

Sydenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2024 at the Old School Room

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

Apologies: Hayley Smith (HS)

The meeting was pleased to welcome the Chair of Aston Rowant Parish Council and one member of the public.

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| 181 | Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda) | None | |
| 182 | Minutes of previous meeting | The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed. | |
| 183 | Planning | None | |
| 184 | Discussion of joint items with Aston Rowant PC | Adam Bernstein attended as the new chair of ARPC. There was a helpful discussion covering maintenance tasks, the recent flooding, Fayre signage at the Kingston Blount crossroads, and liaison between our two councils. | |
| 185 | Finance | The following items were approved for payment: £8.75 Virtual Landline £5.06 SSE electricity supply for defibrillator £476.25 Clerk's salary £36.00 Pet Waste Solutions £160.00 (est) OALC membership subscription for 2024/25 £600.00 Kingston Stert Farm Partners – hedging and ditching £50.00 S. Williams – verge levelling | |
| | NatWest Current a/c: b/f £150.48 | Payments: £676.25 Clerk's salary, including backdated pay award £572.88 Grafham Construction Limited, ditching and tree works £17.94 Community Heartbeat - rescue safety kit £36.00 Pet Waste Solutions - dog bin emptying for Dec £8.75 Virtual Landline £5.24 SSE Energy Solutions - supply to defibrillator £50.00 Simon Williams - verge levelling £2,000.00 CPF grant monies to Chinnor PC for B4445 project Receipts: £700.00 transfer from reserve account £550.00 transfer from reserve account £100.00 transfer from reserve account £2,000.00 transfer from reserve account | Closing balance at 31/01/24 |

Signed Date

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| | NatWest Reserve a/c: b/f £39,163.97 | £500.00 transfer from reserve account Payments: £700.00 transfer to reserve account £550.00 transfer to reserve account £100.00 transfer to reserve account £2,000.00 transfer to reserve account £500.00 transfer to reserve account Receipts: £50.02 interest received | £633.42 £35,363.99 |
| 186 | | A contribution of £2,000 towards the cost of the Rule 6 party barrister to be made to Chinnor Parish Council. Donations to be made in the current year c/fwd as an agenda item. | HM |
| 187 | Matters carried forward | Playing field The quote of £920 was approved for replacing the edging of the bark areas. Bolts have been replaced on the swings. The base of the slide may need replacing. The new football goal will go out in March once the weather improves. The new hedging is thriving. | DW DW |
| 188 | | Chicane installation on B4445 The restructure in OCC is hindering the release of the ringfenced CIL monies. Extensive efforts continue with a wide range of contacts both within and outside the County Council. This is being escalated. | HM/MM |
| 189 | | VAS signs and speeding Expenditure of £380 plus VAT was approved for the two cable traffic surveys between the playing field and Box Tree House. The resulting data will be given to the Parish Council and will identify speed, class and flow of the traffic for 7 days. Any problems highlighted by this data can be discussed with OCC to find suitable solutions. | |
| 190 | | Village repairs and maintenance OCC Highways have arranged for the culverts throughout the village to be cleared in March, and the locations identified by map. Paul Grafham to clear the vegetation on Sewells Lane back to the hedgeline, and also to dig out the ditch on the left hand side travelling out of the village towards Emmington. Expenditure approved for both. The ongoing flood issues have been raised with Oxfordshire Highways, and a site visit requested to discuss. Of particular concern is the junction by the Inn. | MM MM |
| 191 | | Footpaths and bridleways See item above for flailing work on Sewells Lane. The lack of visibility for pedestrians leaving the path from the allotments has been raised as a concern, as traffic approaches very quickly. Option of a safety mirror opposite the gate to be looked at. | DW |
| 192 | | Fayre Committee There will be a meeting in February. The date of the Fayre is confirmed as 1 st June. | |
| 193 | | Joint Local Plan consultation Comments to be collected together and a submission made from the Parish Council. Concerns were raised about the lack of recognition for | MM/TG |

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| | | rural communities, and the need to solve existing problems as well as ensuring that new development is sustainable. Our County Councillors to be contacted regarding the best way of ensuring the voices of small villages are heard. | |
| 194 | | Rectification of anomaly of the Definitive Footpath Map and Statement An order is being drawn up by OCC for a deviation of Footpath 8 to be made, and an OCC Countryside Officer is holding a site meeting with the landowners affected. | MM |
| 195 | | Defibrillator/life support course c/fwd | HS |
| 196 | Matters Arising | Emergency Plan Review The origins and aims of the plan were discussed. The plan document to be reviewed, and the annual GDPR checks done for the OCC survey. | VR/HM |
| 197 | | Annual Parish Meeting Publicity for the event was discussed together with the format of the evening. The categories for an impact review of the Parish Council's year to be looked. The various village groups to be contacted to let them know the date, and a piece to be included in the upcoming newsletter. | VR/HM HM VR |
| 198 | Correspondence | OSR meeting feedback Rural Community Needs – funding for housing needs surveys Great British Spring Clean | HM HM HM |
| 199 | AOB | Biodiversity Duty – agenda item for March Bus shelter on the green – Barry has very kindly undertaken to refurb this, including book shelving | |
| There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 th March at 7pm in the Old School Room. | | | |

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