



Soulbury Parish Council Buckinghamshire

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 16 October 2023 at 7:30 pm

Those present:

Cllr Maurice Cross Vice Chairman
Cllr Salina Darbyshire-Mackay
Cllr John Day
Cllr Nigel Kemal
Cllr Margaret Rowe
Cllr Victor Wright Chairman
Cllr Jilly Jordan Buckinghamshire Council

Wendy Taylor Clerk

3 members of the public (MOP)

1	Apologies for absence	Action
	Apologies received from Cllr Alan Stevens.	
2	Declarations of interest	
	Cllr Day declared personal interest in the first item under agenda Section 7 Planning.	
3	Approval of minutes	
	Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 were approved and signed by Cllr Wright pending the following note to be added to these minutes: It should be noted that Cllr Day did not leave the room for the duration of the discussion about his planning application. Cllr Day did not, however, join in the discussion or make any comments.	
4	Matters arising	
	Rev Howard Robson has allowed the artificial Christmas Tree to be erected in the Churchyard and for the electricity supply to be taken from the church.	
5	Finance	
	a) Accounts paid Please see attached list b) Monies received: Please see attached list Balance at bank as at 16 Oct 2023 was £48,257.22. Bank statement for September 2023 were signed by Cllr Wright.	
6	Governance	
	a) The Parish Council received the External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23 signed by PKF Littlejohn and dated 28 Sept 2023. b) The Clerk presented the first draft of the budget to Council for discussion. It included adding items to an earmarked reserve which are play area fencing, lit bollards for junction of High Road and Stewkley Road, and a semi permanent area for music events on SMG. c) Planning Demystified course on 21/11/23 will be attended by the Clerk but there was a waitlist for this so Cllrs Wright and Kemal will not be able to attend. The Clerk will disseminate information to all those interested.	Clerk Clerk

7	Planning	
	<p>23/02175: 37 The Green, Soulbury, LU7 0DD - Further information had come to light so further discussion took place. Cllr Day left the room for the duration of the discussion. Concerns were raised about access to the proposed development for the build, increased usage of the neighbour's land should it be built such as general access, movements of bins, etc. Concern was also raised that the village is a linear village and development such as this would set a precedent for infill behind current linear style. Previous application was turned down.</p> <p>23/02968: Lock 26, Grand Union Canal South Access Road to Three Locks, Soulbury - Listed building application for works to Lock 26: replacement of metal balance beams to timber on bottom end mitre (BEM) gates; gate replacements - BEM and top end mitre (TEM) sets. No objection.</p> <p>7.1 A meeting has been arranged with the Planning department on 16 Nov 2023 at 10:00 at the Clerk's house.</p> <p>7.2 Driveway across Highways land on Leighton Road by railway bridge. The Clerk showed images of further works to this area which has taken the grass area down to the original tarmaced road which was in place before the existing road was built. It was agreed that all this detail should be sent to Matt Wincup, Local Area Technician (LAT), and for a meeting to be arranged at the site. No response from the LAT on this yet.</p> <p>7.3 UKPN request to clear land near 3 Locks to repair posts. The Clerk advised UKPN that there appears to be no 'owner' of this piece of land and as the work is necessary they should go ahead.</p>	Clerk
8	Environment	
	<p>8.1 Childrens Play Areas</p> <p>Awaiting a revised quotation for fencing. It was suggested that we approach Joe Houston at Bucks Council to see if this is eligible for s106 monies.</p> <p>8.2 Churchyard mowing</p> <p>A team was put together to tidy the area for Harvest Festival.</p> <p>8.3 Fountain</p> <p>Signed letter received from Robert and Barbara Bone giving the Parish Council access to renovate the fountain. Land Registry will be approached for title deeds.</p> <p>8.4 Allotments.</p> <p>Cllr Wright visited the plotholder of No 4 who has agreed to move on and allow the plot to be reallocated.</p> <p>8.5 Lighting on corner of High Road and Stewkley Road</p> <p>Having chased Eon for the information on the bollards we actually received info for solar powered units will not do the job consistently as there are too many trees in the vicinity. The Clerk to get back to Eon to a) get details of mains operated bollards and b) get a location of some we can view whilst lit.</p>	<p>Cllr Day</p> <p>Cllr Day</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9	Report from County Councillor	
	<p>Cllr Jordan read her full report and will forward it to the Clerk who will add it to the parish website.</p> <p>The Clerk had written to Cllr Jordan about the dreadful condition of the Soulbury Road to Burcott. Cllr Jordan reported that a proper repair of the whole road is due 2024. There will be proper repairs to the Gr Brickhill Road to the Stewkley Road as well.</p>	Clerk
10	Parish Hall	

	No further with the acquisition of caretaker and admin for the hall so another advertisement will be put into the Parish News and on the Community Hub. It was felt that a note of thanks be sent to Mrs Green who ensures to hall is clean.	
11	Millennium Green	
	Firework night - 4 Nov 23: two more card machines have been bought to speed up entry to the event as there is now an entrance charge. Barriers to aid queuing will be ordered from Leighton Hire. There will be a queue for cash only as well.	
12	Public Participation	
	<p>Mrs Russell advised that pallets have been put on SMG site for the bonfire and more are available if we need them. She also advised that she has submitted a planning application for a barn in one of her fields for hay and machinery storage. She also advised of more planning problems on Green Farm.</p> <p>A resident of Hollingdon advised that the exit onto the Stewkley Road at the Red Lion is getting very bad despite a mirror in place. He asked if the 30mph sign could be moved further from the village.</p> <p>A row of trees were planted this year along the High Road from Brook Cottages to the junction of Soulbury Road. The Clerk did mention at the time that she thought that when these matured there would be no room for a tractor to cut the hedge behind them. A member of the public reported the same concern at this meeting and also asked that the two trees nearest the junction be removed as they will cause a road hazard as they mature.</p>	
13	Any other business	
	<p>13.1 A real Christmas tree still has to be procured. Cllr Wright will approach the Borsors as they offered one earlier in the year.</p> <p>13.2 Canal bridge/path Bragenham Side: Clerk was advised of issues in this area by Stoke Hammond Parish Clerk who asked for assistance. Having walked the area and offered the Clerk was advised that we do not need to taken any action.</p> <p>13.3 Ditch on the village green - a quote needs to be obtained for piping this area. Cllr Day will approach Tuckwells.</p> <p>13.4 It was requested that a bench be provided at the bottom of Dean Farm Lane. This will have to be carefully sighted due land ownership and usage of the lane by tractors. Further investigation will be carried out.</p> <p>13.5 A letter needs to go the maintenance section of Brickhill Homes to clear the ditch and trim the hedge along the edge of the Poppy Lane development.</p>	<p>Cllr Wright</p> <p>Cllr Day</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13	Next meeting	
	<p>The next meeting will be held on Monday, 20 November, 2023 in Soulbury Parish Hall at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>Please note the dates for 2023: 18/12/23.</p>	All

Distribution:

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

Payments and receipts as at 16 October 2023

Payments		£
British Gas	Parish Hall Gas	29.51
PKF Littlejohn	Statutory fees for AGAR	378.00
WendyTaylor	Reimbursement for Sage Software Licence	9.60
Mrs S N Green	Parish Hall Cleaning	20.00
NPower	Streetlighting	43.97
CS Maintenance	CSM0512	180.00
CS Maintenance	CSM0513	180.00
Eon Next	Parish Hall Power	43.60
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Strim/mow cemetary	100.00
Heart and Soulbury Gardens	Soulbury Parish Maintenance	175.00
NPower	Streetlighting	44.44
John Day	Fixing of bench - Hollingdon	33.50
BMKALC	Risk Management - H&S and Compliance	50.00
Mrs S N Green	Parish Hall Cleaning - Sept	40.00
Andrew Wood	Purchase of artificial Christmas Tree	360.98
Receipts		
Bucks Council	Precept - second payment	12,500.00
Friends of All Saints	Parish breakfast booking fee	20.00
L Holroyd	Parish Hall booking fee	80.00