

MINUTES of the meeting of Soulbury Parish Council held on Monday, 21 September 2020 at 7.30 p.m held via Zoom due to another set of COVID-19 restrictions.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr V.Wright, Chairman; Mrs M. Rowe; Mr A. Stevens; Miss W.Taylor; Mr M. Cross and 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apology for absence was received from Cllrs Ian Culley and John Day, 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 17th August 2020 were approved by the Council and signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None

4. FINANCE:

Payment of the following accounts was unanimously approved:

Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£20.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance	Annual Premium	£849.29
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Grass Cutting	£290.00

5. PLANNING:

- 5.1 20/02639: Land adjoining 9 Rock Lane Farm, Liscombe Park, Soulbury - erection of single storey detached dwelling.  
No objection.
- 20/02825 The Cow Shed, Leighton Road, Soulbury - erection of front porch and outbuildings.  
No objection.
- 20/02951: Chelmscote Manor Farm, Leighton Road (A4146), Soulbury - Change of use of agricultural buildings to form 5 residential units through re-use and conversion including associated works.  
Whilst this plan is much better than previous submissions it was felt that Highways should be involved because the Parish Council is worried about vehicular access from the Stoke Road. Concern was also raised about lorries turning into and out of the site in this narrow access.
- 20/02973: Holt Moat House Farm, Stockgrove Park, Soulbury - Application for Certificate of Lawfulness to establish use of area of land as residential garden associated with dwelling.  
No objection.

The Boot, Soulbury: planning applied for to construct 2 houses to the rear of the pub. Met both Cllr Ben Everitt and Greg Smith MP to voice our complaints and to gain their support, which we got. This meeting was on 18 September and included many villagers. We have since learnt that Punch Taverns withdraw the application on 14 September 2020. It has been noted that all the letters of objection have disappeared from the planning portal. Assume they are still available in an archive.

6. ENVIRONMENT:

6.1 Childrens' Playground

RoSPA report received. Cllr Stevens will work his way through this. Frances Andrews chased Buckinghamshire Council re the lease and was told it is with the legal team.

6.2 Grass Cutting

Village green looking very good. Richard Caplan is using the SMG mower which has had to go to repair again but it was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should pay for this repair. The acquisition of a mower for the Council work was discussed and it was agreed that there is no rush now so we can ensure we get the right machine which has to be road legal. Browns in Leighton Buzzard will be contacted by Cllr Day to see what deal can be struck. We still need to locate a contractor to deal with other areas of the village that need to be kept tidy. Work continuing on this front.

7. REPORTS OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

None present but 7 Andrews Close was discussed with both Greg Smith MP and Cllr Ben Everitt outside this meeting. It appears that the occupiers are being offered alternative accommodation in another location.

8. PARISH HALL:

Ian and Jean Housley will not be looking after the hall anymore. They were thanked for their unstinting dedication to this task for many a year and will be missed. We need to look for someone else to continue - Cllr Taylor was asked to advertise this in the Parish News. Cllr Taylor asked for a job description type document so everyone was clear on what is required.

re the decoration, Cllr Stevens asked what the brief was as there is still chipped paint in the hall. Cllr Wright will forward the contract to the Council for clarity.

9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

RoSPA report also received for the childrens' play area and Cllr Stevens will work his way through the items mentioned. All works are of a minor nature both on the SMG and children's playground. It was agreed that the Bonfire Night and Singalong events will not take place. It was suggested that we promote a standing order scheme for donations for the SMG in the light that no fund raising events have occurred this year.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Karen Wood suggested that Soulbury Helpers be thought about again in the light of further worries around COVID-19 infections. Cllr Wright reported that we still have supplies and funds available to do this. A meeting will be held when it is felt the scheme needs to be re-introduced.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 2 cherry trees on the village green (opposite No 33) are to be taken down. They are rotting and unstable. We have permission from Buckinghamshire Council to carry out the work and Cllr Day will do it. New cherry trees will be acquired and planted in their place.

- Tree behind the The Boot public house has been taken down illegally, ie no permission and in a conservation area. Cllr Wright has referred this to the Licensing Team at Buckinghamshire Council.
- 2 year battle continues regarding the village lighting. Works will need to be carried out on a few of them before they can be changed to LED. We are still waiting for this to be done.
- Cllr Wright advised that there are allotments available. Note to go into the Parish News.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 19th October 2020 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom. Cllr Wright will organise the link for everyone. Cllr Stevens thanked Cllr Wright for organising the meeting via Zoom, which functioned very well.