

MINUTES of the meeting of Soulbury Parish Council held on Monday, 20 July 2020 at 7.30 p.p. at the Parish Hall, Soulbury.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr V.Wright, Chairman; Mrs M. Rowe; Mr A. Stevens; Miss W.Taylor; Mr I. Culley; Mr J. Day; Mr M. Cross and 3 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apology for absence was received from Mr J. Spires, Clerk to the Parish Council. Cllr Taylor was asked to take the minutes of this meeting.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2020 were approved by the Council and signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None

4. FINANCE:

Payment of the accounts listed in a document attached to the agenda was unanimously approved. There was a query on the number of cuts and amount paid to Mr Keel for grass cutting. Cllr Wright agreed to raise this with the Clerk and report back to Council.

5. PLANNING:

- 5.1 20/01155: Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond - single storey side extension. No objection.
- 20/02180: Hill View, Dean Farm Lane, Soulbury - erection of 2 dwellings including associated access parking and amenity spaces. Basic scheme already agreed but the builder is changing some items requiring a subsequent planning application. No objection but there is concern for Dean Farm Lane as it is not an adopted road, is used as a cycle way, bridle path and footpath and as access for properties along it. There are concerns for the increase in heavy vehicle access particularly in bad weather. It was therefore felt there should be a undertaking included in any approval that the road surface should be improved for the duration of the build and to be left in the condition it was when the build commenced.
- 20/02209: 16 The Green, Soulbury - Front Porch
No objection.
- 20/01837: Stapleford Cottage, Stapleford Mill Road, Soulbury - Removal of Condition 3 on Application 1987/01795 (extension permitted shall only be used ancillary to part of the residential dwelling and not as a separate dwelling in its own right).
No objection.
- 5.2 Nothing further has been heard about the development at Green Farm.

6. ENVIRONMENT:

6.1 Childrens' Playground

Alan Humpreys is now cutting the grass. Spikes on top of the swings is a huge success in

preventing the equipment being covered in bird droppings. Frances Andrews chased the Buckinghamshire Council Legal Department with regard to the lease. We cannot obtain any funding/s106 monies to improve the site for the children without either extending the lease or buying the land and we now need some answers.

6.2 Grass Cutting

The grass cutting will no longer be carried out by Mr Keel. In the interim Richard Caplan cut the grass on the village green. He used the Millennium Green ride-on but it is not up to the task and is not a road vehicle to get to the other areas covered by the contract. Pro temps, Richard will continue to do the village green. The following now needs to be done:

- a) Mark a map with the areas needed to be included in the grass cutting contract and obtain a quote for that.
- b) Go out to three companies to tender for the new contract ensuring quote covers transport, maintenance, insurance and storage.

7. REPORTS OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

None present

8. PARISH HALL:

The parish hall will be closed for redecoration for the first two weeks in August.

9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

Due to vandalism the SMG is now locked from 10 pm to 7 am each day. Pulford School in Leighton Buzzard hired the marquee for a generous donation of £250. A small summer camp for a few children for a couple of nights with parental supervision is being considered. Cllr Stevens will sort out security and deal with any arrangements required of the SMG.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

It has been observed that parking has commenced again on the village green in front of the cottage. Cllr Wright agreed to write to the residents of the cottage again as parking on the green is not permitted.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 6 months ago we applied to the District Council for a Public Space Protection Order. The District Council wrote describing that the process is not easy and why and did we

want

to continue with it. The Parish Council agreed to press on with the process. Nothing has happened. Cllr Wright will discuss current situation with the Clerk and remind Cllr Ben Everitt.

- The tenants in No 7 Andrews Close, Soulbury are causing considerable stress to neighbours, have been the reason behind the closure of the SMG overnight as they have dumped bags of dog excrement and stolen items from the SMG and, having acquired and read the Tenancy Agreement, the Parish Council believe they are in breach of that contract on many aspects. VAHT in the past have very curtly told the Parish Council that issues with tenants are nothing to do with them. As parishioners are clearly very stressed, and moving away from our village, as a result of VAHT tenants' very anti-social and, at times, criminal behaviour, the Parish Council believe it is very much their business as elected representation

for the village/parish. Cllr Wright will write to the Chairman of VAHT with the facts of the case to elicit their support in dealing with the situation.

- Chelmscote planning issues: the planning application needs to be consolidated before the Parish Council can comment. A site visit was undertaken by Cllrs Wright and Culley to try to understand what it going on. It is still not clear. A watching brief will be kept on the Planning Portal and developments will be reported back to Council.
- The Cherry Tree on the village green split leaving half of it needing to be cut from the trunk. However, it was observed that the whole tree is rotten and could come down completely in the next strong wind. The Council Arborist will be contacted with a view to obtaining permission to remove it completely.
- Cllr Day will repaint and tidy up the finger signpost outside Battams Farm.
- It has been observed that a new driveway into a field at the Soulbury end of the Wing Road has been put in place. Cllr Wright has informed Highways but they have passed it on to the appropriate department to deal.
- The Fountain in Leighton Road. It needs repairing and we need funding to do it. We cannot get s106 monies until Parish Council own it. This matter has been with the solicitor for a long while now with no movement at all. Cllr Wright will discuss with the Clerk.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

As there has been a break of meetings for 3 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the prohibition of meeting in groups, it was decided that for 2020 there will be a meeting in August. Therefore, the next meeting will be on 17th August 2020 at 7.30 p.m.