

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 26 September 2016 at BAYWORTH Chapel Hall

Present:

Councillors

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

In attendance:

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

137/16 Questions and Comments from members of the public.

County Councillor Bob Johnston

reported that:

- **Grass verges.** To improve the process, next year's grass verge cutting will start earlier in the year with advance notice given of the order of parishes to be mown. One cut will be undertaken by the County and then parishes may do others using their own contractor.
- **Unitary authorities** will be addressed in the autumn statement.
- **A34.** There will be meetings with Highways England to discuss improvements to safety on the A34 by measures such as crawler lanes, average speed checks and a possible link to the M40 from East Ilsley.

District Councillor Emily Smith

commented on the parish council's concern about the current Planning process and this is reported in section 143/16.

Rachel Willis

asked what progress there has been on replacing the Bayworth Triangle footpath and assessing the current benches. Also she asked for further guidance on the use of the Comet transport service. This is discussed in section 145/16.

138/16 Apologies for absence.

Parish Councillor Mike Wykes.

139/16 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

There were none.

Signed Chairman. Date

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140/16 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 25 July 2016.

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

141/16 To consider any Matters Arising from the minutes of 25 July.

No matters were raised.

142/16 Planning Applications – New Process

District Councillor Emily Smith described how the new approach to planning applications aims to involve all interested parties earlier and to reduce the cost of planning committees. The planning system focus is on allowing owners to do what they wish subject to reasonableness. There is an encouragement to have Parish Council consultations for smaller applications. Applications for more than ten units should go to a Development Forum.

The Parish Council acknowledged the aim to improve the process but said it had felt it necessary to ask the Parish clerk to write to the Head of Planning, Adrian Duffield, to seek an explanation as to why the above process, which was also described at the Town and Parish Forums, and in the Vale of White Horse District Council current Design Guide, does not seem to have been used for a current planning application of concern to the parish council. The letter was sent on 7th September but no acknowledgement or reply had been received by the date of this meeting, 26 September.

Councillors Emily Smith was then given a copy of the letter and said she would seek to represent us and report back.

143/16 Possible Purchase of Village Green Land

Cllr Paul Wooldridge reported that responses to the two letters delivered to all parishioners over the last few weeks had resulted in pledges to help purchase the village green land. As the total pledged so far is now about 70% of the total needed, and this should also attract a tax refund under the gift aid process, Cllr Wooldridge proposed that the Parish Council should approve the purchase of the village green land. This was discussed and unanimously approved with a commitment to meet any shortfall up to a maximum of £14,000 from parish council reserves. Further pledges are anticipated and also donations to support the project will be sought at the upcoming bonfire and firework event on Sunday 6 November.

It was agreed that a Charitable Trust should be formed to administer this process and that the trust should be called “The Sunningwell Parish Charitable Trust” or, if the legal advice currently being sought, recommends a direct reference to the village green, then it will be called “The Sunningwell Parish Village Green Charitable Trust”.

144/16 Bonfire and firework event Sunday 6 November

The bonfire event was confirmed, with Cllr Elizabeth Bennett agreeing to seek the school’s help. Elizabeth will also co-ordinate the preparation of mince pies, whilst Cllr Oliver Isaacs will again prepare mulled wine etc., and Cllr James Greenman the power and lighting hire.

ACTION All councillors.

It was agreed that donations will be sought from all attending the bonfire event, at a suggested level of £2 per person plus voluntary extra contributions for the Charitable Trust fund to purchase the village green land.

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145/16 Bayworth Triangle Path and Benches

The Parish Council's discussed the re-instatement of the path and agreed unanimously to proceed subject to an acceptable quotation. Rachel Willis offered to ask Red Line for a quotation. Cllr James Greenman will oversee the project and also inspect the benches with a view to addressing the concern – particularly the memorial bench.

146/16 Planning Applications

P16/V2094/HH The Knoll House

Replace the existing utility and sunroom and add a porch and balcony.

Cllr Elizabeth Bennet reviewed this application and recommended no objection.

P16/V2075/HH Red Copse

Two storey side and first floor extension

Cllr Paul Wooldridge reviewed the application and raised strong concerns about such a large extension being built right up to the boundary seeming in contradiction to the Vale of White Horse District Council's own guidelines. A letter have been sent to the Head of Planning explaining the parish council's concerns.

147/16 Accounts for payment.

1660	Clerk	Sep Salary and Office Expenditure	534.53
1661	HMRC	PAYE	104.80
1650	Mark McCracken	Bayworth and pond	100.00
1651	Ian Hutt	Mowing village green	198.00

148/16 Any other business.

Footpaths

Cllr Mike Wykes sent a written report about the ruinous state of the boundary fencing between footpath 372/15 and Woodcraft Wood. He has contacted St John's College who have agreed to renew the fencing.

Village Hall

Cllr Paul Wooldridge is planning to meet David Shorten, the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to discuss the lease and other matters relating to the village hall.

North Abingdon Forum.

Cllr James Greenman reported that the forum provided good, positive information about the new housing development. The design is reasonable and incorporates plenty of planting and trees. The traffic concerns all related to the Abingdon ring road and not the Oxford Road, the strategic bus route.

149/16

The Next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Monday 31 October 2016
at Bayworth Chapel Hall starting at 7.30pm**

The Chair closed the September meeting at 9:45 p.m.