

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 29 Jun 2020 via an online virtual meeting

Present:

Councillors

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

In attendance:

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

45/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston advised that the planning application for the A34 Lodge Hill junction slip roads is expected in about three weeks. In June 2018 Sunningwell Parish Council was told it would be given a chance to review the plans as early as possible. Bob said he will email the county officer to remind him of this promise.

Cllr Paul Darby notified Bob that parishioners had raised concerns about the difficulty in crossing the B4017 Wootton Road in St Helen Without Parish. Bob advised Paul to contact County Councillor Richard Webber as the area is in his division.

Cllr Paul Wooldridge raised concern over road repairs in the parish and Cllr Mike Wykes asked specifically about the main road through Sunningwell and Bob said he would check.

46/20 Apologies

District Councillors Emily Smith and Debby Hallett.
Parish Councillor Oliver Isaacs – absent.

47/20 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

48/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 25 May 2020.

The minutes were approved and will be forwarded to the Chairman for signing.

49/20 Annual Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment was updated and circulated to all councillors for consideration during June. The Council approved the schedule.

Cllr Paul Wooldridge asked that the Public Liability insurance schedule be checked to ensure it covers activity on Sunningwell Parish Village Green now that it is owned by the Council.

ACTION Clerk

50/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The draft return was circulated to all councillors for consideration during June and was approved at this council meeting.

The Clerk was instructed to send the return and associated schedules to the external auditors.

ACTION Clerk

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51/20 Sunningwell Pond

Mike Woodward repeated his concern, expressed at the May council meeting, about the condition of the pond. As agreed at the May meeting, the clerk wrote to the specialist who had written the detailed report on the pond. The specialist asked for photographs showing the current state and these were sent. A follow up letter was sent on 17th June and a reply is still awaited.

52/20 Village Green damaged area

In June, the Parish Council contacted Bob Evans for his view on re-instating the area of village green damaged by a resident spraying chemical weed killer.

Bob had suggested it should be tackled in autumn when replanting becomes possible again and that the Green Gym be asked to help. Streamside plants favoured by the voles would be desirable and then rotovating the adjacent area before sowing meadow plants. As most of the work will be done by volunteers the proposed grant of £100 should be sufficient.

53/20 Village Green information board

By email, Bob Evans referred to his previous article in Sunningwell Scene and suggested the information could be updated and then displayed on a notice board mounted obliquely to be more legible and weatherproof.

Cllr James Greenman suggested the WI may be interested in assisting with the project and he would make contact.

54/20 Village Green drain cover

The drain cover was due to be cemented in place in June but has been delayed until July. The cover is in place and so the area is considered relatively safe until the work is completed.

55/20 Village hall car park resurfacing

Cllr Colin Weyer suggested that of three quotations received, the preferred one, from Chilswell Contractors, be accepted and this was agreed by the Council. Cllr Weyer was asked to apply to the Vale of White Horse for the Section 106 funds to be released for this project.

ACTION Cllr Colin Weyer

56/20 Parish road repairs

The condition of the road surfaces in the Parish were raised with County Councillor Bob Johnston who said he would check with the Highways department.

57/20 Grass verges and visibility splays

Cllr Paul Darby said he has contacted the County Officer about the need for the verges to be cut from a safety point of view. He is still awaiting a response but has also raised the issue on Fix My Street.

58/20 Quarry survey

The survey of the Quarry is due to take place on Thursday 2nd July and two Parish Councillors will meet the surveyor on site.

Mike Woodward continues to state, verbally and on Facebook, that the Parish Council is planning to spend £30,000 of public money to impose a footpath through his garden. This is all fake news.

The footpath has existed since the 1950s, is on the definitive map and, indeed in 2015, Mike applied for and received planning permission to alter the route of the footpath within his land.

After considering the current temporary closure of the public right of way, the only plan the Parish Council has agreed is to undertake a survey, with the co-operation of the County Council, to establish the viability of a route up the Quarry face now that the original steps have become unsafe. The Parish Council contribution towards this survey is up to £500.

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59/20 Safety of pedestrians crossing the Wootton Road in St Helens Without Parish

Cllr Paul Darby has received concerns from Bayworth Residents about the difficulty of crossing the Wootton Road.

County Councillor Bob Johnston suggested that Paul should contact Richard Webber who is the County Councillor for that area.

60/20 Accounts for payment.

Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure. Internet security	582.82
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	113.00
Bank transfer	Mark McCracken	Grass cutting and strimming in the Parish	180.00
Bank transfer	Tree Scape	Grinding of tree stump on village green	120.00
Bank transfer	Tree Scape	Felling of damaged tree on village green	420.00
Bank transfer	Ian Hutt	Grass cutting Sunningwell Parish Village Green	240.00
Bank transfer	Mark White	Replacing fence on village green, and grass cut	773.28

61/20 Planning applications

P12/V1188/FUL TLA Fitness

An enforcement investigation VE20/172 has been opened to consider the installation of outdoor exercise equipment and the alleged change of use of land for use in connection with the existing gymnasium.

P20/V1347/N1A The Old Workshops, Brumcombe Lane

To change the existing office into a domestic property

P20/V1375/FUL Church Farm

To install a temporary farm dwelling (mobile home) with parking

62/20 The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Monday 27 July 2020** using video conferencing

The Chairman closed the June meeting at 9:30p.m.