

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 24 Feb 2020 at BAYWORTH Chapel

Present:

Councillors

Colin Weyer, Elizabeth Bennett, Paul Wooldridge, Mike Wykes and Paul Darby.

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston. District Councillor Emily Smith.
Bob Evans
Brian Rixon – Clerk to the Parish Council

18/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston reported on the annual budget meeting and the positive status with regards to grants to be received. There is also the opportunity to restart youth services.

The County element of the Council Tax will increase by 3.99%

District Councillor Emily Smith said the March budget meeting should have commentary on the Oxford Cambridge expressway.

Emily welcomes feedback from Sunningwell and Wootton Parishioners regarding cycle routes. A meeting is to be held soon and Parish Councillor James Greenman has indicated that he will attend.

19/20 Apologies for absence.

Parish Councillor James Greenman.

Parish Councillor Oliver Isaacs was absent.

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

None

21/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 27 Jan 2020.

The minutes were approved and signed.

22/20 Bayworth Triangle

Cllr Paul Darby explained that the new planter, purchased last year, will soon be ready for planting and sought Council's approval to pay for three to four bags of compost and appropriate bulbs and plants. Expenditure to a maximum of £50 was unanimously agreed subject to receipts/invoices being presented.

23/20 Lottery Grant

Cllr Paul Darby has successfully applied for a grant of £1000 from the National Lottery Community Fund under the #CelebrateNationalLottery25 scheme. It will be used for a firework and bonfire event in November.

24/20 Drain cover on the village green

This matter was carried forward to the April council meeting. **ACTION Cllr James Greenman**

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25/20	Footpaths and bridleway
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Quarry Footpath. Bob Evans raised his concern that attempts to resolve the closure of the quarry footpath have not elicited a response from the county officer, and drawings promised some months ago have not been issued. Cllr Paul Wooldridge has spoken to the Rights of Way officer and it was clear that nothing is likely to happen for years unless local resources prepare a design, specification and costing for new steps.

County Cllr Bob Johnston suggested an application to the County Council Priority Fund could result in funding for drawings and a specification for steps.

Bob Evans was asked and agreed to prepare a schedule of work and costings to reinstate the quarry footpath, previously closed on safety grounds by the OCC, and submit this to the Parish Council so approval from Arthur McEwan-James of the OCC footpaths department can be sought.

Mud on bridleway and road

The Parish Council received a very positive message from Mr & Mrs Wilcox following the need for muck to be moved from their tenant's land to Blagrove. The movement did produce quite a bit of mud on the road, but attempts were made to minimise this and to clean up afterwards. The muck is important for the soil in terms of nutrients and structure and reduces the need for inorganic fertilisers.

The farmers are working to get the balance right between the agriculture, wildlife and local inhabitants but sometimes it is a difficult balancing act.

The Parish Council appreciated the efforts and communication.

26/20	Sunningwell Pond
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In liaison with Bob Evans and the Parish Council, the green gym recently made a much appreciated, return visit to Sunningwell and put great effort into cleaning up the pond and creating a channel through the island.

The green gym are due back in the parish this summer but further work on the pond will probably be left until autumn, to protect the water voles.

27/20	Sunningwell Village Hall Lease
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The lease has been signed by the Village Hall Management Committee and is now with Cllr Oliver Isaacs in readiness to be signed by the Parish Council.

ACTION Cllr Oliver Isaacs

28/20	Planning applications
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P20/V0124/HH Robinwood, Foxcombe Road.

Demolish conservatory, build side and rear extensions.

P20/V0371/HH 6 Bullsmead, Sunningwell

Loft conversion

The council has no objection to either of these applications.

29/20	Accounts for payment.
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Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	558.70
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	117.20
Bank transfer	Sunningwell Cricket Club	Contribution to new bench	10000
Bank transfer	Freshwater Habitat Trust	Pond assessment report	360.00

30/20	The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 30 Mar 2020 at Bayworth Chapel.
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The Chairman closed the February meeting at 8:40p.m.