



MINUTES
of the
SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021
via Zoom

Present:

Councillors

Oliver Isaacs (in the Chair), Elizabeth Bennett, Paul Wooldridge, Mike Wykes, Paul Darby, and James Greenman.
Cllr Colin Weyer attended at the start but his Zoom connection was unstable and consequently the Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston.
District Cllr Emily Smith
7 members of the public
Brian Rixon – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

52/21 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

County Councillor Bob Johnston commented that, unusually, many County Councillors are stepping down at the May elections and some deselected by their political party are standing as independents.

District Councillor Emily Smith reported that the engagement exercise responses, regarding the Lodge Hill slip roads, are being analysed. Both she and Bob Johnston have raised Sunningwell's traffic concerns. Emily advised that the Lodge Hill project is a good opportunity to address traffic concerns and recommended that the Parish Council should first involve County Councillor Bob Johnston.

The Parish Council is grateful to Emily for arranging a special meeting between planning officers and three Parish Councillors. It will be discussed in agenda item 62/21.

Cllr Paul Darby reported concerns raised by John Miller following the effects of the Wootton Road being closed for repairs. Standing by the pond in Sunningwell it was noted that 30 to 40 cars passed by in a short period. It emphasises concerns that Sunningwell will become even more of a rat run when the Lodge Hill slip roads are completed.

Mike Woodward asked if the Parish Council Chairman will be standing for re-election at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. No-one knew the answer to the question.

Alex Reynold from Bayworth again raised his concern over the temporary stile where fencing has been installed on farmland near Brumcombe Lane. Denise Reynolds also had written to the Council asking about the hedge clearance on farmland near Bayworth. The Council asked the clerk to write to Tom Alden to request his comments on both matters.

Alex also asked again about the position of the white gates in Bayworth. Cllr James Greenman again reported that the gates are in the correct position as are the speed limit signs. The speed limit signs are the legal demarcation and would need a traffic order to be repositioned. The Parish Council is already seeking 20mph speed limits in Bayworth and Sunningwell.

53/21 Apologies for absence

Cllr Colin Weyer.

54/21 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

Cllr Mike Wykes when the village hall lease is discussed.

55/21 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 29 March 2021.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

56/21 Annual Parish Meeting

The question about the end of virtual meetings and a legal challenge to try and retain the ability to have virtual meetings should be resolved in a few days. If given a choice three councillors would continue with virtual meeting, three would return to physical meetings and one abstained from voting. Meanwhile, based on the current legislation, the clerk has booked Sunningwell Village Hall for all council meetings from May onwards.

The first meeting will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Thursday 27th May at 7p.m. The Council will undertake a risk assessment of the arrangements. For this year only refreshments that are normally offered, will not be provided at all.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a legal requirement and is the meeting where the parish council reports to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year. Electors, public and press are invited to hear reports from the Chairman, District and County Councillors, community groups and any organisation that the parish council has funded during the year.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a separate, and relatively informal, event for the community whereas the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**, which will follow the APM, is a formal council meeting. It will include the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year.

57/21 Telephone kiosk housing a defibrillator

Cllr Oliver Isaacs had a further conversation with the gentleman who had been interested in repainting the telephone kiosk but was advised that it is not now feasible for him to undertake the work. Cllr Isaacs asked the rest of the Council if they know of anyone local who could do the work. If not, then the Council would seek a professional contractor.

[Action: All councillors](#)

58/21 Playground

It was resolved that the playground should be re-opened, but first Cllr Oliver Isaacs would re-issue the previous risk assessment for all councillors to consider and vote upon. If the outcome is positive than the playground would be opened.

[Action: Cllr Oliver Isaacs and all councillor](#)

59/21 Sunningwell Parish Village Green

Cllr Mike Wykes raised the following concerns regarding the village green:

1. Someone was flying a quadcopter on VG last week - is this an approved activity?
2. Someone has dumped some cushions at the south-east edge of the VG under a thorn bush (pic attached). Is signage needed?
3. There seems to be an increasing amount of dog mess on the VG, can anything be done about it?

The matters were discussed, and it was resolved that drone flying is a legitimate recreational activity, subject to aviation authority guidelines being followed. The fly tipping can only realistically be resolved if the culprits are identified. There are already signs advising against leaving dog mess, but Cllr Oliver Isaacs offered to inspect the village green to see if the signs are still present and in the optimal locations.

[Action: Cllr Oliver Isaacs](#)

60/21 Bayworth – residue on cars

Cllr Paul Darby reported Bayworth residents' concerns that residue on their cars may have come from farming activities. The clerk was asked to contact the farmer to seek assurance on such matters.

[Action: Clerk.](#)

61/21 Village Hall Lease

The village hall lease has been signed by all the village hall management committee, but the signatures were not witnessed, and the committee had raised concerns about the covid risk of getting all members together for their signatures to be witnessed by a solicitor.

Following this Parish Council meeting's discussion, Cllr Oliver Isaacs will contact the committee to explain that signatures can be executed individually and do not have to be in front of a solicitor. Cllr Isaacs will clarify the few rules relating to eligibility of witnesses. **Action: Cllr Oliver Isaacs.**

62/21 Planning Applications

Application P21/V0639/HH. Hill House, Hamels Lane. Converting roof space over the garage into guest accommodation.

This application was submitted by Cllr Paul Wooldridge who immediately declared it to the full council and advised that he should not be involved, or notified, of any discussion between councillors. The application was reviewed by all other councillors, and no objections were raised to the proposals. The Council decided not to post any comments on the planning portal either objecting to or in support of the application.

As reported at the start of this parish council meeting, the Council was grateful to District Councillor Emily Smith for arranging a meeting between Parish Councillors and the Vale Planning Officers to discuss how some recent planning decisions had been reached. It was a useful meeting and ended with the Vale asking Sunningwell Parish Council to join a pilot study on improving communication around planning applications.

Cllr Mike Wykes was not satisfied that his questions over planning issues for one sequence of applications, relating to The Coach House in Sunningwell, were accurately resolved. He had written to the Chairman of the planning committee on three separate occasions and felt that each response changed the answers and did not lead to a satisfactory conclusion.

63/21 Financial Report Payments due and receipt of precept

The following payments were authorised.

Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure.	578.91
HMRC	PAYE	119.20
St Leonard's Church	Cemetery grass cutting	1144.00
Keepnet Limited	Website, email, domain registrations and management	426.00
Mark McCracken	Boundary gates, Bayworth Triangle, Pond and kiosk	135.00
Goodthinking	Design of village green map etc for new notice board	695.00
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator electrodes for Sunningwell	46.80
Jane Olds	Internal audit	145.00
Emapsite	Premium utilities survey for village hall car park	510.00

64/21

**The next Parish Council Meetings will be on Thursday 27 May 2021
in Sunningwell Village Hall**

**7 p.m. Annual Parish Meeting
7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

The Chairman closed the April meeting at 9:07 p.m.

*Please note that from May, Parish Council meetings will now be held in Sunningwell Village Hall
on a Thursday evening on the following dates:*

Thursday 27 May	Thursday 24 June	Thursday 29 July	No meeting in August
Thursday 30 September	Thursday 28 October	Thursday 25 November	No meeting in December