

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 25 Nov 2019 at BAYWORTH Chapel

Present:

Councillors

Colin Weyer, Elizabeth Bennett, James Greenman, Paul Wooldridge and Paul Darby.

In attendance:

County Councillor Bob Johnston. District Councillor Emily Smith.
Brian Rixon – Clerk to the Parish Council

139/19 Questions and comments from visiting councillors and members of the public

Oxfordshire County Councillor Bob Johnston reported that the county footpath officer has changed, but Bob is still pursuing the quarry footpath matter. Also, the Kennington railway bridge renewal will cost more than originally stated. He had attended a briefing about the North Abingdon development and there will now be a cycle network from Oxford to Abingdon, with a link to the Thames footpath. The Lodge Hill junction slipways are being held back while waiting for a decision on the Oxford Cambridge Expressway plans. The lack of slip roads would limit the housing permitted in the North Abingdon area.

District Councillor Emily Smith said the next Vale Council meeting has been moved to 18 December because of the general election.

140/19 Apologies for absence.

District Councillors Debby Hallett.
Parish Councillors Mike Wykes and Oliver Isaacs.

141/19 Declarations of members' interests in respect of any item.

None

142/19 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 28 Oct 2019.

The minutes were approved and signed.

143/19 Firework Event Saturday 2 November

There was a good turnout considering the poor weather.

Cllr James Greenman expressed his concern that false rumours were spread saying the event had been cancelled.

This year there was more residue of nails and metal parts than in previous years. The Council is very grateful to Cllr Elizabeth Bennett, and her husband David, who spent a considerable amount of time picking up the offending items. It was agreed that in next year's planning there will be more emphasis on clearing up.

Donations totalling £456.05 were received from parishioners at the event.

It was agreed that next year's event will be on Saturday 7th November and the clerk was asked to book Storm Fireworks again.

ACTION Clerk

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

144/19 Christmas Event

Cllr Oliver Isaacs was unable to attend the Council meeting but confirmed by email that the event will now be held on Saturday 7th December at 5p.m. The Parish Council approved his budget to purchase led lights and cabling and suggested a timer will be needed on the electricity supply too.

Cllr James Greenman offered a scaffolding tower, from the residents of Beaulieu Court, to enable the lights to be installed safely. Cllr Paul Wooldridge suggested the lights could be left in the tree for future years. It was agreed, of course, that the church would be reimbursed for the electricity used. The councillors offered to help with the publicity if Cllr Isaacs will let them know.

The clerk was asked to update Cllr Oliver Isaacs with the above information. **ACTION Clerk**

145/19 VE Day 75 8th to 10th May 2020

It was agreed that the Council will arrange an event and will discuss it at the January council meeting.

146/19 Sunningwell Pond report from Consultant

The pond consultant Jeremy Biggs is a recognised expert and has written a detailed report following his inspection of the pond on Wednesday 20th November.

In summary his recommendation is that no immediate practical action is needed. Most animal life will be associated with the two dominant water plants: fool's water cress and a species of starwort, and having these plants grow up in the back half of the pond provides habitat and cleans the water. Removing these plants will reduce the habitat of pond animals. The creation of more open water makes the view nicer for people but has no benefit for wildlife.

Cllr Elizabeth Bennett offered to speak to Bob Evans about the potential to include the pond in his village green working party plans.

(Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Mike Wykes reported that the Sunningwell Scene Winter 2019 issue reported a visit by an official of the Water Vole Trust found indications of water vole presence in the pond. Water voles are protected and, according to government guidance, disturbance of the habitat is a criminal offence)

147/19 Village Green gate security

The gate hinges have been welded into place making it harder to remove the gate to gain access to the village green.

It was noted that the broken drain cover on the village green needs a more permanent repair and Cllr James Greenman offered to investigate a solution. **ACTION Cllr James Greenman**

148/19 Village Hall lease

Cllr Oliver Isaacs has received the latest draft lease from our solicitor and will distribute it to the council. **ACTION Cllr Oliver Isaacs**

SUNNINGWELL PARISH COUNCIL

149/19 Dog mess in the parish

The matter was discussed in some detail again and shows that some residents simply do not clear up after their dogs. Some others bag the waste and then inexplicably dump the bag to the side of the verge!

Cllr Paul Darby has distributed the Vale of White Horse “Dog Fouling Awareness Notice” to each house in Bayworth and the council suggested displaying more notices.

The last time the council enquired about installing more waste bins the district refused on the basis that there is no resource to empty them. The clerk was asked to check the current status.

ACTION Clerk

150/19 Budget for the next financial year

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposed expenditure for the next financial year. A draft schedule was amended and resulted in a total budget of £33,000. This will be used as the basis for the precept application early in January

151/19 Planning applications

P19/V2326/FUL 2 Sunningwell. Demolish bungalow and replace with two large houses. This amended application has been refused by the District Council.

P19/V2558/HH Pilgrim Cottage. Single storey extensions and ancillary building. Cllr Mike Wykes contacted seven neighbours during a review of the application and no adverse comments were received. The cricket club asked that any damage to the lane should be made good and recommended that the proposed garden building should have suitable safety glass due to the risk from cricket balls.

152/19 Accounts for payment.

Bank transfer	Clerk	Salary, Office Expenditure. Ink cartridges	583.11
Bank transfer	HMRC	PAYE	118.00
Bank transfer	Ian Hutt	October village green main mowing	228.00
Bank transfer	M R White	October village green mowing	168.00
Bank transfer	Bayworth Chapel	Hall hire for next year	240.00
Bank transfer	Cllr Oliver Isaacs	Refreshments for firework event	210.04
Cheque	MRH Services	Playground inspection and minor repairs	69.00

It was also agreed that defibrillator pads should be purchased for the Boars Hill machine, and Cllr Elizabeth Bennett should be reimbursed £31.70 for food provided at the firework event.

The SPADE grant of £2500 should now be paid following receipt, at the meeting, of the completed grant form.

153/19 Bayworth footpath

Cllr Paul Darby raised questions from residents about the footpath across the fields from Bayworth. It was acknowledged that the farmer was exercising correct procedures regarding the footpath and that the spraying of crops would have met DEFRA safety standards.

154/19 The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Monday 27 Jan 2020 at Bayworth Chapel.**

The Chairman closed the October meeting at 9:35p.m.