



Soulbury Parish Council Buckinghamshire

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 17 July 2023 at 7:30 pm

Those present:

Cllr Maurice Cross	Vice Chairman
Cllr John Day	
Cllr Jilly Jordan	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Nigel Kemal	
Cllr Margaret Rowe	
Cllr Alan Stevens	
Cllr Victor Wright	Chairman
Wendy Taylor	Clerk

3 members of the public (MOP)

1	Apologies for absence	Action
	None.	
2	Approval of minutes	
	Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 were approved and signed by Cllr Wright.	
3	Matters arising	
	Re Pizza lady donation (Item 10 19/6/23) nothing has been received. Lesson to be learned - don't ask for a donation but fix a cost for the rental of site.	
4	Finance	
	a) Accounts paid Please see attached list b) Monies received: Please see attached list Balance at bank as at 30 June 2023 was £43,709.49. Bank statement for June 2023 signed by Cllr Wright.	
5	Governance	
	a) Clerk advised she has finally received notification that external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has logged our AGAR forms.	
6	Planning	
	Poppy Lane: Lengthy discussion, main points being: highways adoption of Poppy Lane is not dependant on the parish council adopting the streetlights. If we don't adopt them Highways can take them. We can decide at a later date to adopt them but we will not be able to negotiate a price as the developer will have paid this to Highways. Highways has issued a provisional certificate for adoption of the road which is valid for 2 years from 10/2021 but they have not yet been asked to complete the adoption of the road. It was unanimously agreed not to adopt the streetlights.	

	<p>Flooding: Two councillors visited the area and tried to establish who owns the ditch along the length of the site adjoining the High Road, the bottom of which floods badly. During this survey it was established that it is badly in need of clearance work as it does not prevent water from this site running onto the High Road. The owner of the ditch, be it the developer or Highways, need to get this job done. Cllrs Wright and Day will organise a meeting with Matt Wincup from Highways Maintenance to remedy this. Steve Essam from Highways Development suggested that we could involve Flood Management team at Bucks Council to ensure they are happy with the flood arrangements of the site. He did point out that Anglian Water does not have issues with water dispersement providing the site has been built as planned. He forward to the clerk the s104 drainage layout plans which were given to each Councillor present.</p> <p>Not related to Poppy Lane, it was discovered during the above survey that when the High Road was resurfaced the new surface level is too high thus preventing clearance of surface water and exacerbating the flooding issue. This will be addressed with Matt Wincup of Highways Maintenance.</p> <p>23/01848: Rammamere House, Stockgrove Park, Soulbury, LU7 0BB - erection of first floor storey meeting room and extension of existing garage to provide additional garaging. Council did not want to comment.</p> <p>23/012004 and 2025: Winscott Farm, Stewkley Road, Soulbury, LU7 0DJ - The demolition and erection of new buildings to provide a total of 6 dwellings on site including extensions to the farmhouse and the extension and conversion of several existing barns - variation to conditions. Council agreed to this but still has reservations about the access from the farm onto the Stewkley Road which is on a blind bend.</p> <p>23/02067: land at Hollingdon Road, Soulbury, LU7 0DN - application for permission in principle for the erection of minimum of 2 and maximum of 2 bungalows. Council had no objection at this stage.</p>	<p>Cllr Wright/ Cllr Day</p> <p>Cllr Wright/ Cllr Day</p>
7	Environment	
	<p>7.1 Childrens Play Areas</p> <p>The RoSPA reports for the play areas at Mount Pleasant and on the Millennium Green were shown to Council for discussion. In general the reports were mostly assessed at 'green' status with one or two at 'amber'. Main amber issues was the condition of the play area for older kids on the SMG. It was decided that all the equipment and fencing, all of wooden construction, be removed and burned. The small kiddies area on the SMG needs new fencing for which a quote will be obtained. Two benches in this area need removing and all were in favour of replacing them at a cost of £90. It was suggested that an appeal be made to the parish for 'Little Tikes' type toys which were no longer needed by families whose children had outgrown them. It was suggested that a bench for parents be obtained as well.</p> <p>7.2 Churchyard mowing</p> <p>Funeral on 28/7/23 so the churchyard grass needs cutting back. Nigel will put out a request for help via the WhatsApp group set up for the purpose of enlisting help.</p> <p>Concern was again raised that the contract requiring 5 hours a month is not enough. However, the point was raised that this contract is a contribution to the upkeep and not for the upkeep as the Parochial Church Council has the legal obligation to maintain it.</p> <p>7.3 Fountain</p> <p>Still need the letter from the Bones. Cllr Wright will follow up.</p> <p>Cllr Day agreed to strim the area around the fountain so it can be accurately measured for a floor plan.</p>	<p>Cllr Kemal</p> <p>Cllr Wright</p> <p>Cllr Day</p>

8	Report from County Councillor	
	<p>Cllr Jordan read extracts from her report, which she will forward to the Clerk for inclusion on the website. Further discussion on potholes ensued and Council were asked that any serious potholes be photographed and sent with location details to her so they can be remedied.</p> <p>Community Board meeting is now 19th July, 2023. Cllr Wright and Clerk will be attending.</p>	<p>Cllr Jordan/ Clerk/all</p> <p>Cllr Wright/ Clerk</p>
9	Parish Hall	
	<p>No further with the acquisition of caretaker and admin for the hall.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens asked if we still need the old fire extinguisher for the hall as he had located it. Clerk confirmed it needed to be in the hall in order to receive a credit from the testing company who had to supply a new extinguisher to ensure the hall complied with fire requirements.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council bank account has received the balance from the closed Parish Hall account. As the maintenance of the hall finances is now with the parish council there is no longer need to report here for transparency.</p>	
10	Millennium Green	
	<p>Concert in the Park event is 10 Sept 2023. Hog roast may not be viable.</p> <p>Soil for filling part of the pond has been dumped and needs moving.</p>	
11	Public Participation	
	<p>Council asked if they can provide two benches in the childrens play area. Bought and delivered.</p> <p>Football area on the childrens play area is not at all flat. Cllr Day obtained price from TJC for a roller - £70/d or £160/w.</p>	<p>Cllr Wright</p> <p>Cllr Day</p>
12	Any other business	
	<p>Note from Bruno Peake that next year is 80th anniversary of D-Day landings so occasion will be marked with national beacons again. Clerk registered the parish's intention to be involved.</p> <p>Notice received from RBL that we need to order our poppy wreaths. Wreaths purchased for Parish Council and WI. Clerk gave WI their wreath and Cllr Rowe will ensure payment of £20 is sent via online banking.</p> <p>Clerk was asked to compose a letter to the Planning department detailing disgust that the eyesore of an area at Green Farm still looks like a bomb site, is not in keeping with the village and we are no further forward with improving the area after 8 years of planning applications with 5 refusals on different grounds each time and an planning appeal being dismissed.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens asked if the bus timetable on the website could be checked as it does not seem correct and could Aviva at least divert a bus in the morning and afternoon to Soulbury out of the buses servicing Stoke Hammond.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens asked if something could be done with the Fairhive land on the corner of Mount Pleasant and High Road. It is a big area that the occupant of the house finds daunting. Cllr Wright has written to Fairhive (VAHT as they were known then) about this and received no response whatsoever.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Rowe</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

13	Next meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Monday, 18 September, 2023 in Soulbury Parish Hall at 7:30 pm. Please note the dates for 2023: 16/10/23, 20/11/23, 18/12/23.	All

Distribution:

All Councillors/Parish Website/Parish Noticeboard/Parish News (a resume)

Payments and receipts as at 11 July 2023

Payments		£
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	HSG-094-001	100.00
NPower	Street lighting	48.54
John Day	Postmix and bolts	22.37
Victor Wright (Jati)	Park benches x 2	880.00
CS Maintenance	CSM0505	180.00
Buckinghamshire Council	Dog Bin clearance inv 555889	449.52
Buckinghamshire Council	Childrens play area rent	600.00
British Gas	Parish Hall Gas	24.85
Wendy Taylor	Saga software licence	8.40
EON Next	Parish Hall Gas	41.16
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	All Saints Churchyard	100.00
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Village strimming	200.00
Cafe du Jardin	Village Hall deposit return	50.00
Leighton-Linslade Helpers	Donation	200.00
NPower	Street lighting	43.55
Receipts		
Parish Hall bank account	Closure	7,730.34