. Councillor David Wilmshurst will keep us updated.	18
<u>Finance</u>	<p>The annual audit return has been received from BDO with no matters arising. This annual return is approved and accepted by the Parish Council, and the required notice will be displayed.</p> <p>NJC pay settlement 2013/14. The pay increase of 1% is to be applied to the clerk's salary with effect from 1st April 2013. The new hourly rate is £12.94 (SCP29). A letter to be written to the bank to change the salary standing order accordingly.</p> <p>The following items have been authorised for payment:</p> <p>£40.00 OPFA membership renewal £78.00 Playsafety - playground inspection £12.56 SODC dog bin emptying (to be paid by direct debit) £750.00 Will Munday - mowing village greens and 3x cuts of the churchyard</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>HM</p>
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £4,209.75	<p>Payments:</p> <p>£170.79 Clerk's salary (Jul) £135.00 RJS (IA) Ltd, internal audit £128.10 HMRC PAYE for quarter May-Jul 2013 £170.79 Clerk's salary (Aug) £12.56 SODC dog hygiene bin</p>	<p>Closing balance at 31.08.13</p> <p>£3,592.51</p>
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £7,734.85	No transactions	£7,734.85
<u>Planning</u>		
P13/S2722/HH	<p>Stert Cottage/Roadsmeet, Sydenham Road Erection of a new bike shed <i>No strong views</i></p>	
P13/S1910/FUL	<p>Kingsland, Thame Road Part demolition of existing bungalow. Erection of a replacement two bedroom dwelling <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p>	
P13/S1208/HH	<p>The Old Smithy, Crossways To build a single car port with storage included at rear, on site of 2-3 Crossways Cottages and demolition of existing wooden garage/shed. Alterations to highway access <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p>	
P13/S1431/FUL	<p>The Inn at Emmington Erection of a two storey extension and single storey extension (amended plans) <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p>	
P13/S1771/HH	<p>16 Park View, Sydenham Road Proposed rear conservatory <i>Permission GRANTED</i></p>	

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