



MINUTES
of the
SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
Thursday 26 January 2023
In Sunningwell Village Hall

Present:

Councillors

Colin Weyer (Chairman), Paul Wooldridge, Mike Wykes, Gina Bale, John Simms, and Paul Darby.

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston (for part of the meeting)
District Councillor Emily Smith (for part of the meeting)
Brian Rixon – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1/23 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

County Councillor Bob Johnston reported:

- The Lodge Hill interchange comes before the Planning and Regulations committee soon, but not at the February meeting.
- Traffic Calming is being progressed.
- Kennington bridge rebuilding will start soon.
- The council tax is likely to increase by 4.99%.

District Councillor Emily Smith indicated that:

- The District element of council tax will increase by the maximum allowed amount of £5 per household per year.
- The council rate deduction scheme still applies, with another 1400 homes being eligible from April.
- The NPPF consultation is in progress – more details in the next District Councillors' report.
- More dates have been added to the list of District Councillor surgeries.
- The Great British Spring Clean will be held again in March.

2/23 Apologies for absence.

Parish Councillor James Greenman

3/23 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

4/23 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 November 2022.

The Council unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes from the council meeting on 24th November be accepted as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

5/23	Planning applications
-------------	------------------------------

The following planning applications were considered: -

Reference	Location	Proposal	Parish Council response
P22/V2570/FUL	Land adjacent to Foxcombe Rise	New dwelling – amendment	Further Objection will be made
P22/V2985/HH	Broomfield, Hamels Lane	Single storey extension	No objection
P22/V2807/FUL	Walden, Foxcombe Road	Replacement dwelling	No objection

6/23	Bayworth Parking Area.
-------------	-------------------------------

Having applied for the release of S106 funding to improve car parking in Sunningwell parish, the Council has now received £8,401.04 towards the cost of improving the parking area on Bayworth Triangle.

The Parish Council unanimously RESOLVED to ask Cllr Paul Darby to instruct Mansbridge Ltd to start the work at the quoted full price of £14,712.

7/23	National Association of Local Councils: - pay review from April 2022.
-------------	--

In November 2022 the National Association of Local Councils reported that the Local Government Association had come to an agreement on the new pay scales for 2022-2023 to be implemented from 1st April 2022. Parish Councils were encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible.

Sunningwell Parish Council unanimously RESOLVED to confirm the decision made by email in December 2022 to follow the NALC recommendation and increase the clerk's salary accordingly.

8/23	Churchyard Christmas Lights: - to consider action following the failure of the current lights.
-------------	---

The Christmas lights on the tree in the churchyard had failed and were inspected by the parish council with the assistance of an electrician. The conclusion reached was that it was uneconomic to hire a cherry picker to enable the lights to be removed and tested further.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that no further action would be taken to install new lights and that Cllr James Greenman would be asked to inspect the tree to see if the lights could be removed and discarded (by, say, cutting the cables and pulling out sections).

9/23	Playground on the cricket ground: -
-------------	--

The proposed refurbishment of the play area was discussed, and the Council unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Gina Bale should meet with a specialist to survey the existing playground and prepare recommendations for developing the area whilst incorporating best practice with regards to safety, accessibility, shading etc. The opinions of the school management and other interested parties would be sought.

Cllr Colin Weyer offered to seek input from parishioners via the council's email contact list.

10/23 Parish Traffic Calming:

Cllr Colin Weyer attended an online seminar with around 30 other Parish Chairmen. The discussion included a session on traffic calming.

One suggestion was to consider registering with Community Speedwatch who offer training, and a speed gun package, where readings of traffic speeds and registration numbers can be reported to the police who would consider sending letters to drivers who were speeding.

It was RESOLVED (by a vote of 5 to 1 in favour, with Cllr Paul Wooldridge voting against the motion) that the police would be contacted to confirm their active involvement in the scheme. If that was forthcoming, then the Community Speedwatch package would be purchased at a cost in the range £500 to £600.

11/23 King’s Coronation 6 May 2023.

The Council unanimously RESOLVED that it would not be putting on a council event but is willing to consider a financial contribution to anyone proposing an event in the parish, subject to approving the detail of that event.

12/23 Bayworth Triangle planters: - to consider buying plants

The Council unanimously RESOLVED to approve Cllr Paul Darby’s request that the Council pays up to £50, in 2023, towards the costs of bulbs or plants for the planters previously purchased by the council. It is on the strict understanding that reimbursement will only be made against VAT invoices (clearly showing the supplier’s full VAT number) sent to the clerk.

13/23 Financial report:

The January financial statement was presented and approved.
This included the following payments.

Clerk	Salary, Office supplies.	630.60
HMRC	PAYE	136.00
Sage Payroll	Monthly subscription	8.40
Oxfordshire Association of LC	Two councillor training courses	84.00

.

The next Parish Council Meetings will be on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in Sunningwell Village Hall

The Chairman closed the January meeting at 9:19 p.m.