

# Sydenham Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Meeting of the Parish Council 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Present: Alison Isherwood (AI) - Chair  
 Rachel Blake (RB)  
 David Wilkins (DW)  
 Mike May (MM)  
 Stephanie Johns (SJ - Clerk)

Apologies: Janet Potts (JP)

1 member of the public was welcomed to the meeting.

<u>Matters Arising</u>		
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.	
<b>Planning</b>		
<b>P17/S4117/FUL</b>	Proposed dwelling with enabling works to existing dwelling at 18 Holliers Close, Sydenham, OX39 4NG <i>Parish Council Recommendation – Objects as it is felt there may potentially be over-development of the site. There are also parking and overlooking issues.</i>	All
<b>P17/S1884/O</b>	Erection of eight detached & semi-detached dwellings with access, parking, amenity space & landscaping at land West of Chalford Road, Postcombe, OX9 7DS <i>Parish Council Recommendation – Objects (Already submitted – nothing further to add)</i>	
<b>P17/S2649/FUL</b>	Amendments to existing application at Sydenham Grove with access widened & bin store provided as shown on amended site plan received 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 <i>Parish Council Recommendation – Objects (Already submitted – SJ will email SODC stating that the access road is not only needed for waste vehicles but also parking &amp; emergency vehicles.) SJ will also email Ian White District Councillor &amp; include a copy of the recent comments made by the planners, to ask whether he is aware of how the application is progressing.</i>	
<b>Finance</b>	The following items were approved for payment: £ 3.09 to SSE for Defibrillator £ 309.09 Clerk Salary £ 28.00 PAYE £ 48.18 Clerk expenses (Print Cartridges) £ 6.45 Clerk expenses (Postage) £ 20.56 Rachel Blake expenses (Materials for village clean up_	
	Budget & Precept 2018 / 2019: <i>This was agreed with no change to the Precept for next year. SJ to complete the application to SODC.</i>	

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<p>NatWest Current a/c: b/f £4,695.61</p> <p>Natwest Reserve a/c: b/f £14,102.85</p> <p>Budget &amp; Precept 2018/2019</p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p><b>Payments:</b>            £ 3.09 Southern Electric – defibrillator supply            £ 309.29 Clerk’s Salary            £ 27.80 PAYE            £ 150.00 Clerk’s annual home working allowance            £600.00 Newsletter annual grant            £ 34.02 Clerk’s expenses (Mileage from Nov 16 – Oct 17)            £1712.40 Buryhook Countryside Management – Replacement gates            £ 25.00 Safe Custody Hold (Annual charge)            £315.34 Ashridge Trees (New hedge)</p> <p><b>Receipts:</b>            £1427.00 Grant from TOE2 for the new footpath gates (VAT to be reclaimed)</p> <p><b>Receipts:</b>            £0.49 November Interest received</p> <p>The budget for 2018/2019 was discussed and it was agreed not to raise the precept, which will remain at £10,000 for the coming year.</p>	<p>Closing balance at 30/11/17</p> <p>£3861.01</p> <p>£14,103.34</p>
<p><b>SSE electricity supply</b></p>	<p>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. A Sydenham Mail has been sent out to remind everyone of the road closure. While the road is closed, Paul Grafham will be cutting back the canopy at a cost of approximately £500.</p>	<p>MM</p>
<p><b>Emergency plan and funds for resilience grant</b></p>	<p>Work is continuing to get the generator properly installed.</p>	<p>DW/RB</p>
<p><b>Footpaths, TOE2</b></p>	<p>The costs of the new gates has now been reimbursed and the project is now complete.</p>	<p>JP</p>
<p><b>Speeding</b></p>	<p>The average speed taken from the VAS data download for October was 35mph, showing no change from September. Sadly, we have heard nothing from Keith Stenning despite numerous requests with regards to the traffic calming measures mentioned in the last minutes. The electrician has explained that he suspects the tree canopy may be a reason why the VAS on the main road isn’t working as not enough light is getting to the solar panel. This may change now that the leaves have fallen but the branches will be cut back to see whether this makes a difference.</p>	<p>DW</p>
<p><b>Playing Field Project</b></p>	<p>The Goal Posts have not faired well and now need replacing rather than further repair. RB will investigate costs. The CIL money (see below) will be put towards the cost of the new A Frame. RB will also investigate costs for some new gates and the current ones are in a state of disrepair.</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p><b>Road Drainage &amp; Potholes</b></p>	<p>The big puddle currently on the Stert junction will be fixed imminently, once SSE finish their work. Action is still awaited from Keith Stenning regarding the flooding across the Sydenham Road though he had promised the work would be carried out by</p>	<p>DW</p>

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	April 2018. DW & Ai will email him again and AI will also ask him about salt for the bins.	
<b>Grass Cutting</b>	Nothing to report	DW
<b>Matters Arising CIL</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. It was decided to use the money towards the replacement A Frame. SJ to claim the money once the invoice is received.	SJ
<b>Clerk's annual appraisal &amp; pay review</b>	RB carried out an appraisal with SJ earlier in the month. The main objective for the coming year is to ensure the Council comply with the new rules regarding data protection. This will commence in the New year. A pay rise was approved inline with the NALC/SLCC National Salary Award.	
<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	MM advised that a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Team has now been formed with a team of 6 and the first meetings have taken place. The proposal is to make a rapid approach to creating a NP and to keep it very simple, principally by focusing on housing and the objective is to complete it within 6 months. Communication on progress will be via the Newsletter, Sydenham Mail and on the village website. The plan is to have a village meeting in the New year to get views on the criteria.	
<b>Village Classification</b>	MM is currently communicating with SODC regarding the village classification. He noticed that in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033, Sydenham has a classification which is felt to be inaccurate. The classification involves points being allocated for villages and towns based on the facilities and their location. Currently, Sydenham is classified as a 'small village', but this would suggest we have more facilities than we actually have. A response has been sent outlining why we oppose this classification and why we feel our points allocated is wrong, so that we become an 'other village'. If successful, this could mean we do not have to take any housing due to our lack of facilities. As a 'small village' (which Sydenham is currently registered as) however, we are in theory eligible to take a 5-10% growth in housing.	
<b>Correspondence</b>	None	SJ
<b>Any Other Business Broadband</b>	The Emmington end of the village is still awaiting connection to fibre. The latest news is that all these properties will have a fibre connection to a brand new cabinet which needs to be re-installed opposite the T-junction by the Inn at Emmington. This is due to happen in February now! This will involve the Chinnor / Thame road being closed at some point. The other homes in Emmington itself will have direct to door fibre connection, but this will be later next year.	MM / RB MM
<b>Facebook</b>	A discussion took place regarding the Community Facebook Page & whether the Parish Council should consider having its own page as the perception seems to be that the current one is linked to the Council in some way. It was decided not to have a separate page and the Clerk would send out a Sydenham Mail	

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explaining this to everyone and that Council Communication will only be made via the Newsletter, Website & Sydenham Mail. For urgent messages that need to be communicated to the village, Siobhan McKee has kindly agreed to monitor the Sydenham mail email account and send out occasional Sydenham mails when the need arises. The clerk will send Siobhan the login details to her for this.	
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There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.  
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Old School Room.

DRAFT

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