

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 26 October 2020 via an online virtual meeting

Present:

Councillors

Oliver Isaacs (Vice Chairman), Elizabeth Bennett, Paul Wooldridge, Mike Wykes, James Greenman.

In attendance:

Richard Alden, Mike Woodward, Shirley and Graeme Robinson.
Brian Rixon – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

94/20 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Mike Woodward suggested that unless the Parish Council undertakes the responsibility of managing the pond effectively that he, along with others in the village, will ‘adopt’ the pond.

The Council thanked Mike for his offer, and the accompanying notes he sent during October. The pond is item 5 on the agenda and councillors said they would discuss the matter in the meeting and plan accordingly.

95/20 Apologies

Parish Councillor Paul Darby.

Cllr Colin Weyer briefly joined the meeting but a technical issue prevented complete online access to the zoom meeting, and he was unable to remain.

96/20 Declarations of members’ interests in respect of any item.

None

97/20 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 28 September 2020.

The minutes were approved.

98/20 Sunningwell Pond

The pond has not been neglected but has been the subject of a report by an expert, whose advice has been followed. Clearly, there is local support for greater intervention and Vice Chairman Oliver Isaacs proposed this should be addressed and someone should be appointed to oversee any action. This was voted on and was carried unanimously.

Cllr Paul Wooldridge suggested the pond maintenance should be linked to the successful management of the village green, and that Bob Evans should be asked to add the pond to his current village green responsibilities.

Cllr Oliver Isaacs called for a vote on whether to appoint Mike Woodward or Bob Evans. There was one vote for Mike and four votes for Bob. Bob Evans will therefore be given the responsibility.

Cllr James Greenman asked that the information board, suggested by Mike, should be considered to aid public engagement. This was agreed.

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99/20 CPRE

Cllr Elizabeth Bennett attends meetings of CPRE Oxfordshire which runs campaigns to improve, protect and preserve the landscape of Oxfordshire. Elizabeth suggested the Parish Council should donate a one-off payment, equal to their annual membership fee of £36, to CPRE. This was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

100/20 Village Hall car park resurfacing

Cllr Colin Weyer was unable to join the meeting and the matter was postponed to the November meeting.

101/20 Bayworth Triangle Parking

Feedback from Oxfordshire County Council suggests it is unlikely they would transfer the land to the Parish Council because it is a service area for utility companies. The clerk was asked to propose to OCC Highways that the Parish Council either be allowed to acquire the land, or to improve the surface and achieve a more functional parking area. ACTION Clerk

102/20 Speeding through the parish

Cllr Colin Weyer was unable to join the meeting and the matter was postponed to the November Council meeting.

103/20 Playground

All attempts by the Parish Council to show that the cricket field playground is closed, due to Covid 19 concerns, have been circumvented on several occasions by persons unknown cutting the plastic ties securing the gates closed and by removing the notices declaring the area closed.

The discussion lead to a proposal as to whether the area should be closed with stronger locks and notices. The matter was put to the vote and three councillors agreed the motion and two abstained. The motion was therefore carried.

It was agreed that secure locks should be fitted, and new notices displayed. The clerk was asked to contact the headmistress of the school to advise her of the plan and ensure that it does not conflict with the school's stance. ACTION Clerk

104/20 Village green notice board

Cllr Paul Wooldridge and Bob Evans have now instructed a contractor, at a maximum cost of £250, to design what will be put on the notice board. As soon as an approved draft for content, and the final cost for supply and fitting of the board, is ready it will be presented to the Council for approval. ACTION Cllr Paul Wooldridge

105/20 Village green

Work has started on repairing the stone wall at the entrance of the village green. The project is funded by S106 contributions. The Parish Council has agreed to accept the funds and the conditions as set out in the S106 contributions letter dated 27 October 2020.

Six Sapporo Autumn Gold Elm trees have been planted.

The damaged tree to the west of the village green is not within the boundary of the village green and is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

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106/20 Quarry footpath survey

As agreed the clerk sent the Parish Council's survey and architect's report to Arthur McEwan-James, the County Council's Rights of Way officer, with a request to bring the matter to conclusion and thus remove the Department of Transport's Temporary Footpath Closure Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The papers were sent on 30th September, but no response has been received. The clerk was asked to pursue the matter. **ACTION Clerk**

107/20 Local Government Pay Agreement 2020-21

The Council confirmed that, during October, details were received and approved for increasing the Clerk's salary in line with the National Joint Council's letter dated 24 August which confirmed pay scales have been increased and backdated to 1st April 2020. This increases the clerk's salary by £13.76 per month before tax.

The HMRC guidance on the home working allowance, covering working space, lighting, heating, and electricity was increased to £6 per week from April 2020. The Parish Council confirmed that the home working allowance should be paid at this rate backdated to 1st April 2020.

108/20 Planning applications

P20/V2407/HH Melfort, Hamels Lane. Outbuilding for gym and office.
The Parish Council has submitted an objection to this application.

109/20 Payments due

Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	703.93
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	136.80
Bank transfer	Ian Drury Architects	Survey report for the Quarry footpath	600.00

110/20 The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Monday 30 November 2020** using video conferencing

The Chairman closed the October meeting at 8:43p.m.