

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 27 Jul 2020 via an online virtual meeting

Present:

Councillors

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

In attendance:

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

63/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston advised that the County bid for funds from the Government scheme for alternative ways to travel, such as walking and cycling, was not compliant so the amount received was limited to £300,000. There will be another opportunity to bid in a few weeks' time.

Extra bus gates in Oxford are causing concern as there was no recent modelling.

As promised, Bob has pressed for drawings to be released for the Abingdon North slip roads on the A34.

Bob Evans outlined his suggestions for the proposed notice board on the village green. The preferred location is towards the lower end of the hedge beside the footpath down from Abingdon. Bob will talk to contacts following similar projects in their area and take the project to the estimate stage and email it to the Parish Council for approval. Bob Johnston has relevant experience and Bob Evans invited him to visit the green with him and share knowledge and suggestions.

64/20 Apologies

District Councillors Emily Smith and Debby Hallett.

65/20 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

66/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 29 Jun 2020.

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

67/20 Vale of White Horse Planning

Cllrs Colin Weyer and Paul Wooldridge commented that three years ago they attended a District Council meeting indicating an intention to encourage Parish Council opinion to be taken seriously when considering planning applications. The reality is nothing like that aim, and recent concerns raised with planning officers seem to be ignored even when reference to district regulations have been cited.

The clerk was asked to contact a nearby Parish Council to compare views on this and discuss whether funding is used for professional consultations when considering a response to a planning application that seems unacceptable.

ACTION Clerk

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

68/20	Planning applications
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P20/V1375/FUL Temporary farm dwelling at Church Farm, Dark Lane.

The Parish Council has expressed concerns over the application and is seeking for it to be called before the Vale of White Horse District Council's Planning Committee.

P20/V0342/FUL The Old Rectory – Coach house conversion to four 2-bed flats

Planning permission has been refused for reasons relating to car parking and protection of trees.

The Parish Council considers the application will be amended and re-presented.

The District Council seems to have ignored the Parish Council's complaint that half of the work on the Coach House had been completed before the application was considered. Cllr Mike Wykes will document the points and discuss them with Cllr Paul Wooldridge.

ACTION Cllrs Mike Wykes and Paul Wooldridge

69/20	Children's Playground
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The playground has been closed due to the Covid pandemic and signs to that effect were displayed on the gates and plastic ties used to keep the gates locked. Unfortunately, the ties were repeatedly removed, and the notices ignored.

The Parish Council is awaiting a delayed RoSPA inspection before considering re-opening the area. Meanwhile, new signs will be installed to confirm the site is officially closed for the short term.

70/20	Village Green cycling
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Cyclists have been using the village green and footpath 11 which comes through the green from the Abingdon direction. As cycling is not permitted on footpaths or the village green Cllr Mike Wykes agreed to write to two local cycling clubs to ask if their members could advise other riders about the restriction and indicate that the alternative route close by, with start and end points near footpath 11, is Bridle path 13.

ACTION Cllr Mike Wykes

71/20	Village Green drain cover
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The drain cover is scheduled to be fitted on Saturday 1st August.

72/20	S106 funding for the village hall car park resurfacing
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Cllr Colin Weyers contacted the District Council about releasing the S106 monies and was advised that a second quotation with the same specification as the first quotation will have to be presented before the funding can be released. In all, this could take around three months.

73/20	Quarry survey
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The Parish Council has received the topographical drawing resulting from the recent surveying visit.

To bring the project to conclusion, the architect now needs to visit the site to appraise that drawing and complete his report. He will be accompanied by Bob Evans and a senior representative from the Ramblers Association.

74/20	Village hall lease
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As the tenant/landlord clause is deemed to be ineffective, the Parish Council will no longer press for the associated Statutory Declaration to be signed. The matter can then be drawn to a conclusion and Bower and Bailey's final invoice can be paid.

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

75/20	Accounts for payment.		
Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	530.37
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	119.80
Bank transfer	Mark McCracken	Grass cutting and strimming in the Parish	135.00
Bank transfer	Ian Hutt	Grass cutting Sunningwell Parish Village Green	240.00

76/20	The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 28 September 2020 using video conferencing		
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The Chairman closed the June meeting at 9:10p.m.