

# Sydenham Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Meeting of the Parish Council 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Present: Rachel Blake (RB) - Chair  
 Janet Potts (JP)  
 David Wilkins (DW)  
 Mike May (MM)  
 Stephanie Johns (SJ - Clerk)

Apologies: Alison Isherwood (AI)

9 members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
Advice from George Tweedy PCSO	<p>Prior to the meeting, George Tweedy, our newly appointed PCSO joined the group to offer advice following the recent spate of burglaries in the community. He explained that Thames valley Police (TVP) have been actively trying to increase their presence in the village. This has included a patrol car visiting the village at a minimum of four times a week, including driving up Holliers Close and Plough Corner. While the perpetrators are yet to be caught, George was keen to flag that the officer involved (Emma Bailey) was responsible for all of the cases in the village rather than it being managed by several different officers. Clearly the result of Sydenham not being a one-off is that TVP have now put rural crimes such as these as a top priority for the team.</p> <p>George left a number of leaflets (which have been put in the Telephone kiosk &amp; SJ will highlight this via Sydenham Mail. These include how and when to use the 101 phone number, how to make your property secure and some other materials.</p> <p>George recommended people wanting to receive news from TVP could sign up to their 'TVP Alerts' which gives up to date information to it's subscribers. A Sydenham Mail will be sent out with instructions on how to do this.</p> <p>As a result of chatting with George the Council will look at seeing if the parish can become a 'Smart Water Village' where personal property is proactively marked with Smart Water. If a significant number of households do this, then the parish can have signage up flagging that we are a 'Smart Water Village' and also window stickers for our properties which have been recognised to deter villains. Also discussed was having a dedicated day in the village when the TVP team would come with an engraving tool, so significant items such as tools and bikes could be engraved with your postcode for easy identification should they be stolen, but also hopefully act as a deterrent too. SJ will email George asking for an associated costs with doing this and also for the cost of the smart water.</p> <p>The speeding issue was also discussed, and we now have a couple of signs that can be sporadically put up to state that 'Speed checks are in progress'. Plus, we are looking at getting the community speed watch camera again, so we can do our own speed checks periodically. SJ is emailing George the data collected so far from the Smiley Face VAS.</p>	

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Members' declaration of interests (for items on the agenda)	No interests declared	
Approval of minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.	
	D/Cllr White sent his report to the meeting	
Planning <b>P17/S3422/O</b>	Land adjoining Park Villa, Sydenham Road, Sydenham, OX39 4LH <i>Parish Council Recommendation – Objects</i>	All
<b>P17/S3659/O</b>	Land North of Sydenham Road, Sydenham, OX39 4LH <i>Parish Council Recommendation – Objects. Document to be prepared &amp; sent by MM &amp; RB.</i>  <i>SJ will write to SODC asking for an update regarding the Sydenham Grove application.</i>	
<b>Finance</b>	The following items were approved for payment: £ 3.07 to SSE for Defibrillator £ 309.29 Clerk Salary £ 27.80 PAYE £ 150.00 Clerk annual home working allowance (as agreed at Annual parish Council Meeting) £ 34.02 Clerk mileage from November 2016 – end October 2017 £1712.40 Buryhook (Gates installation) – to be refunded as a grant from TOE2)  <i>Budget 2018 / 2019: MM &amp; RB will draft the figures for 2018 / 2019 for discussion and approval at the next meeting.</i>	
NatWest Current a/c: b/f £6,679.67	<i>October</i> <b>Payments:</b> £ 3.07 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply £ 309.09 Clerk's Salary £ 28.00 PAYE September £156.00 BDO LLP (Audit) £600.00 Newsletter annual grant £ 12.56 Dog Hygiene bins Jul – Sep £180.00 Sydenham OSR hall hire 2016/2017 £180.00 Sydenham OSR hall hire 2017/2018 £500.00 Sydenham OSR grant 2017/2018 £315.34 Ashridge Trees (New hedge) <b>Receipts:</b> £300.00 Sydenham Fayre donation towards the new hedge	Closing balance at 31/10/17  £4695.61
Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,102.73	<b>Receipts:</b> £0.12 October Interest received	£14,102.85
<b>SSE electricity supply</b>	Work will continue and the plan is that from the week commencing 11 <sup>th</sup> December, the road will be closed for 5 days between Holliers Close and the humpback bridge towards Kingston Stert as the road round to Holliers Close is considered too narrow for traffic lights.	MM

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<b>Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant</b>	Exploratory work is being conducted to determine the best way of installing the transfer switch into the Crown's power supply so that the generator can be fully functional should there be a power cut. More ventilation is also needed & work is continuing to find a solution.	DW/RB
<b>Footpaths, TOE2</b>	The work is now complete and the gates installed. JP has taken photos and will send them to TOE2 with the invoice receipt from the Contractors, as well as other paperwork. TOE2 will then reimburse the costs as a grant (funded by Grundon Waste Management Ltd). Publicity will also be arranged as part of the grant conditions.	JP
<b>Speeding</b>	The average speed taken from the VAS data download for September was 35mph, increased again from the August figure of 33.97mph (Speeds under 20mph are not included in the average as they are probably cyclists). DW has had a quote from Keith Stenning of £2500 for a Pinch-Point. A discussion took place about having platforms in between the barriers as in reality, it would appear that these are the only way that traffic will really be slowed. DW will request another quote for a combined Pinch-Point & Platform. SJ will contact the electrician again to see whether there is an update on the solar VAS from the main road.	DW
<b>Playing Field Project</b>	Work is in progress on the new A-Frame. RB is to chase, asking for extra bark for spreading in the playing field. It is hoped that this can be done at the 'Village spruce-up day' on 5 <sup>th</sup> November. The plan is also to give the other play equipment a wood treatment, though this is of course dependent on how many people turn up to help. RB will purchase this and claim back on expenses. It was mentioned that the both the gate and the kissing gate will need replacing shortly. SJ will ask SODC whether the recent CIL money can be put towards the project. This will be discussed at the next meeting.	RB
<b>Road Drainage &amp; Potholes</b>	Work is progressing very slowly on this. DW will once again try to contact Keith Stenning and ask for a date for when the pipe is going to be replaced.	DW
<b>Grass Cutting</b>	Will Munday has cleared the ditches & has now submitted an invoice for the work. DW will cut the grass in the playing field on 5 <sup>th</sup> November.	DW
<b>Matters Arising</b>	Sydenham PC have been awarded £905.63 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). SODC are currently holding this money in a fund until it is decided what to spend it on. SJ is to ask about spending it on a new gate (See above under 'Playing Field Project').	SJ
<b>Correspondence</b>	A letter of thanks from Chinnor Village Centre for the donation of £250 was acknowledged.	SJ
<b>Any Other Business</b>	MM mentioned the possibility of a Fireworks display next year. RB will investigate costs. MM also mentioned the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan, using another established plan as a basis. MM will find out some more information before the next meeting. There are already one or two people who may be interested. RB mentioned an annual appraisal for SJ. SJ will suggest some dates and this will be arranged.	MM / RB  MM
<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room.</p>		

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