

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 27 Jan 2020 at BAYWORTH Chapel

Present:

Councillors

Colin Weyer, Elizabeth Bennett, James Greenman, Paul Wooldridge, Paul Darby, Mike Wykes and Oliver Isaacs.

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston.
Brian Rixon – Clerk to the Parish Council

1/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston reported

- **Connecting Oxford.** There was a briefing regarding the next three years that covered matters such as curtailing car use in the city by reducing parking spaces and having more bus gates on streets. Also, a workplace levy on business car park spaces in the North and East. Cycle tracks are to be improved.
- **County Budget.** Two further grants will be received for the next year and so no budget cuts are anticipated.
- **Oxford Cambridge Expressway.** There was a talk for all district councils where much of the presentations related to business start-ups.

District Councillor Emily Smith wrote to offer support with any parish council actions taken to reduce dog mess.

2/20 Apologies for absence.

District Councillors Emily Smith and Debby Hallett.

3/20 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

4/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 25 Nov 2020.

The minutes were approved and signed.

5/20 Sunningwell Village Hall car park

Cllr Colin Weyer explained the current status of the project to resurface the village hall car park and sought clear approval from the council to seek pricing for a two-stage approach starting with a tarmac surface followed later by a top dressing of bonded or bound resin. The council unanimously approved.

Colin is seeking advice on defining a certain specification for the work, bearing in mind the car park slopes down towards Sunningwell Road. The specification needs to include optimal drainage and matters such as the possible need for a petrol interceptor.

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6/20 Christmas Event

Cllr Oliver Isaacs asked the Council if there were any follow up issues and whether the lights should be taken down. Apparently, the tree is to be skirted to improve access but, notwithstanding that, Council agreed the lights should be left in the tree for future events.

It was agreed that the next Christmas event will be Saturday 12 December 2020.

Meanwhile the ancillary electrical equipment will be stored in the village hall garage.

7/20 VE Day 75 8th to 10th May 2020

Whilst supporting the idea, the Council recognises the lack of volunteers to organise an event. Cllr Colin Weyer will approach the manager of the Flowing Well public house to see if there is an interest. Also, Colin will show the SSAFA letter to the Boars Hill Association.

ACTION Cllr Colin Weyer

8/20 Exposed drain cover on the village green

Cllr James Greenman is still investigating this and hopes to have a solution by the February Council meeting.

ACTION Cllr James Greenman

9/20 Sunningwell Pond

It was agreed that the report commissioned by the Parish Council should be released to Bob Evans. Cllr Paul Wooldridge will do this and discuss the collaboration between the Council and Bob to ensure the overall approach to maintenance is coordinated.

ACTION Cllr Paul Wooldridge

10/20 Village Green trees

James Weeks attended the meeting and presented his proposal to contribute black poplar trees to be planted in two gaps on the western border of the green. Also, some specimen trees for the central hedge row.

The Council gratefully accepted the offer and asked James to proceed, and to please liaise with Bob Evans, and the Council.

11/20 Cricket Club bench

The Council responded positively to the Cricket Club's request for a £100 donation towards a bench to commemorate its 150th anniversary. The Council agreed that the current bench, in a state of disrepair, should be replaced. The Council has no record of the old bench having been dedicated to anyone.

ACTION Clerk

12/20 Rat problem in Bayworth

Cllr Paul Darby raised a concern about rat infestation in parts of Bayworth.

The Parish Council is not responsible for pest control and it is not a County Council matter. The Vale of White Horse District Council does not offer any pest control services and has no legal duty to provide such a service or treat infestations of pests.

Parishioners need to find and pay for a private pest control contractor but can get further advice from the British Pest Control Association.

Councillor Paul Darby said he would contact Sovereign to see if they will help their tenants deal with any problem.

ACTION Cllr Paul Darby

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13/20 **Footpaths**

The Council considered the email communications between some parishioners regarding the lack of progress in getting a response from the County Council to their complaint about the quarry steps area of footpath 327/8.

The Parish Council wrote to Arthur McEwan-Evans on 17 January to seek a way forward, but by the date of the January council meeting no reply had been received.

Cllr Paul Darby raised a separate concern regarding the footpath from Sunningwell towards Lodge Hill, as the steps near where the path crosses the A34 have seriously eroded.

The Parish Council discussed this and asked the clerk to check with the County Council Boundaries Department whether this path is now outside our parish. **ACTION Clerk**

14/20 **The Village Hall Lease**

Cllr Oliver Isaacs reported that the new lease had been sent to the Village Hall Management Committee and he understands that it was scheduled to be signed on Friday 31 January.

15/20 **Planning applications**

P20/V0124/HH Robinwood, Foxcombe Road.

Demolish conservatory, build side and rear extensions.

The council will review this application and send comments to the District Council by the deadline of Thursday 13 February.

16/20 **Accounts for payment.**

Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	515.65
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	116.20
Bank transfer	Parish Online	Annual subscription	36.00
Bank transfer	Ian Hutt	Welding village green gate	36.00
Bank transfer	Microsoft	Office annual subscription	59.99
Bank transfer	SPADE	Grant	2500.00
Bank transfer	Cllr Oliver Isaacs	Christmas lights	571.66

17/20 **The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 24 Feb 2020 at Bayworth Chapel.**

The Chairman closed the January meeting at 9:07p.m.