

**MINUTES OF SOULDERN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 18th MAY 2017**

Present:	Also in attendance:	Apologies:
N Oakhill (NO)	T Vincent	N Robertson
K Draper (KD)	N Jones	B May
C Rothero (CR)	J Coleman	L Cornish
K Alpress	A H Gray	J Clifford
B McGarry (Clerk - BMc)	D Gray	K Cliford
	A Prescott	
	D Carlisle	
	H Spight	
	T Snow	
	D Stephens	

2. **Minutes** of the Souldern Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2016 were approved and signed. Prop: CR 2nd: KD
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising
4. **Chairman's Report:**
 The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the clerk for their efforts and support during the past year. He then reported that, as in previous years all legal obligations had been met representing residents of Souldern without favour or otherwise.
 Issues during the year included:
 The condition of the roads within the village which continue to be a problem.
 The verges that are the responsibility of OCC within the 30mph speed limit were only cut once last year due to budget cuts and so to remedy this these areas will be included in the remit of the Council's current mowing team so that they are cut at least twice.
 Parishioners closest to the B4100 have continued to have issues with the local pig farm and correspondence continues to be exchanged with the EA officer.
 SPC and parishioners were invited to take part in a Conservation area appraisal and the revised area is due to be published by CDC shortly.
 An issue arising from the Souldern Vision was the inadequate opportunities for regular social events within the village the result of which is the 'Time to Talk' initiative started in December with a Christmas lunch and continuing with regular monthly coffee mornings.
 During the past year the football club has disbanded leaving the changing rooms unused for the time being. Proposals for an alternative will be discussed at the September meeting.
 Thanks were extended to David Carlisle for his continued efforts maintaining the village website. Also to Tim Vincent and his team for their work in NBW and Lucy Matthews who has taken over the management of the playground.
 Socially the parish council has been the catalyst for many activities starting with the Queen's 90th birthday celebration at Souldern House, the Wacky races at the end of June,

two Christmas celebrations held in the village hall and rounding the year off with an Easter egg hunt in the grounds of Souldern Manor.

As the RFO's report will confirm everything has been done to stay within the financial constraints of the council and thanks were extended to Nikki Robertson for maintaining the accounts accurately and in timely fashion.

5. **Finance Officer's Report:**

As a result of the continued and careful management of the accounts during 2016/17 the village precept has been able to remain at £5,700.00 for another year.

Income, net of VAT was £9,170.00 and expenditure was £6,902.00. Income exceeding expenditure by £2,268.00.

The New Homes Grant from CDC for 2016/17 was for £1,091.00.

There was an underspend of £2,701.00 against the 2016/17 budget and a slight overspend on celebrations (288.00).

Expenditure followed the usual pattern, with the most significant cost being for grass cutting. Expenditure on the playground included improvements to safety and painting. Maintenance costs were less than last year.

The accounts for 2016/17, once approved will be available for inspection and comment by arrangement.

Thanks to Charlie Noble for his thorough and constructive internal auditing.

6. **Matters Arising from Reports:** There were no matters arising and D Gray thanked the Council for all their hard work during the year.

7. **Questions from Residents:**

There were no questions from residents

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman Souldern Parish Council