

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 25 May 2020 via an online virtual meeting

Present:

Councillors

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

In attendance:

Andrew Dore, Mike Woodward
Brian Rixon – Clerk to the Parish Council

31/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston sent his apologies as he was due to speak at another meeting. He sent a written report commenting on modifications to the County constitution to enable it to meet virtually. Also, he reported on the Independent Remuneration Committee and the County's Waste and Minerals Plan.

Andrew Dore expressed his concern that a resident had applied weed killer to a significant area of the village green, especially as it was near a water course. He hoped the Council would reclaim costs from the property owner, and suggested the next Riparian letter, sent to all residents, should refer to the unacceptable behaviour that has taken place.

He also made the point that clearing silt from the pond can cause downstream issues.

Mike Woodward said that, in his view, the pond is in an awful state. The Council responded by saying earlier in the year it had commissioned a report from an expert and, in general, prefers to base any action on that. The clerk will contact the expert and seek his opinion on the current state.

32/20 Apologies

County Councillor Bob Johnston.
District Councillors Emily Smith and Debby Hallett.

33/20 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

34/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 30 Mar 2020.

The minutes were approved and will be forwarded to the Chairman for signing.
It was also minuted that the April meeting was cancelled.

35/20 Damage to the village green

Following damage caused by a resident using weed killer over a significant area of the village green, the Council wrote to residents in properties adjacent to the village green to express concern and outline the Council's planned action.

A damaged tree overhanging the area has been made safe and a replacement fence will be installed. The fence was discussed, and consideration is to be given to planting a mixed species hedgerow.

A budget, up to £100, was agreed to reseed or replant the damaged land. The clerk was asked to write to Bob Evans to seek his advice on what should be done. **ACTION Clerk**

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

36/20	Proposed information board for the village green
--------------	---

For some time, the idea of a notice on the village green giving information on conservation has been talked about.

The Council discussed it further and agreed that the clerk should write to Bob Evans to seek his proposal for such a board, including how it should be updated and protected from damage.

ACTION Clerk

37/20	Village green wall
--------------	---------------------------

Cllr Paul Wooldridge has contacted the appointed contractor and confirmed that the start date has been moved from May to September, due to delays caused by the Covid19 restrictions.

38/20	Drain on village green
--------------	-------------------------------

Cllr James Greenman reported that a replacement drain cover has arrived and has been placed over the drain. In June it will be cemented in.

39/20	Sunningwell Village Hall carpark and Bayworth triangle parking
--------------	---

Cllr Colin Weyer reported that he is still waiting for the requested quotation from a contractor.

40/20	Sunningwell Parish Flood Group
--------------	---------------------------------------

Hilary Lynam-Smith has written to the Council saying she is attempting to re-instate the Flood Group and asks if the Parish Council could help with the funding, for example, for replacement padlocks.

The Council discussed the matter and agreed it would be amenable to paying a grant sometime but does not see the need to padlock equipment that could be needed in an emergency.

It was agreed the clerk should write back and ask for a formal grant application with more detail of the plan.

ACTION Clerk

41/20	Village hall lease
--------------	---------------------------

Cllr Colin Weyer reported that in the middle of May he delivered, to Mike Cordery, a document that needs to be signed in front of a solicitor. It had been left out of the pack when the lease was presented for signing to the Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council is prepared to pay the notary's fee for witnessing the signature.

42/20	Planning applications
--------------	------------------------------

P12/V1188/FUL TLA Fitness

A parishioner has expressed concern that fitness classes have extended into an area adjacent to the original application site. The Council will seek the advice of the enforcement officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council.

ACTION Clerk

43/20	Accounts for payment.
--------------	------------------------------

Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	471.45
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	113.00
Bank transfer	Zoom	Online conferencing licence	143.88
Bank transfer	Mark McCracken	Grass cutting and strimming in the Parish	315.00
Bank transfer	James Greenman	Cast iron manhole cover for village green drain	169.88
Bank transfer	Arrow Accounting	Internal audit	308.00
Bank transfer	Oxfordshire Assn of Local Councils	Annual subscription	180.64
Bank transfer	Ian Hutt	Grass cutting Sunningwell Parish Village Green	240.00
Bank transfer	Mark White	Tighter mowing of area on village green	168.00
Bank transfer	St Leonard's Church	Grant for grass cutting the cemetery	1,144.00

44/20	The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 29 Jun 2020 using video conferencing
--------------	--

The Chairman closed the May meeting at 9:05p.m.