

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 30 September 2015 at SUNNINGWELL VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Councillors Paul Wooldridge (in chair), Joanne Blower, Andrew Veal, Oliver Isaacs, Colin Weyer and James Freeman.

In attendance: County Councillor Bob Johnston
District Councillor Emily Smith
Tim Law and Fiona Freeman
Brian Rixon (Clerk)

137/15	Questions and Comments from members of the public.
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County Councillor Bob Johnston.

Bob reported that the current stage of LPT4 was approved by 2 votes. The Park & Ride and Lorry Park are now a “proposal” rather than the previous “aspiration”.

District Councillor Emily Smith

Emily reported that the Capital Grant scheme no longer has a limit per council applying. There is a total of £62,000 available for this area of the Vale of White Horse.

138/15	Apologies for absence
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Hilary Lynam-Smith, Debby Hallett

139/15	Declarations of members’ interests in respect of any item
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None

140/15	To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 24 June 2015
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Cllr Hilary Lynam-Smith had written to say that at the July meeting she had stated that the original village green group would be happy to oversee the creation of information boards (which would require some professional help) on the village green and to instate an under 5s maze. The group would be prepared to do some fund raising to cover the costs incurred.

The above omission was noted and the minutes were then approved and signed.

Furthermore, the council expressed its gratitude to Hilary and the village green group for all their work and success in organising the village green events.

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141/15	To consider any Matters Arising from the minutes of 24 June
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Traffic Consultants

Cllr Paul Wooldridge has sent Cllr Joanne Blower contact details of traffic consultants.

Village Green Willow Tree

This has been pollarded and the Diocese has agreed to pay the cost

Playground

The original suppliers of the playground have not responded to the council's request for advice on an appropriate treatment for weeds on the play surface. The clerk was asked to seek advice from the playground inspectors.

ACTION Clerk

Boars Hill defibrillator

Cllr Colin Weyer reported that a volunteer has come forward to undertake the weekly and monthly checks on the defibrillator provided training is given. Cllr Andrew Veal said he would demonstrate the procedure he uses on the Sunningwell defibrillator.

142/15	Neighbourhood Plan
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The survey prepared by Cllr Colin Weyer and distributed by all councillors to each house in the parish has been analysed. From the 781 voters in the parish, 49 returns were received. This is a 6% response which ranged from 10% in Long Furlong to 4% in Bayworth. Also 12 respondents indicated they might be interested in being involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The survey responses from the 6% showed "likes" were the countryside, community, and the public house, whilst "dislikes" were lack of pathways between the communities within the parish, the development threat, traffic speeding and rat running, and the impact of the new house overlooking Sunningwell where the large hedge had been removed in contravention of a planning condition.

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Weyer should ask those interested in further involvement, if they were prepared to continue with a local plan given the level of responses received and, if so, set up an initial meeting. The Vale of White Horse Officer and a person with experience from preparing a plan in Grove and Wantage would be invited to attend and offer advice.

ACTION Cllr Colin Weyer

143/15	VOWH Local Plan Part 1: Examination in Public (EIP)
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Cllr Joanne Blower reported that she had attended 3 of the 4 days of the EIP, examining the Vale of White Horse Local Plan (LP) Part 1. The purpose of the EIP is to decide whether the LP meets statutory criteria of acceptability. The LP sets out how the Vale will fulfil its obligation to build 20,560 houses in the Vale and how it has cooperated with Oxford City Council with respect to Oxford's Unmet Housing Need. A written decision will be issued by EIP Inspector Matthew Rivett in due course. Meanwhile Joanne will send a copy of her meeting notes to all councillors.

ACTION Cllr Joanne Blower

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144/15	Traffic Calming
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Cllr Colin Weyer is still awaiting a reply from the County Council on his proposal to move the 30 mph signs in the Beaulieu Court area nearer to the junction with Green Lane.

With regard to the Foxcombe Road, Colin has obtained legal and other costings for adding speed awareness signs. A volume check has shown an 80% increase in traffic. A speed survey eight years ago, however, showed most traffic was travelling under 41 miles per hour.

Wootton Parish Council is discussing the matter of Foxcombe Road traffic at their next meeting.

Colin will contact John Simms and Rachel Wallwork, of the Boars Hill Group, and offer the parish council's support in progressing the issue of speeding vehicles.

ACTION Cllr Colin Weyer

145/15	Footpaths
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Dark Lane Footpath 372/1

The clerk reported that he had asked the County Council about the suggestion that the footpath in Dark Lane goes through Mr & Mrs Baker's property, and received a clear response that it does not.

Cllr Joanne Blower disagreed with this conclusion and will make her own investigation.

Foxcombe Lane to Bayworth Footpath 372/15

Cllr Paul Wooldridge has had further discussions with the County with reference to the installation of a gate at the entrance from the Foxcombe Road end. A further response from the County Officer Arthur McEwan-James is awaited.

Foxcombe Road pathway hedges

The County Council Highways Inspector has inspected the hedges along Foxcombe Road and sent letters to those properties where hedges need cutting, giving 28 days for action to be taken. Near Rainbow House, the County will arrange for the footway to be "sided out" to remove weeds and earth from the tarmac.

146/15	Parish Council website
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Cllr Andrew Veal reported that the website is under construction in WordPress and, well within budget, will cost £700 including a "Councillors only area". On-going maintenance can be on an hourly rate or for a fixed annual fee of £200. It was agreed the annual fee option would be adopted.

147/15	White Gates, Village Green signs and exposed drain on village green
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Cllr James Greenman will arrange for a contractor to repaint all the white gates and posts at the entrances to Sunningwell and Bayworth, and for the three village green signs to be re-oiled. Also the exposed drain on the village green will be repaired, as soon as possible so that it is safe for the firework event on 7 November.

ACTION Cllr James Greenman

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148/15	Village Green firework event.
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Offers are already coming in with wood for the bonfire so a post and indicator flag will be positioned on the green to show where parishioners can put their wood. It will be away from the eventual bonfire position to protect wildlife. The final building of the bonfire will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday 1 November.

Councillors agreed on individual responsibilities for refreshments, lighting and gazebos, and for putting a notice up around the village promoting the event.

The clerk confirmed that the village hall has been booked from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

ACTION Various councillors

149/15	Village Hall
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Carpark

Cllr Colin Weyer confirmed that the Parish Council has now been registered as owner of the carpark.

Lease

Cllr Paul Wooldridge will recontact the Chairman of the Village Hall committee to further a discussion on the terms for a new lease.

ACTION Cllr Paul Wooldridge

150/15	Flood Prevention – third dam
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Throughout the summer the clerk has been in contact with White Horse Contractors and in the last conversation on 15 September Lloyd Jones said that almost all the parts for the new dam have now been received and work should start early in October.

151/15	Winter Preparations - salt delivery
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An order has been placed with Oxfordshire County Council for a one tonne bag of salt to be delivered to Sunningwell Village Hall carpark. A tarpaulin has been purchased to cover the bag.

152/15	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils - Training
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Places on a one day course entitled “Roles and Responsibilities Working on Your Local Council” have been booked for Cllrs Joanne Blower and Oliver Isaacs on Wednesday 25 November from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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153/15	Planning Applications
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P15/V1798/HH 7 Brumcombe Lane Bayworth - extensions

The parish Council would support the application if the proposed first floor extension were to be no further back than the existing rear wall of the house.

P15/V1746/PAR Cattle Barn at Blagrove Farm – conversion to dwelling

Permission was granted even though the Parish Council wrote saying the application does not fulfil the permitted development criteria. The file was passed to Cllr Oliver Isaacs for his opinion.

P15/V2166/HH 14 Quarry Road Bayworth – extension

The council has no objection.

P15/V2198/FUL Tilsley Park – field sports throw area, lighting and fencing

This application was passed to Cllr Colin Weyer for his consideration before the 16 October deadline.

154/15	Accounts for payment
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1568	Clerk Sep	Salary and Office Expenditure Aug & Sep Including salt tarpaulin	544.47
1569	HMRC	PAYE	99.40
1570	Ian Hutt	Mowing village green Aug	192.00
1571	Norman Green	Plants for Bayworth planters	22.50
1572	New Leaf Tree	Pond willow tree – raise crown	300.00
1573	Joanne Blower	Expenses – pig roast and LPT4	60.40

155/15	Any other business
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Carol Singing – Bayworth to Sunningwell

Cllr Joanne Blower will speak to Mike and Vanessa Woodward to discuss the proposed event.

ACTION Cllr Joanne Blower

If arranged in time, the event will also be promoted on the firework notice.

Oxfordshire Together

Oxfordshire County Council needs to save costs and are seeking to involve parish councils in urban grass cutting, weed control, hedging, salt bins, school crossing, tree planting and drainage inspection amongst other things. They suggest clusters of councils could be formed to undertake the tasks.

Sunningwell Parish Council considers it is not set up to provide such services, and incur the costs likely to be involved.

156/15	The Next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 28 October 2015 at Sunningwell Village Hall starting at 7.30pm
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The Chair closed the September meeting at 10:25 p.m.