

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 24 February 2016 at SUNNINGWELL VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Councillors

Paul Wooldridge (in chair), Andrew Veal, Hilary Lynam-Smith,
Elizabeth Bennett, Colin Weyer, Oliver Isaacs and James Greenman

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston, District Councillor Emily Smith
Brian Rixon (Clerk)

20/16 Questions and Comments from members of the public.

District Councillor Emily Smith updated the council on the following subjects

Capital Grants

Applications can be submitted between March and May with decisions being made in June. The grant amounts need to be match funded by the applicant.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The Vale District Council has allocated £30,000 to support events across the district.

Environment Health Team

The Parish Council can contact the environment health team over issues such as fly tipping and dog fouling.

County Councillor Bob Johnston.

Budget meeting

Bob reported that the recent budget meeting needed to break into separate meetings to progress matters before the main meeting reconvened. Council tax will be increased by 3.99% with half of that needed for adult care. More funds have been allocated to children's centres until September.

Unitary Authorities

Consideration is being given to merging the district and county councils into unitary authorities.

21/16 Apologies for absence.

None

22/16 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

There were none.

23/16 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 27 January 2016.

The minutes were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

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24/16 To consider any Matters Arising from the minutes of 27 January.

New website

Cllr Andrew Veal said that some information, such as the minutes, has now been uploaded but further articles are needed. He will circulate a link to the development site so that councillors can offer suggestions.

Garage shelving

Cllr James Greenman reported this shelving installation is in progress. A recent visit to the garage by the chairman found that water had entered the area due to soil levels being too high on the outside. One of the gazebos and the tug of war rope were removed from the water but will need drying and airing. The water problem and the incorrect lighting provision have been reported to the village hall management committee chairman.

Standing Orders

As agreed at the last meeting, Cllr Paul Wooldridge and the clerk amended the sections that required timings or numbers. It was agreed this final approved document should now be uploaded to the website.

Oxford Green Belt Network

Cllr Elizabeth Bennett attended the recent meeting of OGBN, as the Parish Council's new representative, and was pleased how active the group is.

25/16 Transport Survey – progress report.

The meeting with Bob Hindhaugh on 4th February was very positive and resulted in the brief being refined. The draft report will be discussed at the next meeting on 7th March at the Chairman's house.

26/16 Bus services

In spite of letters sent by the Chairman and a petition with 389 signatures organised by Rachel Willis, the County Council has decided to terminate the subsidies to bus routes in July including route 44 that serves Sunningwell Parish.

The Parish Council still has three areas of concern

- General Quality of Duty towards certain groups.
- Education Act requirements for transport to schools.
- Nature of the consultation.

The Chairman expressed concern over the situation and will write again to Thames Travel and Stagecoach to discuss if anything further can be done.

Cllr Oliver Isaacs will draft a letter to OCC referring to their obligation to provide certain services.

Cllr James Greenman will continue to liaise with OCC following his recent correspondence.

ACTION Cllrs Paul Wooldridge, Oliver Isaacs and James Greenman

27/16 Community Asset

Cllr Oliver Isaacs is keen to accurately define the area of interest and will liaise with Cllr Hilary Lynam-Smith who has relevant knowledge and maps, before completing and submitting the forms to the Vale.

ACTION Cllrs Oliver Isaacs and Hilary Lynam-Smith

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28/16 Sunningwell Parish Village Green

The Parish Council is in negotiations with the Diocese to purchase the village green and is awaiting terms.

29/16 Village Green notice boards

Cllr Hilary Lynam-Smith proposed installing information boards near each of the entrance points to the village green with an estimated total cost of £4000 plus vat including artwork and installation. The proposal was voted upon and unanimously passed.

30/16 Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations 12 June 2016

As the village hall is booked for a private event on Saturday 11th June it was agreed the Parish Celebrations should now be held on Sunday 12th June. The village hall had been provisionally booked and that will now be confirmed. The pig roast will now be booked and the fete will be arranged for the hours of 4:30 to 7:30 approximately.

The Parish Council will apply for a grant from the Vale under the scheme referred to earlier by District Councillor Emily Smith.

ACTION Cllr Elizabeth Bennett

31/16 TLA Fitness request to use the village green for their members' annual barbecue

There was a full discussion over whether the application complied with the policies and procedures. It was agreed that it did and the application was approved subject to TLA fully understanding the constraints set by the House of Lords when granting village green status. This mainly covers the points about no vehicles on the green and there must be free access to any parishioners wishing to exercise the right to use the village green at any time. Also the use should be non-commercial, and the green must be cleared of all food waste and any rubbish. If TLA require an extra grass cutting then they will have to meet the cost.

The chairman will send TLA letter outlining the key points, and the clerk will send the Policies and Procedures document.

ACTION Cllr Paul Wooldridge and Clerk

32/16 Village pond area

A report has been received about the condition of the **ash** tree by the pond and the risk to people due to its proximity to buildings and vehicles. A full discussion took place with particular emphasis on the history and importance of the **willow** tree. It was agreed unanimously that the **ash** tree would be removed. The clerk should accept the lower of the two estimates received.

Further it was agreed the clerk should write to Mark McCracken and ask him to clean the pond, the trash gate on the ditch near Church Farm, the gutters on both sides of the road between the public house and the pond, and remove the brambles near the entrance gate to the village green.

ACTION Clerk

33/16 Bayworth Triangle dog waste bin

The cost of emptying the dog bin on Bayworth Triangle has risen very significantly over the last two years. It currently costs £321 a year with further increases likely. The District Council says it no longer installs these bins and that dog waste can now be put in normal waste bins. There is a waste bin a few yards from the current dog bin.

The Council decided by a vote to remove the dog bin (5 for, 1 against, 1 abstained).

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34/16 Village Hall Grant

The Parish Council Chairman will write to the Chairman of the village hall management committee with the aim of meeting and discussing the current status and any outstanding issues.

35/16 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration.

36/16 Accounts for payment.

1601	Clerk	Salary and Office Expenditure	550.12
1602	HMRC	PAYE	104.20
1603	OALC	Annual subscription	170.44
1604	Bower and Bailey	Registration of village hall carpark land	4781.00
1605	R. Evans	Hedging for village green	400.00

37/16 Any other business.

The clerk suggested the support for Sunningwell Scene should continue at the current rate, and on the existing basis, without the need for a separate grant application for the next financial year. This was approved unanimously.

38/16 The Next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Wednesday 30 March 2016
at Bayworth Chapel Hall starting at 7.30pm**

The Chair closed the February meeting at 9:50 p.m.