

MINUTES OF THE SOULDERN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ON

25th November 2021

Present:

Nick Oakhill (NO) CHAIR
John Hoodless (JH)
Alan Smith (AS)
Laura How (LH)
Neal Ship (NS)
Cathy Fleet (CF) CLERK

Members of the Public:

Norma Jones
James Bucknall
Malcolm Sweetman

11.21.01 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Kirsty Allpress

11.21.02 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

11.21.03 To receive the minutes of the last parish council meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 30th September 2021 were checked for accuracy and content, agreed as a true record of the meetings and signed by the chair.

11.21.04 Public participation

Members of the public were invited to participate

11.21.05 Clerks Report and Actions from previous meeting

NO	ACTION	OWNER	Update
Sept21.01	NO will arrange for a working party to remove the remaining playground equipment the weekend after next.	NO	On-going
Sept21.02	All to set up gmail addresses. CF to set up G-drive	ALL CF	All were encouraged to set up gmail addresses completed

11.21.06 Updates

a) Playground Advisory Group

Planning application for equipment to be submitted to CDC within the next 2 weeks

b) Nancy Bowles Wood Advisory Group

No update was available. An email had been received from Tim Vincent regarding Kev Keane who carries out bushcraft classes in the wood. The Rules of Engagement had been sent to him but no response received.

NO to chase

c) **CDC**

No update was available

d) **OCC**

No update was available

e) **Pond cottage**

There was considerable discussion around events at Pond Cottage. The cottage flooded in August 2020 resulting in the owners having to move out. In March 2021 there was an oil leak from a pipe connected to the oil tank, resulting in oil discharging into the surrounding soil, the pond and the canal. Subsequent investigations have revealed that in March 2014 an email was sent to the PC requesting permission for a pipe to be laid across the PC's land to discharge into the pond. There is no evidence of a response from the PC nor any paperwork from CDC, OCC, The Environment Agency or Thames Water. The area has now been excavated and pipes have been found to be going from below the sunroom into a manhole leading to a well and then into the pond and therefore any contamination is going into the pond also. There is still a smell of oil and oil can be seen on the surface of the water. The fish appear to be thriving. A new oil tank is to be installed. Malcolm Streetman was present at the time the manhole was being built and will place a marker to show where it is.

JH will draft a letter to the current owners informing them that permission was never given by the PC and requesting sight of any documentation they have from other bodies.

NO will attempt to find out how to get tests done on the water in the pond, the well and the manhole.

11.21.07 Environmental issues

A meeting is being hosted by Lower Heyford Parish Council on 16th December for local parish to discuss moves they are taking to deal with climate change and environmental issues. **AS to attend the meeting.**

There is still a strong smell of sewage in the village. **NO to write to Thames Water suggesting that the manholes should be sealed to prevent the smell.**

11.21.08 Planning - the following planning documents had been received

21/02964/TCA Keepers Cottage treework - **Approval**

21/03531/NMA Rose Cottage, Bates lane - amendment to 18/01239/F - **no objection**

21/03788/F St Josephs, High Street - Refurbishment and extension of residential property to include demolition, alterations and extensions - **no objection , AS to draft supporting statement to be submitted to CDC**

21/03853/LB Rock Cottage, The Hill - Retrospective like for like replacement of timber sash windows with thin double glazed panes. - **no objection**

21/03932/F Land south of Leycroft Barn - Change of use of agricultural buildings - **no objection**

21/03916/TCA Souldern Court - fell Yew tree - **no objection**

05.18.10 Finance

Paid by standing order in October and November

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary (Oct)	82.00	0.0	Standing Order
HMRC	(re above)	16.00	0.0	Standing Order
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary (Nov)	82.00	0.0	Standing Order
HMRC	(re above)	16.00	0.0	Standing Order
Unity Bank	Quarterly bank chgs	18.00	0.0	Standing Order

To be approved at the 25th Nov meeting

Payee	Detail	Total £s	VAT	Comments
Nigel Prickett	Grasscutting	396.00	66.00	Invoice 1541

The precept figures will be set by NO and LH and presented for approval at a meeting, possibly on 27th December.

Other matters:

Cedar Tree in the churchyard - A quote had been received from Nicholsons. NO had written to Clive Smith asking if permission is required from the Diocese before Nicholsons proceed. Clive had responded that he would seek advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

NO will write back to Clive pointing out that the tree in question is on disputed land (open or closed churchyard) and that it is in the interest of the PCC that the work is carried out and that they should obtain the necessary permission. The PC has arranged for the quote from Nicholsons and will arrange for any permission required from CDC.

Date of next meetings : It was agreed that if no planning applications have been received by 15th December then the scheduled Planning meeting on 30th December will be cancelled.

Proposed dates for 2022 : last Thursday of the month

PC meeting	Planning meeting
27 January	24th February
31st March	28th April
26th May	30th June
28th July	25th August
29th September	27th October
24th November	29th December

Signed

Chair, Souldern Parish Council

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

NO	ACTION	OWNER	Update
Sept21.01	NO will arrange for a working party to remove the remaining playground equipment the weekend after next.	NO	On-going
Sept21.02	All to set up gmail addresses.	ALL	All were encouraged to set up gmail addresses
Nov21.01	NO to chase up Kev Keane regarding Rules of Engagement in NBW	NO	
Nov21.02	Pond Cottage - JH will draft a letter to the current owners informing them that permission was never given by the PC and requesting sight of any documentation they have from other bodies. NO will attempt to find out how to get tests done on the water in the pond, the well and the manhole	JH NO	
Nov21.03	NO to write to Thames Water suggesting that the manholes should be sealed to prevent the smell.	NO	
Nov21.04	NO will write back to Clive pointing out that the tree in question is on disputed land (open or closed churchyard) and that it is in the interest of the PCC that the work is carried out and that they should obtain the necessary permission		